



# NewsNotes

Christ Congregational Church United Church of Christ  
A Just Peace and Open and Affirming Church  
Becoming an Anti-Racism Church

Volume 64 – Number 1

January 15, 2008

## Walking Through Lent: A Conversation on Becoming Anti-Racist



The season of Lent is a journey of exploration and contemplation which often leads to a deepened faith and/or a renewed commitment to live as Jesus taught. Many use a chosen discipline to help pattern a journey of soul searching, repentance and transformation. Some people choose to give something up or let something go, while others add something to their routine which will allow them to reflect on particular things. Lent can be a journey of challenge or affirmation or both. The journey is not intended to a painful time, or a joyful time, but it is to be a season that offers challenge and affirmation.

In the coming weeks, several opportunities will present themselves as a possible path you might want to journey. I would like to invite you to consider one in particular. Beginning Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, an opportunity to continue the journey towards becoming an Anti-racist church will be offered. We will begin this time of contemplation by viewing the movie *Crash*. Focused discussions throughout Lent (and perhaps beyond) will follow.

This Lenten opportunity grows out of Christ Congregational Church's vision of becoming a multi-cultural, multi-racial church and its commitment to become an anti-racist church. It is also one of the eight strategic goals agreed upon in preparation of this interim period. Over the course of discussion, we will hear personal stories, explore institutional racism and talk about the impact racism has (and continues to have) on all our lives.

Christ Congregational Church has a rich history in addressing racism in our society. Please consider being a part of the ongoing discussion on becoming an anti-racist people and an anti-racist church. The sessions will be led by myself, Delilah Marrow, Jim Henkleman-Bahn and others. Walking the journey, *Susan*

## Lenten Musical Series, *Days of Simplicity*, Begins February 13

The Music Ministry will again offer the *Days of Simplicity* Lenten musical series on Wednesdays during Lent. These musical offerings will be held in the Sanctuary beginning at 12 noon on February 13, 20, 27, and March 5, 12, and 19. Following the half-hour concert, a simple meal of delicious home-made soup and bread will be served in the conference room. This year we will host Susan Burkhalter (organ), Molly Stiers (classical piano), Jay Marciano (jazz piano), Ann Marlowe (flute), Pat O'Connor and the Aurora Lyre Quartet, and Nae Pearson (organ). This musical series provides a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors and guests to CCC. For further information, you may contact Nae Pearson at 301-585-8010, ext 224.

## CCC Weather Policy on Closings Reiterated

Weather, traffic and our proximity to Washington DC cause us to be mindful of conditions that result in cancellations. In the event of a weather or other emergency which may affect worship services and activities at CCC, check the CCC web site, [www.christ-ucc.org](http://www.christ-ucc.org); call the event line at 301-585-4640, ext. 333; or listen to WTOP 103.5 FM. (*Cont. on p. 4*)

Deadline for the next *News Notes* is Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 5:00 PM.

Send copy to Jackie Walters at [jjwalters.SilverSpring@verizon.net](mailto:jjwalters.SilverSpring@verizon.net) or place in *News Notes* box in the office.



**Spotlight On ~**  
**"Outdoor Spirited" in 2008**

When thinking about the Washington, DC metro area, "Outdoor Enthusiast's Paradise" is usually not the first thing that comes to mind. But, consider this: within a two-hour drive of CCC, you can hike to mountain overlooks that command views of three states and two major rivers, visit a wildlife refuge to see rare songbirds and get some ideas for that backyard plot of native plants that you've thought about, spend quiet time walking the sacred grounds of a Civil War battlefield, and canoe or kayak scenic and ecologically significant rivers, estuaries, and bays.

Last fall, several "Outdoor Spirited" CCC members and their families (young and not-so-young) gathered for day trips to Harper's Ferry and Maryland Heights in October, and then to scenic overlooks in the Catoctin Mountains over Thanksgiving weekend. These two trips provided wonderful opportunities to "get out of Dodge," enjoy one another's company, and share outdoor knowledge and experiences. These outings will continue in 2008, starting with a trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Thereafter, additional outings will be scheduled generally every other month.



Sound interesting? Have some ideas for an outing? Would you like to help with trip planning? Just like to chat a bit? Please contact Tim Wehrkamp at [t.wehrkamp@att.net](mailto:t.wehrkamp@att.net) (301-552-1836). Tim also does periodic group electronic mailings with information about trips, planning, ideas, and other items of general interest. Contact him with an email address if you would like to be included in those mailings.

*\*Epiphany*



The setting deceives-  
 A barn? Or a cave?  
 The smell of hay,  
 Steamy cattle,  
 Disgruntled tax-payers,  
 Traveler-clogged inns,

A helpless babe.  
  
 In this bleak place  
 angels come to sing,  
 Shepherds to watch.  
 A star burns bright.  
 Wise Ones come to celebrate  
 a royal moment.

And the babe lies there  
 senses, sleeps, waits  
 for the fitting time:  
 To conqueror death  
 To crown love  
 To turn everything around.

*Gordon Forbes*

*\*Epiphany: A sudden intuitive leap of understanding especially through an ordinary but striking occurrence. –Encarta Dictionary: English (North America); and the season of the Christian Calendar between January 6 and Ash Wednesday.*

***For and About Members***

Being part of the CCC community never means quite so much as it does during times of loss. We are so grateful for all the love and support we received during Dave's stepfather's decline and death this past fall. It is never easy to say goodbye to a loved one, but it would be far harder to be alone in grief. Thank you for all your caring notes, calls, conversations, and prayers. They comforted us, sustained us, and lifted us up. *Dave and Toko Ackerman*

## Volunteers Manage Sunday Building Coverage

In December, we began a new volunteer closing process for Sundays at CCC. Each Sunday a member of a volunteer closing team will secure and close the church after coffee hour (approximately 1 p.m.). Church groups meeting after closing will be locked in. We ask these groups to leave the room in order, turn off the lights, take out any trash containing food, and confirm lobby doors are securely latched behind them as they leave the facility. Cory Gray, Sunday evening custodian, will continue to cover Sunday evenings. We will not have custodial coverage on Sundays from 12 -4 p.m. throughout the remainder of this church year. When special events are scheduled for the afternoons, we will ask the event to cover the cost of custodial coverage.

Bud Dennie, Personnel Committee Chair, is currently recruiting for the closing team. If you are able to serve, please call Bud at 301-460-4379. Everyone serving will be trained to close and secure the church. We anticipate scheduling each member of the team approximately once every 2-3 months. *Dianne Abraham, Church Administrator*

### Stewardship Corner

Our CCC pledge campaign is building momentum. As of the end of December 2007, pledge fulfillment for this fiscal year is running at 110% of pledged amount,. Thank you to all who are following through on their commitments.

Approximately 50 percent of the Unified Budget comes from only 29 pledge units in our congregation. Over 50 percent of our budget comes from members and families who have pledged consistently for over 17 years. We are witnessing a renewal of CCC with 20 percent of this year's unified budget contributed by members and families who have begun pledging in the past five years. Pledging from newer members of CCC is essential to grow our programs and mission.

Where does CCC fit among your New Year's Resolutions? Will you commit to sharing more of your Time, Talent, and Treasure with our community in the coming year? As you reflect on the past year and prepare for the next, please take time to consider how your pledge will match your faith in the coming year. Can your commitment grow with us? We are *CCC in Transition -- Building on our Hope and Strength.* *From the Board of Stewardship*

### Opportunities

Shepherd's Table is holding a prayer service to commemorate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the First Baptist Church (corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Streets) at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 27. Everyone is welcome; a special invitation is extended to Shepherd's Table volunteers.



Come one, Come all -- to the Big Band's Valentine Ball - Saturday, February 9, 8-11 p.m.: CCC's own Big Band, led by Chuck O'Connor, will provide the music, ranging from love songs to swing and Latin rhythms. Terry Strand and Jerry Calderone share the vocals. Free-will donations will benefit the Building Fund. Light refreshments will be served. Fancy dress is welcome but not required.

Senior Adults' Valentine's Day Tea, Thursday, February 14, 2-4 p.m.: What could be sweeter than an afternoon with new and old friends on St. Valentine's Day? Join us for cake and ice cream (no sugar and low-fat available) and a toast to **Guests of Honor Ken and Betty Stith**. Bring your wedding picture or a picture of yourself as a young adult. We'll see how many we can identify!



Save the Date -- Beach Weekend, August 15-17, in Bethany Beach

Supper for Seven -- Is one of your New Year's resolutions to meet more people and have more fun? We can help! Supper for Seven (or so) is a program in which CCC'ers participate in rotating dinner groups. Each couple or individual (or 2 individuals) in the group takes turn hosting dinner. Dinner can be home-cooked or delivered -- it doesn't have to be fancy, just fun. If you'd like to join, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office or email me (Sara Watson) at [saraDwatson@aol.com](mailto:saraDwatson@aol.com), by February 10<sup>th</sup>. Indicate if you'd like to be in a group with children and, if so, what ages. Please contact me with any questions (301-879-7692).

**Weather Cancellation Policy** (*Cont. from p. 1*) ~~ The decision to cancel worship services will be made by the senior minister, in consultation with the church administrator, the moderator and the Chair of the Board of Deacons by 7:00 am on Sunday morning. For other church activities, the event leader or coordinator is responsible for conferring with the church office about whether the building will be open, to decide whether to cancel, and to contact participating members. If board meeting night is cancelled, board chairs are responsible for notifying their members and rescheduling the meetings, as needed. If a board or committee meeting needs to be rescheduled, contact the church office to confirm the availability of space for date and time. If you call the church and cannot reach the event line or answering machine, that means there is no electricity in the church. The church phones do not work during a power outage.

Adapted from the CCC Weather Emergency Policy approved October 20, 2003 and revised February 20, 2006.

*Trish Esposito, Moderator-Elect*

## **Social Witness**

**Trinity UCC** in Chicago, the largest UCC congregation in the U.S. and home church of presidential candidate, Barack Obama, has recently been the target of an Internet smear campaign against which the national UCC is responding. While stressing he is not attempting to interfere in a political campaign, the UCC's President and General Minister, the Rev. John H. Thomas, believe it is very important that "absurd, mean-spirited and politically-motivated attacks against one of our UCC churches be challenged forthrightly."

According to Rev. Thomas, the national offices in Cleveland have been forwarded "countless e-mails that obviously derive from a similar source." The e-mails claim that Trinity is a "racist congregation because of its long-stated motto: 'Unabashedly Black, Unapologetically Christian.'" Rev. Thomas has stated in response: "Trinity UCC is rooted in and proud of its Afrocentric history. . . . Recognizing and celebrating our distinct ethnic heritages, cultures, languages and customs are what make us unique as a united and uniting denomination." Further, Trinity welcomes members from all backgrounds. "Contrary to the claims made in these hateful e-mails, UCC members know Trinity to be one of the most welcoming, hospitable and generous congregations in our denomination."

Trinity UCC was founded in 1961 and today has more than 8000 members. Its long-time pastor is the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright. The congregation is one of the largest contributors to Our Church's Wider Mission, the primary support for the UCC's national and conference-level ministries. *Anne Weissenborn for the Board for Social Witness*

**Senior Highs Seek Contributions for the hungry on Souperbowl Sunday, February 3:** Join us in the fight against hunger and poverty by giving generously on February 3<sup>rd</sup> when we will collect money (or checks) after each service for Shepherd's Table. Souperbowl Sunday, a national movement, has raised \$41 million since 1990 for local charities. *Senior High Youth*

## **Library Notes**

"Are you the church librarian?" a member asked Peggy Mentzer. "No, I'm not a professionally trained librarian and I try not to use the title. Library "helper" is a better title. I put new books on the shelves and try to keep them tidy." Peggy went on say, "The job of the library person used to be to encourage library usage, but with the internet and access to good public libraries, the church library does not function as it used to." The library can be a repository of basic references, Bible helps, information about the UCC, and topics of recent and continuing interest. "I am learning the job at CCC as I go."

Here are two books that recently have been added to the collection. THE DEVIL CAME ON HORSEBACK, Bearing Witness to the Genocide in Darfur, by Brian Steidle, 2007, 230 pp., is a timely look at Arab, non-Arab conflicts and genocide in the Sudan.

VIRGIL WILLIAMS, He shaped the dawn of Western Art... by Ruth Nicholson Post, 1998, 144 pp. Ruth Post was a long-time member of CCC who became the acknowledged biographer of Virgil Williams. This book was new me and to members, Richard and Nancy Skinner, who ordered it, enjoyed it and donated it to the library. Many thanks, Richard and Nancy. This scholarly study of the artist provides a fascinating look at his world during his lifetime (1830-1886), primarily Boston and San Francisco. "Our" painting, *View of Mt. Katahdin*, appears in glorious color. Even the appendices in this book are interesting and reveal the depth of scholarship of Ruth Post. Richard included the story of the sale of the painting at auction in September from the *Washington Post*.



## Are you the next *News Notes* Editor?

CCC is blessed with our members' gifts of volunteer time and talent. One of the essential, behind the scenes functions is editing and publishing CCC *News Notes* once a month. Jackie Walters has served as *News Note* Editor for almost two years. She has announced her resignation from this volunteer position with her last issue as Editor in May 2008. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Jackie for her commitment and thoroughness in publishing *News Notes* during her tenure.

Are you the next *News Notes* Editor? The following provides some information on the requirements of the position:

- 1) You will work with the CCC Program Support Administrator and staff on monthly deadlines and publication dates. The schedule is usually set a year in advance.
- 2) It takes approximately 5 - 8 hours to edit articles and format *News Notes* prior to publication deadline.
- 3) Church software is available for your home computer, or it can be installed on a church computer for your use.
- 4) You may work from home.
- 5) Editing experience and previous experience with newsletter publishing is helpful, but not necessary.
- 6) No monthly meetings to attend, although there may be occasional Communication Committee meetings.
- 7) Jackie Walters is willing to help train, substitute and write articles as her schedule allows.

If interested in the *News Notes* Editor position or seeking more information, contact Trish Esposito, Nominating Committee Chair, 301-593-1858, [trishespo@yahoo.com](mailto:trishespo@yahoo.com).



Join the Winter Weekend Fun!  
Camp Soles, PA!  
**NOTE THE NEW DATE THIS YEAR!**  
President's Day weekend  
(February 15-18, 2008)



Looking for the perfect winter break? Check out **Winter Weekend!** It's a warm wintry gathering of friendly folks in a cozy environment, held again this year with the good people at the Washington Ethical Society. Past attendees rave about this annual tradition. It's a great place and time to relax and socialize, with sing-alongs, board games, ping-pong and crafts. There's sledding and tubing down the big hill outside the main lodge, and cross-country trails right outside your door. In short, there's plenty of fun for grown-ups and kids alike.

For between \$110 and \$150, you can spend 2 or 3 nights in a heated cabin with hot water showers, with hot and hearty meals served in the main lodge. (You can even pack your own bag lunches for a day on the slopes!) Youth (7 to 17) pay slightly less, with children (4-6) between \$55-\$75 depending on your length of stay. As always, kids under 4 are free! Snacks and a Saturday night square dance with live band and caller are included!

This memorable getaway will take place at the Camp Soles YMCA, not far from Somerset PA, overlooking a picturesque lake among wooded hills in south central Pennsylvania. That's about 3-1/2 hours from the DC area, but only minutes from Seven Springs and Hidden Valley ski resorts, several state parks, and the town of Somerset. And though it's too late for Somerset's annual Fire & Ice Festival in January, mid-term exams for High Schoolers will be *over!*

It's hard to imagine a better way to spend a long winter weekend. Feel free to invite your friends, neighbors, or relatives; all are welcome!

For more information, contact longtime organizer Stevan Fisher at 301-216-9610 or email him at [phisher2@verizon.net](mailto:phisher2@verizon.net). (Anne Nicotera will be helping with coordination for this trip.)

PS – Sign up early to pick your cabin and bunkmates. To register, fill out a form available on the bulletin board in the Church lobby.

**Christ Congregational Church  
9525 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20901**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Mailed January 22, 2008

**HAPPENINGS IN January & February**

- Sun., Jan. 27 ~ Vicki Kemper's Ordination ~ 3 p.m. ~ Sanctuary**
- Sun., Feb. 3 ~ Monthly Potluck Lunch ~ Noon**  
~~ Souperbowl Sunday & Scout Sunday  
~~ First Rehearsal for Tour Choir – 1 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 6 ~ Ash Wednesday**
- Sat., Feb. 9 ~ Women's Second Saturday ~ 8:30-10 a.m. – Panera in Silver Spring**
- Sat., Feb. 9 ~ 8-11 p.m. ~ Valentine Dance with CCC's Big Band ~ Social Hall**
- Wed., Feb. 13 ~ Days of Simplicity – Lenten Concert ~ 12 noon ~ Sanctuary**  
CCC Volunteers at Shepherd's Table
- Thurs., Feb. 14 ~ Senior Adults Valentine's Tea ~ 2 p.m. ~ Social Hall**
- Winter Weekend, Feb. 15 – 18 – Camp Soles, PA**
- Sun., Feb. 17 ~ Sisters for Sisters – Noon – Conference Room**
- Wed., Feb. 20 ~ Days of Simplicity – Lenten Concert ~ 12 noon ~ Sanctuary**
- Wed., Feb. 27 ~ Days of Simplicity – Lenten Concert ~ 12 noon ~ Sanctuary**
- Sun., March 2 ~ Monthly Potluck Lunch ~ Noon**

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH UCC**

**Phone:**  
**301-585-8010**

**Event Line:**  
**301-585-4640, ext. 333**

**Email:**  
[cccoffice@christ-ucc.org](mailto:cccoffice@christ-ucc.org)

Rev. Susan A. Henderson,  
Interim Senior Minister;  
Rev. Sandra K. Dodson,  
Associate Minister; Nae  
Pearson, Director of Music;  
Sarah Anders, Director of  
Senior Adult Programming;  
Dianne Abraham, Church  
Administrator

At CCC, we honor and celebrate  
people of all races, cultures,  
ages, abilities, sexual orientation,  
and gender identity.

[www.christ-ucc.org](http://www.christ-ucc.org)