# Pulse

## FEBRUARY 2012

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*Parkway United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation within the United Church of Christ. We believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally. In this spirit, we welcome all people, including those of every race, spiritual tradition, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression into the full life and ministry of the church.*

## Lenten Care

In the early church, Lent wasn't an anticipation of a list of dreary restrictions, but a celebration of connecting deeper to natural rhythms of sacred connection. We can give something up for Lent, but the giving up should be more about making space for something to relish, to give us release from something that holds us back, to add without burdening time, energy, relationship.

In the fourteenth century mystic Julian of Norwich wrote that we are not simply made by God. We are made "of God". That means that we aren't distantly separate from our Creator, but constantly in the process of emerging from the womb of creative energy. That also means we aren't distant or above all the other elements of creation, also made "of God."

Several of us recently attended the North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light workshop on being "a transition congregation". Certainly we heard all the dire news of the rising cost of oil and the consequences of climate change. But we heard good news too. The central message: However overwhelming and depressing the data, we get to get up every morning and live our lives with the conviction there are still plenty concrete, neighborly things we can do to make a difference and help make it possible for our grandchildren to live well.

But the even better news: We can build community having fun. So many of the things we can do to Carbon Fast or build resilience in our neighborhoods is also good for the soul. Things like teaching one another skills that have gone by the wayside: sprouting little green things, canning and preserving, repair things, creating rain gardens, baking bread, creating cooperatives, eating together. Community resilience proceeds from spiritual resilience and spiritual resilience comes from feeling connected in joyful, interdependent ways. Much of our loneliness and isolation creates our need to consume, get more gadgets, have everything we need, and only creates an illusion of self-sufficiency. Spiritual resilience is the growing sense of knowing as we are known by the Creator.

As we approach Lent, prayerfully consider what way you might actually enjoy discovering new aspects of community sharing.

Several resources to check out: Earth Ministry has a Lent carbon-free calendar and Lenten devotion; MACUCC for this year's Ecumenical Carbon Fast; Bread for the World has a Lenten devotional around hunger issues.

## Sundays in February

**Sunday, February 5**: We tend the message of healing stories in Mark 1:29-39. The choir will sing. There will be an informal discussion with Craig about our ministry together in the fellowship hall, 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.
**Sunday, February 12**: We will participate in the **National Global Warming Preach-In**. A brief DVD from the Interfaith Power & Light on Climate Change will be shown in the God is Still Speaking Class at 10:00 a.m. and we will weave two Biblical healing stories – the healing of Namaan the commander (II Kings 5:1-14) and Jesus' healing of a leper (Mark 1:40-45) with attention to climate change.
**Sunday, February 19**: **Mardi Gras Sunday** We read the story of the transfiguration (Mark 9:2-9) and receive the music of the ***Muddy River Jazz Band*** in worship. We celebrate Mardi Gras with special snacks following worship.
**Sunday, February 26**: **First Sunday in Lent** We celebrate communion and receive the preaching of the Rev. Carol Penick on Mark 1:9-15. Potluck will follow worship.

## Ash Wednesday

The sanctuary will be open on Wednesday, February 22 for quiet prayer beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a brief reflective service with the option of receiving ashes at 6:00 p.m. Join us as we begin the season of Lent.

## Lenten Study on Thursday Evenings

We will join with the people of Wentz Memorial UCC this year for our six-part Lenten study series. We will be using the DVD-based resource from Living the Questions entitled "First Light: Jesus and The Kingdom of God" featuring scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. This series will engage us in discussion about some of the following questions:

- Why did Jesus happen when he happened? Why the confluence of the Baptism movement of John and the Kingdom movement of Jesus? Why the confrontations in Jerusalem?

- Why were the titles of Caesar Augustus – Divine, Son of God, God from God, Lord, Redeemer, Liberator, and Savior of the World?

- What were the priorities of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom? How was the status quo of Roman imperial theology subverted by this obscure Galilean whose message continues to indict empire today?

We will meet for a simple supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. each Thursday evening, February 23 through March 29 followed immediately by our sessions concluding by 8:00 p.m. The first sessions will be hosted by Wentz and we will coordinate ride-sharing from Parkway.

These are the locations for each Thursday session:

February 23: Wentz Memorial UCC, 3435 Carver School Road
March 1: Wentz
March 8: Wentz
March 15: Parkway
March 22: Parkway
March 29: Parkway
April 5: Our joint Maundy Thursday supper and worship at Parkway

## Introducing our New Choir Director – Craig Collins

Craig was born in and grew up in North Carolina. He graduated from Pfeiffer University then taught high school and middle school choral and general music for several years in the eastern part of the state. He went to graduate school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where he received a Masters in Sacred Music, and following graduate school, lived in Austin for almost a year, before moving to New York City where he worked, studied and sang professionally for 16 years. Following 9/11, he moved back to North Carolina and served Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Cornelius (Lake Norman) as the Director of Music for 4 years, then moved to Albany, GA where he was the Director of Music for 2 years. In the early summer of 2008, he moved back to High Point to look after his ailing parents. Craig's mother passed away last August; he is still taking care of his 90 year old father.

Craig teaches in the after school music studios at Wesleyan Christian Academy in High Point, and sings at Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, with the Winston-Salem Symphony Chorale, and the Piedmont Opera. Craig loves to play both bridge and golf, but with his busy schedule and many commitments, he doesn't have time for either. As our Choir Director, Craig will be with us at Parkway two Sundays a month, leading our Sanctuary Choir.

## Mission and Justice Witness Events

**Thursday, February 2, 6:00 p.m.** Community Meeting about Police Checkpoints, at the local office of the NAACP, 4130 Oakridge Dr. This meeting is organized by the North Carolina ACLU.

**Saturday, February 11 in Raleigh "H K on J 6"** The **Historic Thousands on Jones Street** united over 80 North Carolina groups behind a 14-Point People's Agenda – diverse schools, affordable housing, workplace fairness, voting rights, civil rights. There will be a special focus on Amendment 1 that proposed a constitutional amendment to forbid gay marriage. The gathering will be at 9:30 a.m. at Shaw University (corner of Wilmington and South St.) and the group will march to the Legislature, beginning at 10:30 a.m. For details go to HKonJ.

**Monday, February 13 Race to the Ballot Rally** against Amendment 1 that will not only put a constitutional ban on gay marriage but jeopardize many other civil rights for our families. This rally will be held at Old Salem Square, 601 South Church St., from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 16 CHANGE Metro Council meeting** beginning at 6:00 p.m. Come hear updates on the work of addressing foreclosures, family and parent engagement in our two partnership elementary schools, senior organizing, and the homeless caucus.

**Sunday, February 19 God is Still Speaking Class**, 10:00 a.m. Several Parkway people spent a Saturday in January learning how our congregation can build resilience in anticipation of high oil prices and climate change. It's all about getting to know our neighbors and building fun, simple ways of taking care of each other – growing food, sharing transportation, thinking about how to care for one another as we become more physically limited as we age. There will be an introduction on this topic in class on this Sunday.

**Our Whole Lives Human Sexuality Program for our Youth**

Conner Evans, Deborah Woolard, Terry Parrish, and Craig Schaub will be traveling to the OWL youth facilitators training at Coral Gables Congregational UCC February 24-26 to prepare for offering a 7th-9th (10th - 12th) Grade experience of Our Whole Lives at Parkway.

## Some questions about North Carolina Amendment One up for a vote on May 8:

- Did you know that the proposed Constitutional Amendment would strip basic protections from hundreds of thousands of North Carolina families?
- Did you know that the Amendment not only threatens child custody and visitation laws, damaging North Carolina's ability to protect the "best interests of the child"?
- Did you know that the Amendment creates a conflict with North Carolina's domestic violence laws that could mean some batterers get out of jail free?
- Did you know that the Amendment attacks even North Carolinians most basic personal freedoms, including threatening hospital visitation, the ability to dispose of a deceased partner's remains, undercutting basic medical and financial decision-making, even challenging basic contract-building by invalidating trusts, wills, and end-of-life directives, as well as existing child custody and visitation rights?
- Did you know that the Amendment harms North Carolina's economy by stripping public employers of the ability to provide domestic partner benefits like health insurance, as well as potentially denying private businesses control over what benefits they offer their employees and the caliber of employees they can recruit?

To learn more, go to Protect NC Families.

## Welcome New Members

Lenore Rohrer and Sherri Carter joined Parkway UCC on January 29. Look for their pictures on the New Faces board in the narthex, and in the online pictorial directory.

**Sherri Carter** grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee and met her husband, Brooks, at the University of Georgia in Athens. They both played in alternative rock bands; Sherri sings and plays bass, and Brooks sings, plays drums and guitar. Sherri enjoys photography, sewing for her Etsy shop and blogging more than playing music these days, but listening to music will always be a passion.

The Carters moved to Winston-Salem in 2004 so that Brooks could complete a residency and fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; he now works for a mental health provider. Sherri got a second degree in Graphic Design and currently does freelance work. They have two sons, Malcolm, 6 ½, and Watson, almost 5, and a dog, Sophie Jo. Sherri is on the Communications Committee, helping with the church Facebook page.

**Lenore Rohrer** was born in Northeast Ohio (the Snow Belt). In 1977 she moved to Vero Beach, Florida where she worked as a hairdresser until she retired in 1989. Lenore was a member of the Congregational Church in Vero Beach and was involved in many aspects of the church, including serving on the Fellowship Board and the Board of Deacons.

Lenore loves to bake, cook and garden when she is able. She has one son, 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She moved to Winston-Salem in January 2011 and lives with her son and his family. She is on the Nurture Committee.

## Church Member/Participant Biographies and Directory

We're continually updating the biographies on the church website. Take a look at them if you haven't recently, and if you still haven't written yours – that's ok; we can add it. We'd like to know some basic info, such as where you grew up, went to school, family, what your favorite hobbies and pastimes are – or whatever you'd like for us to know about you - in 300 words or less, and written in the third person. Email your bio to Pat Eisenach.

The current directory of members and active participants with contact information (no pictures) is being sent by email. If your name isn't included or if you have changes, let us know ASAP so that we can include you in the next update.

## Pastoral Relations Committee Annual Report

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) was alive and well in 2011 as we worked to support Craig and his relation with the Congregation. We met 4 times in 2011 with an initial goal of defining our Committee's role. That document was completed in April and a copy can be found on the Parkway website, Parkway UCC Log In. Al Bryant joined us to finish out a term of Paul Marshall. The other members are Carole Holt, Janice Huesman, Delores Kurkowski, Kate Mewhinney and Margaret Morris, along with Craig Schaub.

The primary responsibility of the PRC, as defined in our By-Laws, is to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the Pastor and the Congregation. We would like to invite the Congregation to join Craig and our committee in an open conversation on Sunday, February 5 after the worship service. Craig will talk about some of his goals for 2012 and everyone attending will have a chance to share ideas for ways we can continue to strengthen the relationship between the Congregation and Craig. We will meet in the fellowship hall, so grab a cup of coffee or tea and a snack and we will get started by 12:15 and finish by 1:00. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Carole Holt, Chair PRC

## Thank You!

I want to thank everyone who donated to my call for donations for "Jump Rope for Heart" a cause I am very passionate about. I can't wait to start jumping to help keep hearts healthy in our community!

Much Love from my HEART to your HEART,

Elise

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## Upcoming Youth Activities

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 5 our Youth will be collecting food and monetary donations to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank.

### Ice Skating

Join the Youth and other church families as we skate at the Joel Coliseum Annex on Sunday, February 19. Cost is $6 per person for skates and skating. We will meet at the Annex at 1:30 to get the group rate. Parkway people of all ages are welcome!

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## Parkway's Environmental Efforts

In view of our Green Group's activities, I think it is appropriate to review Parkway UCC's involvement in things environmental. Below is a list I found in Parkway's records relating to this topic. If you know of anything that may have been missed, please contact Peggy Taylor, Historian 2012, or 768-1868.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | Interfaith Partners for the Earth | revived and sold another style cloth bag |
| 2001 | First Harvest Festival | also one in 2004 |
| 2002 | Climate Connection participation | the Eco Justice Committee of NC Council of Churches & CA Power & Light |
| 2003 | Hurricane clean-up | Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch. Other trips to help in the area |
| 2004 | Big Sweep | participation by Parkway UCC members for several years |
| 2004 | Green Power Units - Duke Energy | Parkway UCC purchased units monthly in its power bill |
| 2005 | Multimedia lecture in Lexington | topic: global warming & biblical theology by Tom Mann |
| 2006 | Memorial Garden planned | |
| 2007 | Habitat Green Build | a team from PUCC participated |
| 2008 | "green" carpet installed | in nursery and Little Angel's room |
| 2009 | Organic farmers market | held by Ken Vanhoy in Parkway UCC parking lot |
| 2010 | Green Group formed | encouraging many ways to make Parkway UCC green, including collecting items for recycling not accepted in city recycling program |
| ? | Bought real dishes for kitchen | also flatware |
| ? | Nuclear Power Plant | participated in move to prevent building on Yadkin River |
| 197? | Triad Buying Co-op | used Parkway UCC as sorting & distribution center |

## Year-End Statements

The financial year-end statements are located in a box on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to pick yours up and help us to save on postage. Thanks!

# MISSIONS UPDATE

**Potluck Donations Needed** – We are looking for potluck donations for the next Homeless Caucus Meeting on Friday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Lloyd Presbyterian Church. Contact Vicki or Craig if you can prepare a side dish (anything goes with fried chicken). Further details will be explained to you at that time.

## Upcoming Missions Event – Rummage Sale

Be sure to keep all of your "stuff" that you aren't sure what to do with so you can bring it to Parkway's Rummage Sale! The date is yet to be determined but will be towards the end of April or first part of May! Be on the lookout for more info to come soon!

**On-going Gifts of Year**: To better coordinate our collective donations for Crisis Control Ministry & the Shepherd Center, bring your donations on the same Sunday as communion. Donation baskets are located in the Narthex.

- Crisis Control Ministry – Spaghetti sauce & pasta
- The Shepherd Center – Books & knitting materials

## 5 for 5 Church - What does this mean?

**Our Church's Wider Mission** (OCWM): Providing funding for the work of the UCC Conference and National ministries to support the life and work of the local church and its members. OCWM changes lives by strengthening our ecumenical relationship and global partnerships through witness and work. A portion of our pledge is given to OCUM each year. Last year, Parkway UCC gave $ 5,500.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**: $ 2,139 was collected from donations from our congregation. Betsy Clausen gave a moving presentation about OGHS and helped explain to the congregation, the importance of this wider mission.

**Neighbors in Need**: $ 1,071 was collected from donations from our congregation. Kristin Woody encouraged the congregation to remember those less fortunate

**Strengthen the Church** received $ 516. Mary Siebert's moving presentation showed us how important the church is in our early childhood development.

**Christmas Fund for Retired Ministers** donated $ 891. Fred Kurkowski spoke respectfully of those ministers who gave so much of themselves to the UCC church but may now find themselves in need.

During a difficult financial year for all, these donated amounts are truly a blessing - On behalf of the Missions Committee of 2011, thank you. As we begin again for 2012, please remember the purpose of each "5 for 5" as you make personal financial decisions within your family.

## February Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| Stacey Bailey | February 7 |
| Tina Stiles | February 7 |
| Laura Frazier | February 8 |
| Tom Radulovic | February 8 |
| Karin Binkley | February 10 |
| Ellen Schultz | February 12 |
| Cranford Johnson | February 14 |
| Lily Crooks | February 16 |
| Marissa Hall | February 16 |
| David Martin | February 16 |
| Justin Speaks | February 17 |
| Martha Apple | February 19 |
| Sandy Peterson | February 21 |
| Beth Bailey | February 22 |
| Payton Bonds | February 24 |
| Eric Davis | February 27 |
| Don Swanson | February 28 |

## Did you know?

*It was recently suggested to us to regularly run little tidbits of United Church of Christ history and identity in the Pulse.*

Did you know that our forbearers in the United Church of Christ were instrumental in establishing the idea of a "free press" in North America? Congregationalists published their first book, "The Bay Psalter." In Europe, the first "Pilgrim Press" was seized by government agents to suppress criticism of King James. In North America, the new community could publish in freedom. Pilgrim Press is a leading publisher on theology and social issues to this day. It's the oldest publishing house in the U.S.

## 2012 CHURCH COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Below are the names and contact information for Church Council members and committee chairs. Please feel free to contact these members with any questions or concerns you may have about Parkway UCC. Save this information so that you can contact them as the need arises. The list is also available at the bottom of the announcements page on the church website, Parkway UCC/Announcements.

### Church Council – 2012

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President: | Anne Herndon | chablisgirl@yahoo.com | 768-9338 |
| Vice President: | Nancy Vargas | nvargas@forsythtech.edu | 769-3649 |
| Treasurer: | Ray Crouse | rcrousejr@aol.com | 724-5041 |
| Financial Secretary: | Carol Whitney | crwhitn@aol.com | 771-2924 |
| Secretary: | Betsy Brais | bbrais4@triad.rr.com | 766-8031 |
| Education Chair: | Lissa Stiles | stileslpt@yahoo.com | 641-5108 |
| Missions Chair: | Vicki Schwartz | vickis@triad.rr.com | 608-4685 |
| Nurture Co-chairs: | Ann McLain | kamclain@bellsouth.net | 760-0528 |
| | Jane Crouse | jscrouse7@triad.rr.com | 724-5041 |
| Property Chair: | Henrietta Fulton | jfulton1@triad.rr.com | 765-8090 |
| Worship Chair: | Nan Parrish | nparrish2@earthlink.net | 768-8670 |
| At Large Members: | Gayle Moore | shalom2u08@bellsouth.net | 768-3732 |
| | Bob Severs | bob.severs@gmail.com | 602-2311 |
| | Pat Eisenach | pat.eisenach@gmail.com | 761-0871 |

### Non-Council Positions

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Collections Assistant: | Patti Woodard | patwd12@earthlink.net | 659-1650 |
| Communications: | Pat Eisenach | pat.eisenach@gmail.com | 761-0871 |
| Historian: | Peggy Taylor | taylorprt@triad.rr.com | 768-1868 |
| Nominating Chair: | Dan Holt | dcholt@triad.rr.com | 774-6687 |
| Personnel Chair: | Diane Jenkins | djenkins46@earthlink.net | 768-8670 |
| Pastoral Relations: | Carole Holt | cholt@triad.rr.com | 774-6687 |

# PARKWAY UCC
## February 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **1**<br>Choir Practice 7:00pm | **2**<br>Worship Committee, 6:30pm | **3** | **4** |
| **5**<br>Worship, 11:00am<br>Congregational Conversation after worship<br><br>Souper Bowl of Caring-Donation Collections | **6** | **7**<br>Nurture, 7:00pm | **8**<br>Choir Practice 7:00pm<br>Church Council, 7:00pm | **9**<br>Pastoral Relations Committee, 7:00 p.m. | **10** | **11**<br>Fellowship Hall in use 12:00-6:00 |
| **12**<br>Worship, 11:00am<br>National Global Warming Preach-In<br>Youth meeting<br>Property Committee,4:00pm | **13**<br>Race to the Ballot – Rally 5:00-7:00 Old Salem Square | **14** | **15**<br>Choir Practice 7:00pm<br>Missions, 6:00pm | **16**<br>CHANGE Metro Council, 6:00pm | **17**<br>Homeless Caucus Meeting 6:00pm, Lloyd Pres. Church | **18** |
| **19** Mardi Gras Sunday, 11:00am<br>Snacks following Worship<br><br>Ice Skating,1:30 Coliseum Annex<br><br>Finance Committee, 4:00pm | **20** | **21** | **22**<br>Ash Wednesday<br>Quiet Prayer, 5:30pm<br>Service, 6:00pm | **23**<br>Lenten Study at Wentz – Supper, 6:00pm with sessions to follow | **24**<br>Craig and Conner at Workshop | **25**<br>Environmentalist Workshop – 12:00-5:00<br>Fellowship Hall<br><br>Craig and Conner at Workshop |
| **26**<br>First Sunday in Lent<br>Communion<br>Potluck after worship<br><br>Sanctuary in use 2:00-4:00<br><br>Craig and Conner return from Workshop | **27** | **28** | **29**<br>Choir Practice 7:00pm | **Notes:**<br>**Quilters Meet every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** | | |