



The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

May/June, 2013

Christ United Methodist Church
800 Market Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
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Pastoral Emergencies
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BEING ORIGINAL IS EXHAUSTING

BY ERIN LANE

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Website:

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Christ Church gathers in the name of Jesus
Christ to worship God, & to seek, nurture,
& send Christian disciples into the world.

Editor's Note: *Erin Lane* is a freelance communication strategist for faith-based authors and organizations. She received her Masters in Theological Studies from Duke Divinity School with a focus in gender, ministry, and theology. Confirmed Catholic, raised Charismatic, & married to a Methodist (CUMC's very own youth pastor Rush Beam), Erin blogs about the intersection of her faith and feminism at www.holyhellions.com. She is also co-editing an upcoming anthology on the taboos experienced by young American Christian women entitled *Talking Taboo*. (Read more about Erin's new book on page 2 of this newsletter.) The following blog post from January 7, 2013 is published with permission from the author.

Accept no imitations.

I've seen this tagline used in advertisements, and on product labels, and it strikes me that it works well for two reasons. The first is obvious – by accepting no imitations of a product, we keep 'the real thing' in business, giving that company a higher share of a particular market. This plays into our mentality of scarcity, that there's not enough money or time or other resources to keep both the original product and its "knockoffs" in business. The second way in which this slogan works is more subtle – by accepting no imitations of anything from products to ideas to people, we are taught that "being original" is the purpose of life: to be different than, to be better than, to be more than the average Joe or Jane is how we will distinguish ourselves and become successful.



But being original is exhausting.

There is so much hype these days on being the first, being the best, being the only that I find myself a bit hyper when someone shares my shtick for Christian feminism with a sense of humor, as if I have – or want to have – a monopoly on the whole thing. I've even heard the words come out of my mouth, "Oh, we don't get along that well because we're too similar." Whoever heard of such a terrible thing? Or I find myself unmotivated to contribute one more blog post to the stratosphere of ideas where surely I will say something that has been said before, and although someone will point this out to me sweetly, I will consider myself a little less brilliant than previously thought.

(See "Original," p. 2)

Imitate Christ; Love Others

(“Original,” from p. 1)

Accept all imitations of yourself by others. There is enough to go around.

John the Baptist was pretty adamant he wasn't the original, not the original Messiah promised to the Jewish people or the original Creator who was with God (and was God) in the beginning. When the Jewish leaders ask him point blank what his deal is in the first chapter of John, he says, “I'm not the Christ.”

“Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

“I'm not.”

“Are you the prophet?”

“No.”

“Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

“I am a voice crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make the Lord's path straight’ just as the prophet Isaiah said.”

This guy is cryptic, no? He gives these one word answers until pressed and then he just quotes someone else. When he finally throws them a bone, he alludes to the fact that his baptizing through water merely eclipses the kind of baptism in the Spirit that the Christ will bring.

He is just an imitator, one who “wasn't the light” but whose “mission was to testify to the light.”

Accept all imitations of Christ by others. We will know each other by our love.

Copyright 2013 (wink, wink).



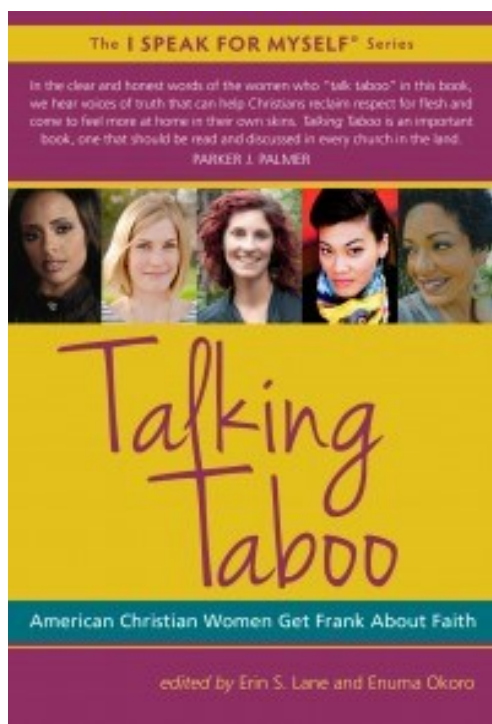
Coming October, 2013!

What happens when young American women speak the unspeakable about our experiences of faith? This collection of essays unearths the taboos that have stifled us, divided us, and prevented us from feeling at home in Christian communities.

Co-edited by Erin Lane and Enuma Okoro, *Talking Taboo: American Christian Women Get Frank About Faith* is set to publish this fall from White Cloud Press. But *Talking Taboo* is not just a book—it's a collection of essays that can start a movement of people getting frank about faith across the globe and risking the scrutiny of showing up as their imperfect selves in the world.

Contributors to the book include writers, educators, advocates, artists, pastors, professors, and students, all with a story to share. Sure, it includes some “big name” contributors, but the book also features people who are being published in this collection for the very first time. You might recognize one of those names—**Lizzie McManus**—daughter of former CUMC Associate Pastor **Hannah McManus**.

To pre-order, please visit www.indiegogo.com/projects/talking-taboo.



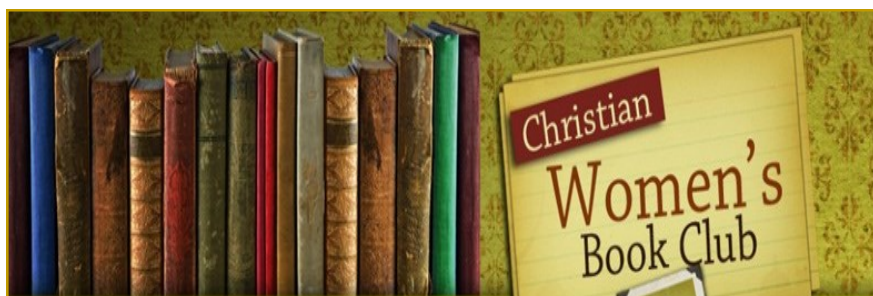
Christian Women's Book Club

Meets the first Thursday/month

7:00 pm; Youth Room

First Meeting: June 6th

We'll be discussing *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis. Questions? Contact Catherine Neal (cneal@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x208).



CUMC Welcomes Ruth Harper Stevens

MEET PASTOR RUTH HARPER STEVENS

Please warmly welcome Pastor Ruth to CUMC. She will serve as our interim lead pastor while Pastor Steve McElroy is on leave.

HOMETOWN: St. Petersburg, Florida

NOW LIVING IN: Grove Park Subdivision, Durham

FAMILY: Husband: Joe Stevens – Operations Manager, Duke Memorial UMC

Son: Eric Harper – Duke Grad, Electrical Engineer, Snap AV, Charlotte

Granddaughter – Morgan Lea Harper – Age 9

Son: Nathan Harper - Virginia Tech Grad, Architect, Spectrum Design, Roanoke

Granddaughter – Norah Lea Harper – Age 2

Granddaughter – To be born in September

WHY MINISTRY?

I was called/pushed by The Hound of Heaven (Long Story)

BIGGEST MINISTRY THRILL? There have been so many. Perhaps the adoption by the 1988 General Conference of a paragraph I wrote as a delegate. It still remains the opening words of Section 4 “Our Theological Task” in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*.

PERSON WHO HAS HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE?

My late husband, Dr. George Lea Harper, Jr., Pastor & Professor

FAVORITE BOOK? *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

FAVORITE MOVIE? *As Good as it Gets*

FAVORITE WEBSITE? Sight Psalms: Experiencing God through Images <http://sruach.tumblr.com/>

CITY I’VE NEVER BEEN TO BUT WANT TO VISIT: Bavaria, Germany

HOBBIES? Origami, Scrapbooking, Gardening, Reading, Singing, Shag Dancing

IF I WASN’T A PASTOR, I’D BE: A Counselor

3 PEOPLE (LIVING OR DEAD) WITH WHOM YOU’D LIKE TO HAVE DINNER:

St. Francis of Assisi, Maya Angelou, and Alexander McCall Smith



Ruth Harper Stevens with granddaughter Norah

*You did not choose me,
but I chose you
and appointed you
to go and bear fruit -
fruit that will last.
John 15:16*

You are invited to . . .

the North Carolina
Annual Conference
Service of Ordination for
Associate Pastor Lori Cox

Saturday, June 15, 10:30 am
Greenville Convention Center
303 SW Greenville Blvd.,
Greenville, NC 27834

**We’re Celebrating Lori Cox’s Ordination
at CUMC, too!**

The CUMC family will honor Lori and this milestone in her ministry with a reception in Ascension Hall on **Sunday, June 16**. Mark your calendars and look for more details to come.

strength to strength



grow



thrive



serve



give

Annual Conference 2013

Greenville, NC; June 12-15, 2013

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward will preside over the 2013 Annual Conference which will focus on “Strength to Strength: Grow!”

2013 – Grow! (Discipleship)

2014 – Thrive! (Wellness)

2015 – Serve! (Mission)

2016 – Give! (Generosity)

For more information go to

<http://nccumc.org/secretary/annual-conference/>.

Welcome New Members and a New Summer Intern!

We will welcome several new members in late May, and we'd like to introduce them to you. (See below.) Take the time to phone or email these friends to welcome them to CUMC, or simply say "Hello" after worship. *If you have questions about what church membership means or would like to register for our next class, contact the office (office@christmethodist.org; 969-8820).*

Welcome New Members!



Natalie Howard

- ◆ Former middle school teacher; now at home with her 2 children & a backyard flock of chickens!
- ◆ Children: Beatrice (5); August (18 months)
- ◆ Geo Zone: Hillsborough
- ◆ 919-606-6794
- ◆ nktropp@yahoo.com

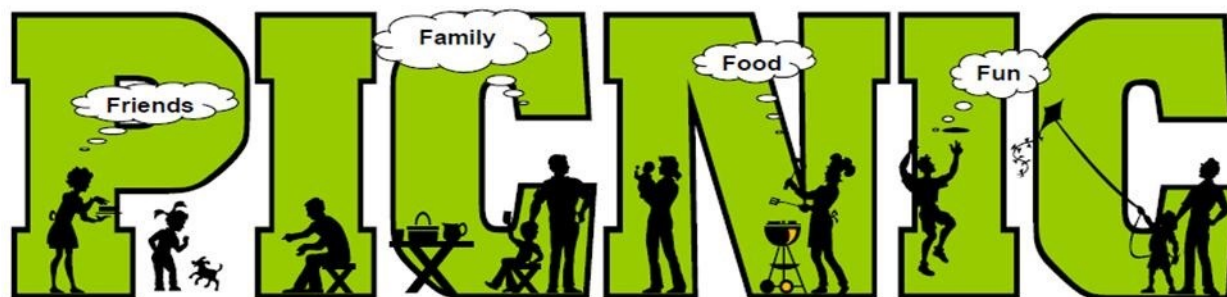
Wyman & Alsona Wong

- ◆ Moved from Baltimore to be near son, daughter-in-law, & 2 grandchildren in CH
- ◆ Wyman is from Singapore; Alsona is from Hawaii
- ◆ Geo Zone: Gov's Club
- ◆ 919-918-3990
- ◆ wymanwong@aol.com
- ◆ alsonawong@gmail.com



In July, **Sarah Sullivan** will join the staff as our summer intern in order to learn about congregational ministry. She is a rising senior at Northeastern University in Boston, & CUMC was her home church when she was in high school. Before starting her internship, Sarah will spend a month in Israel as part of a study abroad program.

Church-Wide



Sunday, June 2nd

4:00 - 6:45 pm

Picnic meal provided by Olde North State BBQ

RSVP: www.christmethodist.org/event/313531-2013-06-02-church-picnic/

Fellowship Opportunities & Congratulations!



**Church CO-ED
softball
league**

**Players Wanted!
Women, Men, Teens**

The CUMC co-ed softball team is back in action! The season started on Sunday, May 19 and will continue on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. We are looking for more players, *especially women and teens*, who want to come out, enjoy some fellowship, and play a little ball. The player fees is \$25 to cover uniform and registration costs. If you are interested in playing, contact Craig Wood (anothercraigwood@gmail.com).

Young Adult Night Out Sat., May 25th



Join us this Saturday, 7:30 pm, at DSI Comedy Theater (Carr Mill Mall between Elmo's and Southern Rail in Carrboro) for improv night featuring CUMC's very own Kori Robins. Get tickets online at www.eventbrite.com/org/975044869?s=3642543. (Enter the code "krob30" to receive a discount.) Plan to meet the group a little after 7:00 pm so we can get great seats. Please contact Mary Day Saou (mdayesaou@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x224) for more information.

Women's Retreat Location Change
CUMC Youth Room (upstairs, 103 Market St.)
Saturday, June 1; 9:30 am—3:00 pm



SINGLES BRUNCH
SAT., MAY 25TH, 11:30 AM

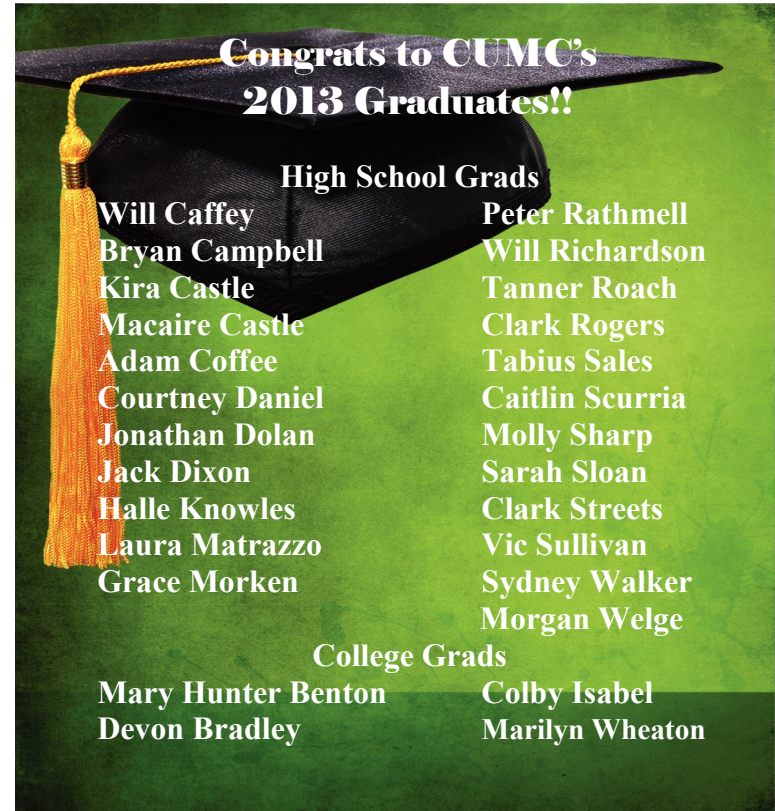
panzanella

11 local producers!

200 NORTH GREENSBORO ST., CARR MILL MALL,
CARRBORO, 27510

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT JOANNE ROY
(jroy@orangecountync.gov). ALL AGES WELCOME!

Our women's retreat has moved...to right here at home! Join us for a **day retreat** at **Christ Church**, & enjoy a time of rest & renewal in God's presence! Pastors Suzanne Hultman & Christi Dye will facilitate, & Mary Saou will lead our music. Come spend some time with God & your sisters in Christ! Cost \$20; scholarships provided.



**Congrats to CUMC's
2013 Graduates!!**

High School Grads

Will Caffey	Peter Rathmell
Bryan Campbell	Will Richardson
Kira Castle	Tanner Roach
Macaire Castle	Clark Rogers
Adam Coffee	Tabius Sales
Courtney Daniel	Caitlin Scurria
Jonathan Dolan	Molly Sharp
Jack Dixon	Sarah Sloan
Halle Knowles	Clark Streets
Laura Matrazzo	Vic Sullivan
Grace Morken	Sydney Walker
	Morgan Welge

College Grads

Mary Hunter Benton	Colby Isabel
Devon Bradley	Marilyn Wheaton



**Middle School: Sunday, May 26
4:00-5:00 pm in the Youth Room
Topic: Community**

Youth Pastor Rush Beam invites you to be part of a new tradition at CUMC: **Parent/Youth Group**. Approximately once a quarter, Rush invites parents to attend their child(ren)'s normal youth gathering on Sunday night. He always has an open door policy, but these nights will be planned to give parents a good feel for what our youth do on a weekly basis, and the topics discussed will be beneficial to both parents and students. Don't miss this!

Our Children & Youth Imitate Christ



VBS 2013 is shaping up to be a great week of **Backyard Bible Camp Under the Stars: Where Kids have a Blast Serving Jesus!** You can now register your child/children (ages 4 years old—rising 5th graders), as well as yourself as a volunteer, at <http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/ChristUMCChapelHill>. If you have questions, contact Catherine Neal (cneal@christmethodist.org; 919-969-8820, x 208).

The theme of **God's Backyard Bible Camp** is all about SERVICE! Kids will be inspired to serve family, friends, neighbors, their community, and Jesus by the life-changing worship, missions, music, and Bible fun of God's Backyard Bible Camp. We are ready to set up camp! Parents and youth, we hope you had a wonderful time volunteering at last year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) and would like to volunteer again this year. We'd love to see you there! Here are some details to help us prepare for our VBS adventure:

- Please feel free to forward the registration website information to any parent whose children may like to attend VBS or to youth/adults who would like to volunteer. **No online registration will be taken for VBS after July 9th. To register after this date, please stop by the church office for a paper registration form.**
- The cost per child for VBS is \$35 if you register before June 1, 2013 (\$40 between June 1 and June 15, and \$50 after June 16), and each child must have an adult volunteer for 2 days of VBS. VBS is free if a parent volunteers all 5 days. Scholarships are available if needed.
- Please register early! Why? Not only does it help you save money on the VBS fee, but for the safety of our participants, it really helps us to have our volunteer staff in place early and know who to expect on which days. Plus, you get to choose your volunteer assignment first. Though we do not guarantee you will get your first choice as your assignment, we do try to honor the preferences of people who register early.
- Check-in for volunteers will be from 9:00 - 9:15 am every day so that you can be at your station before the participants arrive. You should be able to leave by 12:45 pm every day.
- There will be a **VBS worship service on July 21 at 9:45 am, and a fellowship brunch will follow in Ascension Hall.** Details can be found at the VBS registration website. We hope you can join us.

We can't wait to spend time with you in God's Big Backyard!

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth



In accordance with the NC Conference, we maintain a comprehensive Safe Sanctuary policy designed to make Christ Church a safe, nurturing environment for all. Sadly, our modern-day world demands that we protect children and other vulnerable persons from abuse, be it emotional, physical, sexual, or ritual. All adults who work with our children are required to receive orientation in this important initiative. **Our next training session will be held Sunday, June 9th, 12:15-1:30 pm in Room 4 of 105 Market Street.** RSVP to Jenny Knott (jknott@christmethodist.org; 969-8820, x200).

Imitating Christ through Service



Summer Sunday school classes will begin on June 2. We'll be combining some classes: 3's & 4's will combine, Kindergarten will stay independent, and 1st - 5th grades will combine in the super-cool youth room (upstairs in building 103). Many of our wonderful teachers will be taking the summer off, so **we are counting on each family with a child in Sunday School to sign up to lead the class one or two Sundays.** We have a fun and easy curriculum to follow!! Sign up sheets are in the classrooms, as well as in Ascension Hall. Thank you for helping our kids have fun learning together this summer! To serve, please contact Catherine Neal (cneal@christmethodist.org) or Scott Wojnovich (swojnovich@gmail.com).



**YOU CAN SPONSOR
A CHILD FOR ONLY
\$13 A MONTH. ****

Your sponsorship of \$13 a month for 12 months provides a low income Chatham County child with enough food for 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches and daily healthy snacks per week during the summer break. It also helps CORA provide more fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and more milk to children whose families too often make less healthy choices due to low income.

SNACK!
IS A PROGRAM OF

40 Camp Drive,
PO Box 1326
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5020
919-545-3030
www.corafoodpantry.org



4215 Chatham County school children (49%) receive free or low-cost meals at school through the federal school lunch program because their families live at or near poverty level. Without these meals during the summer, these kids get little or no proper nutrition. CORA Food Pantry created SNACK! (Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids) to provide food for nutritious weekday summer meals for Chatham County's neediest kids.



Children who get the proper nutrition perform better in school, are healthier as adults and are less likely to continue the cycle of poverty.

You can make the future brighter for a Chatham Child.

Won't you help us provide healthy meals to Chatham County's disadvantaged children this summer?

**You can also sponsor a child for a one-time donation of \$150 or three monthly donations of \$50 each. Make Checks payable to CUMC with "SNACK" in the memo line.

Need more info? Contact Jim Wilkes (jnwilkes@sprynet.com).



The God Squad is looking for a few good men and women to check that the church and office building exterior doors have been secured properly each evening. You'll make certain all doors are locked and note any safety or security concerns. "Captain" Jim Dunleavy will assign you a rotating schedule of one week on and about 6 weeks off. To get your badge, contact Jim Dunleavy (Dunleavy3@att.net; 967-5221).

Christ Church, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County & 2 local churches, is building a home for the Maung Kyar & Moeh Kaih Family. The home, located in the Phoenix Place neighborhood, is just off Rogers Road in Chapel Hill. Volunteers are needed for the next CUMC build date, *Saturday, June 1st*. Contact Robert Amico to volunteer: robertamico@yahoo.com; (407) 496-7676.



CHRIST CHURCH
United Methodist
800 Market Street

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Quack! Quack!

The Christ Church Preschool
“Yellow Duck” class (4 yr. olds)
has room for 2 more friends for
the 2013-14 school year. We’d
love to get to know your family.

Contact Preschool Director,
Debbie Arena (919-969-1690 or
darena@christmethodist.org)
for more information. Students
must be 4 years old by August
31, 2013. Please share this news
with friends and neighbors!



Please Pray . . .

for our high school youth & their leaders who will
serve with The Appalachian Service Project
in Wyoming County, West Virginia
from June 16-22.

SAVE *the* DATE

- ▶ August 19-22: **C-Camp: Christ Church Acting & Music Program.** Registration materials available at www.christmethodist.org.
- ▶ Anytime! **Sign Up to use Access ACS.** Link into CUMC’s online membership directory, give online through checking account deductions, & more. It’s free! Contact Deon to set up your account (droach@christmethodist.org; 919-969-8820, x201) or do it yourself on our [website](#).