



The Trinity Portal November 2010



Wendy, Brycen, and Tyler Columbus and Pastors Jerry and Marion (not able to walk this time) Rhyne represented Trinity UCC on the CROP Walk, October 17th, which began at Trinity Methodist in Kannapolis. They raised \$251.76 in pledges.

Stillspeaking Campaign Kicks Off November 7th

On Friday, November 5, the United Church of Christ will post a new internet video ad of the Stillspeaking Campaign. Members with internet use and a mailing list are asked to forward the Uniquely UCC commercial to all their friends and family, reaching more people than a TV ad could and at a much cheaper price. This is UCC's second internet ad to reach millions with just a click of the mouse to SEND.

Sunday, November 7, is Stillspeaking National Friend-Raising Sunday. All over the U.S. people are asked to gather up family and friends and invite them to worship on Sunday. Hospitality starts with you. Make a call, send a note, an e-mail or a tweet to invite a friend or family member to come to church with you on November 7th. It's not a casual "Wanna come to church with me on Sunday?" Be intentional: "I'd really like you to come visit my church on Sunday to see what hospitality to all feels like," or your own reason for why you come to Trinity UCC.

After services on Nov. 7, all UCC churches will record their visitor tally on line. By Tuesday, Nov. 9, there will be a national count of visitors announced in the UCC's weekly Keeping You e-Posted electronic newsletter.

On Nov. 7 Trinity UCC will celebrate Holy Communion open to all believers in Christ whether members or UCCers or not. After church is First Sunday Fellowship with lunch hosted by the Morning Circle.

John's River Retreat Trip Is November 19-21

Trinity UCC is planning a fun weekend in the great outdoors. Attendees have a choice of sleeping accommodations. Options include cabins, full camper hook-ups, and "hotel-like" rooms. Cost for everything is \$50/person (except the hotel-like rooms which are \$70 a night) per family. There will be hiking, water tubing, and devotionals outside. There is a large lodge and campers will prepare their food. John's River Valley Camp is outside Lenoir, NC.

Contact Dia Miller to sign up and to confirm your reservation, at 704-798-9818 or absolutelydia2@aol.com. **Deadline to sign up is November 12.** So far 16 families have signed up. To see the camp, visit: <http://www.jrvc.org>.

Deacons Busy Preparing 2011 Budget

Steve Murdock, Nathan King, Marion Rhyne, Jim McNutt (chair), Matthew Cummings, Bonnie Schell and treasurer Alane Holste, have been meeting every Thursday night at 7 p.m. The Deacons have been comparing the line items on the current budget to the projected costs for the 2011 Ministry Spending Plan.. These include Building, Operations, and Salaries, PSNC Energy, City of Concord, Pest Control, Conseco, Payroll Service, Organ Maintenance, Repairs and Maintenance, Property Insurance, Telephone/Internet, Utilities, Kitchen and Cleaning Supplies, service contract on HVAC, lease of color copy machine, and more.

Steve is doing a survey of the building for probable annual maintenance expenses. Jim is investigating expenses for phone/internet which are over budget in 2010. The Deacons want to get a smaller and cheaper copy machine if the church's lease can be modified.

Brian Hovey has a potential renter for the Annex that is a Used Goods Store starting in November.

In future meetings the Deacons will look at salaries for the organist and pastors and wages for the Office Assistant and Janitor.

Generosity Emphasis in the Fall

The 2010 Fall financial generosity emphasis is entitled "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21) When the Deacons have finalized the proposed 2011 Ministry Spending Plan, the plan will be presented to the Consistory leadership group. The congregation will receive a letter asking for their prayers and thoughts about individual plans to support Trinity UCC's ministries in 2011.

"Planning your own faithful, generous financial gifts to Trinity is one important way to be part of the ministries here," says Pastor King. Begin to think about your financial commitment. On November 28 we will have Commitment Sunday and collect commitment cards as a part of the offering.

Do You Have a Christmas Craft?

If you have a Christmas craft or activity you make and would like to share it with our young people, please let Pastor Marion know soon. She is planning the annual Advent Workshop and would welcome your suggestions and input.

Sisters in Christ meet after church on the fourth Sunday to go out to lunch at different restaurants and get acquainted. They also discuss work that needs to be done in the church and opportunities for congregational fellowship. All women are welcome. We carpool.. Meet in front of altar in the sanctuary after church.

Holy Communion will be served November 7. Servers will be Todd Adrian, Bonnie Schell, Matt Cummings, Rose Edwards, Debbie Johnson and Bobby Eagle.



Ellen DeGeneres Invited to Be Keynote General Synod Speaker

Written by Jeff Woodard
October 26, 2010

In a unique bid to showcase the carefree, creative component of the UCC, the church has officially invited popular talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres to appear as keynote speaker at General Synod 28 next July in Tampa, Fla.

Writing on behalf of the Synod program and planning committee in a letter dated Oct. 1, the Rev. Geoffrey Black, UCC general minister and president, rolled out the UCC welcome mat for DeGeneres to help Synod-goers live the theme of General Synod 28: *"Imagine What's Possible; God Is Still Speaking."*

"Your life, values and humor represent the best of what our church hopes to embody through our witness in the world: joy, love, hope and service," Black wrote DeGeneres. "At a time when religion is often used to divide and exclude people, we seriously believe your participation at our biennial event could send a powerful message to the world.

"Imagine what's possible if we could set aside our need to be right and focused instead on bringing hope and healing to one another, if we could lighten up — and love instead," wrote Black. "We feel you are the one to deliver this message."

Black noted the UCC's reputation as "the church of firsts" – first to ordain an African-American (1773), a woman (1853) and an openly gay person (1972).

"In 2005, we became the first mainline church to affirm same-gender marriage equality," Black wrote the openly gay celebrity. "And, if you will oblige our request, we will become the first U.S. Christian denomination to have Ellen DeGeneres as our keynote speaker."

High-profile personalities are no strangers to General Synod. In recent years, Barack Obama, Bill Moyers, Eugene Robinson, Marian Wright Edelman, Andrew Young and Lynn Redgrave have appeared.

Acknowledging the vast number of speaking engagements requested of DeGeneres, Edith Guffey, associate general minister for the Office of General Ministries, says that persuading her will take some effort.

"While we're not asking Ellen to bring her show to Synod, we do think she will need some heavy convincing as to why a major Christian denomination would want her to be their keynote speaker," says Guffey. "Ellen receives hundreds of invitations annually; we want our invitation to stand out."

"As a television icon, Ellen's constructive use of humor, her sensitivity toward others, and her ability to touch and lift the spirits of millions every day is something we can affirm as a sacred calling," says the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, the UCC's team leader for Publishing, Identity and Communication.

It's not uncommon for DeGeneres' fans to launch campaigns to bring her show to their area. Most recently, fans in Australia have been doing so.

"We are asking UCC members and churches to unleash their inner Ellen by creating funny, inviting photos and videos and submitting them so we can upload to YouTube and send them along to her," says Guess.

"We're a church that resonates with Ellen's personality, even as we advocate for justice," adds Guess. "Ellen's address before a major religious body could send a powerful message to the world, a message of hope,

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”— 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Pork and Beans Needed for Food Pantry of CCM in November

By Barry Porter, Foods Service Coordinator, Cooperative Christian Ministry, Concord, NC. 704-786-4709 Ext. 822.

Our shelves are being emptied as fast as we can fill them. Nationally, as rising food prices and shrinking household budgets send more families to food pantries to make ends meet, food pantry shelves are running low.

We have had a 15% increase in the number of individuals receiving food during the first seven months of 2010. During our 2009-2010 fiscal year we served 11,400 households with almost 900,000 pounds of food. Our special needs for November are:

Pork and Beans

Other canned beans besides green beans

Breakfast Items

Spaghetti

Rice

Pasta

Plastic Grocery Bags

We appreciate any donation of food, paper products or health and beauty supplies.

At Trinity, bring your donations to the basket on the left side of the altar down front.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” —Matthew 25:40.

“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” —Matthew 5:23-24.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” —Luke 6:37-38.



Spiritual Cinema Circle meets weekly at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall downstairs on Wednesdays. Group will be watching “Haunted History of Halloween” and on Nov. 10, “District 9”: Pastor King facilitates.

The Chancel Choir has new male voices. Now they need more women to sing. If you would like to sing, let Marion Rhyne know so a robe, music and folder can be prepared for you. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. on the same floor as the sanctuary.

Trinity UCC Attendance Up

2009 average attendance

July: 59

August: 50.

September: 55

October: 50.5

2010 average attendance

July: 62.54

August: 65.2

September: 70.33

October: 76.5 without the 31st, up 51% over last year.

November 7: Remember to bring a friend to worship

Hospice & Palliative Care Needs

From the **Cabarrus County Wish List:**

- ◆ Art Supplies such as glitter pens, Sharpie markers
- ◆ Aloe unscented baby wipes
- ◆ Individually packaged sweet/salty snack foods
- ◆ New white washcloths
- ◆ Classical, Jazz, Bluegrass, Show Tunes or Religious Music CD's

The basket on the right facing the congregation is the Hospice Basket.

New Ministries Being Planned!

A YOUTH GROUP for those in grades 7—12 is being formed. This group would meet once a month for activities, food and fun. If you are interested in being part of this group, contact Jim McNutt at jlmc1983@live.com or Dia Miller at absolutelydia2@aol.com. You can also let Pastor Marion know of your interest. Watch the Sunday bulletin for an announcement of the first get-together.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP TIME is being planned by Pastor King at 5 p.m. on Sundays. The service will be geared toward Youth-age and Young Adults (twenty-somethings). The worship will have guitar music and singing songs and chants readings from the Bible, and also poetry, Rumi writings, Native American spirituality and other spiritual paths. This worship will be a safe place for all sexual and gender identities. Instead of a sermon, there will be open discussion. The special service will probably be every two weeks at first. Pastor King would like to know what helpful thoughts you have about this worship service and your prayers for this outreach ministry.

Prayers for Peace of Mind Nov. 14

From NC Mental Hope
News that the NC Faith Community participated in prayers for those with mental illness will be sent to our Governor and legislators.

- We pray for continued awareness of those with mental illness, for they are part of our families. Just as those with a broken leg would not have to wait days for treatment, we pray for improving the unconscionable waits for treatment of those in mental crisis.
- We pray for research into treatments and cures.
- We pray for a day when those with mental illness will not die 25 years before the general population.
- We pray for a day when words such as psycho, schizo, lunatic, nutcase, wing nut and crazy are no longer in society's vocabulary.
- We pray for law makers that they put the well-being of those they represent before their own.

Trinity Church Directory

Pastor Nathan King

Office Hours: Sunday—Thursday. He may be reached at other times at 704-224-1653 and at king.mysticnathan@gmail.com.

Associate Pastor Marion Rhyne

Minister of Music and Christian Education

Marion@Trinityuccconcord@gmail.com

Bradley Fite, Administrative Assistant

Trinityuccoffice@gmail.com

704-782-1024

Organist: Michael Leggett

Phone: 704-640-1334

The Trinity Portal Editor: Bonnie Schell,

704-786-8101, Bonniebelle@mindspring.com

Temporary Custodian: John Maze 704-721-6085

Website: need volunteer to take this over.

Southern Conference Minister:

216 Antioch Avenue, Elon, NC 27244

Leadership

Debbie Johnson, President

Todd Adrian, Secretary

Jim McNutt, Chair of Deacons

Matthew Cummings

Jo Anna Cupp, Vice President

Steve Murdock

Eugenia Holste

George Smith, Sr.

Rose Edwards

Bonnie Schell

Bobby Eagle

Pastor Marion L. Rhyne

Pastor J. Nathan King

Alane Holste, Treasurer

Teams

Church Administration Ministry

Mission Services Ministry

Spiritual Development Ministry

Congregational Vitality Ministry

November

- 5 Hazel Morris
 - 10 George Smith III
 - 15 Matt Plummer
 - 18 Ellen Cathcart
Brian & Kimberly Williams
 - 22 Sara Grace Duncan
 - 23 Natalia McNutt
 - 24 John Maze
Marion Rhyne
 - 25 David Ratchford III
Marion Rhyne's 20th Ordination
- Anniversary
- 27 Annabelle Woodward
 - 29 Judy Barnhardt

Family Promise News

By Debbie Johnson

I have lots of news from Family Promise. Actually the new name is now **"My Father's House Ministry"** The name change is a result of our merger with Cooperative Christian Ministries. I think this will be a wonderful change. The basic premise of churches housing families will not change. CCM has hired a new program director. His name is Dean Lewis. I have met him and his is wonderful as well. The new ministry needs donations and volunteers just as Family Promise did. If you wish to contribute money, make checks payable to CCM with a notation that you want your donation to go to "My Father's House Ministry". If you wish to volunteer (outside of Trinity's rotation) you can contact Dean Lewis at 704-938-5203 or at deanlewis.ccm@gmail.com.

Now to the business of Trinity's rotation. **Our next go'round is November 14-21st.** Some of you may notice that the date matches part of the time Trinity is retreating at John's River Camp (19-21). Hopefully those of you who are not planning on going to John's River can provide meals, evening host, or overnight stays on that Friday or Saturday. We especially need people to set up and take down.

What we need is as follows: .

Who we are ...

We are a social action, social justice faith community, open and affirming, welcoming and supportive of all people. We believe taking the bible seriously means it cannot always be taken literally. We follow the teachings of Jesus, worshipping God, seeking to be faithful to the way of Christ -- alleviating suffering, oppression and injustice -- feeding hungry people and housing families that have been displaced, seeking Jesus' way of peace.

(adopted by congregation on March 28, 2010)

Our mission is ...

To honor God and celebrate the intrinsic worth of each person as created in God's image.

We seek to accomplish this by ...

- ◆ Engaging members and newcomers in a regular practice of developing spirituality including private prayer, Sunday worship.
- Proclaiming the Word of God through a variety of music and preaching of the Word
- Developing a welcoming attitude toward persons who are different and learning to honor these differences as a path to Christian spiritual growth

- **Grocerer**
- **Launderer**
- **Meals/evening host for Sunday thru Sat. 11/14- 11/20 (it is possible to provide just meals or just evening host if time is an issue) Time 5:30-8:30**
- **Overnight volunteers Sunday 11/14 thru Sat. 11/20 (two adults are needed for this) Time 8:30pm - 7:00am**
- **Set up Sunday after church 11/14 (note that is Consistory Sunday) so all help is appreciated. The more that help - the faster it goes!!**
- **Take down - this is TBD. If you are not going to John's River talk with me!!**
Please let me know as soon as you can .

Morning Circle Mountain Trip

By Joyce Overcash

On Thursday, September 30th, five members of the Morning Circle met at the church parking lot and traveled to Valle Crucis for some R&R at the Holste home-away-from-home. After getting settled in we were ready to do some sight seeing in Blowing Rock. First was a ride through the downtown area of this unique tourist town, then we looked up the UCC Assembly Grounds which is located up Possum Hollow in a beautiful area near the old Green Park Hotel and Blowing Rock Golf Course. After a stop at the Food Lion for milk and Moose Tracks ice cream we were on our way back to the Holste's for dinner and by this time it was misty and we eventually had a storm with heavy rain.

Friday was a beautiful day and full of getting in and out of the car to visit all three Mast General Stores, lunch at Pepper's for onion soup made by the pros, then we headed out looking for an old school house where my aunt and one other teacher educated seven grades at a time and a neighborhood lady cooked lunch in a school house that had no over night heat so groceries that would freeze had to be transported in daily. It is still standing. We then rode down Roby Green Road where part of the road is still not paved due to the influence of a property owner who only allowed pavement as far as he owned property (to heck with the neighbors who have to live with dust).



Elsie Bonds kept seeing apples on trees so, when we finally came to property owned by some of my relatives, we found apples and Elsie, Eugenia Holste and Patricia White make a haul. They were very good when cooked by the "thieves" for dinner. Since I was right at home in this area we rode by the home place of my Cowles grandparents, by the Coffey Grounds (an apple orchard) where we found the owners grading apples and were able buy apples to suit any taste at very reasonable prices. We ended up at the Todd General Store where we found all of their antiques to be over priced.

This was our first group outing and we missed those who were unable to make the trip. I acted as tour guide since I grew up in Boone. Boy has it changed from the days of knowing everybody and no traffic. Some of the stores bear the same names but the wares are certainly different.

The Appalachian State University campus is spread all over town and we made a point of trying to see as much of it as we could. Each of us seems to have some connection to that school. My dad, aunts and uncles were students there when it was Appalachian Training School which was founded in 1899, and the male and female students were housed on different sides of the campus and the male visitors were only allowed chaperoned visits in the parlor of the girls' dorms. Rose Edwards' granddaughter is a freshman at ASU this year.

Everyone expressed pleasure in the trip and when we can we would all like to take in some more of the sights in the beautiful mountains surrounding Valle Crucis, which is located only minutes from Boone.

The Morning Circle meets the first Monday of the month at 11 a.m. at the church for a business meeting and then go out to lunch. All women are welcome.

This past spring, a diverse group of more than 100 religious leaders from many backgrounds wrote and signed their names to a “Civility Covenant.” The divisive and mean-spirited way debate often occurs inside Congress is encouraged and repeated outside in cable news, shows, in blogs, and in rallies. Members who far exceed the bounds of normal and respectful discourse are not viewed with shame but are lionized, treated as celebrities, rewarded with cable television appearances and enlisted as magnets for campaign fund-raisers. The religious leaders recognized that all too often we have reflected the political divisions of our culture rather than the unity we have in the body of Christ. They believe that candidates need to know that voters do not just care about who wins, but how they win. Parts of the Covenant include:

1. We commit that our dialogue with each other will reflect the spirit of the scriptures where we are asked to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.” James 1:19.
2. We pledge that when we disagree, we will do so respectfully, without falsely impugning the other’s motives, attacking the other’s character, or questioning the other’s faith, and recognizing in humility that in our limited, human faith, “we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror.” We will therefore “be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2.
3. We will ever be mindful of the language we use in expressing our disagreements, being neither arrogant nor boastful in our beliefs. “Before destruction one’s heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor.” Proverbs 18:12.
4. We recognize that we cannot function together as citizens of the same community, whether local or national, unless we are mindful of how we treat each other in pursuit of the common good, in the common life we share together. Each of us must therefore “put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.” Ephesians 4:25.
5. We commit to pray for our political leaders — those with whom we may agree, as well as those with whom we may disagree. “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made — for kings and all who are in high positions.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2.
6. We believe that it is more difficult to hate others, even our adversaries and our enemies, when we are praying for them. We commit to pray for each other, those with whom we agree and those with whom we may disagree, so that together we may strive to be faithful witnesses to our Lord, who prayed “that they may be one.” John 17:22



Send a Card to our Shut-ins

Bob Suther, Eden Gardens of Concord, 1501 Zion Church Rd., Concord, NC 28025

Lib Talbert, Laurel Park Nursing Center, Room 201, 1050 Hospital Drive, Stockbridge, GA 30281

Elizabeth (Lib) Moose, 650 Camrose Circle, Concord, NC 28025

Edith Folkes, Conway Manor, 3300 4th Ave, Conway, SC 29527

Trinity UCC Has Sunday Education Program for Adults and Children

Teachers at 9:45 are:

Danielle Stingel: Preschool/Kindergarten

Jo Anna Cupp: Grades 1-5

Ken Swoope: 6th grade and up

Pastor King: Adult class in Fellowship Hall

Wyatt Moose, Eugenia Holste and Lorna

Colson: Adult Class in Room 204

During Worship when children leave:

Pastor Marion Rhyne: Youth Worship in Room 302 upstairs

Rotating members: Nursery downstairs



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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Concord, NC 28025-4756

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Phone: 704-782-0141

Email: Trinityuccoffice@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God is still speaking,

Catch the comma.

November 2010

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.

TRINITYUCCCONCORD.

ORG

November 2010

