



NewsNotes

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

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February 19, 2008

Safe Church Workshop Underscores Theology and Values of CCC

The Safe Church/Safe Sanctuaries movement began in the early years of this millennia. To some, it was a response to the fears of possible abuse within congregations of the neediest among us. For others, it is the natural, faithful response to our ministry for and with children, youth, and at-risk adults.

On Saturday, March 8, we will provide an essential training concerning the CCC Safe Church Policy. All those who volunteer with our children, youth and at-risk adults are **STRONGLY** encouraged to participate. If we could mandate it, we would. Volunteers include church school teachers and shepherds, camp leaders, youth group advisors, chaperones, Called to Care givers, and childcare staff. Half the church could be here that Saturday!!!

We welcome Rev. Hank Fairman, Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families at Rock Spring Congregational UCC, as our guest for the day. Pastor Hank will share with us the importance, the practical implementation, and the spiritual significance of Safe Church policies within the life of CCC. Some basic information on issues like what to do if you see signs of abuse, the congregation's role as mandatory reporters, and guidelines to help avoid situations where abuse or false allegations can happen will be addressed.

One might say that this training underscores the theology and values of CCC like no other opportunity to come in a long time. While becoming trained in the matters of being a Safe Church, our understandings of what it means to follow Christ will also expand. Physical and emotional safety are the building blocks of spiritual safety. When we come together in support of "the least of these," we stand together as one body with love and concern for our many members.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. The workshop is from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; lunch and childcare are provided. Questions? Contact Rev. Sandy Dodson at 301-585-8010, ext. 227 *Rev. Sandy Dodson*

The Ten Commandments – Lessons Through Story-Telling, Music & Drama

The Ten Commandments in Church School's story-telling/music/drama class provided me with several dividends when I taught our children for one class each. To begin, I made two tablets, each containing five commandments, and brought drums to class.



The kids began by discussing their understanding of each commandment as it applies to daily life. They were candid and charming as they expressed personal confessions as well as an understanding that the Ten Commandments are actually a blue-print for peaceful living (they included nature as well as people). To fit the confessional nature of the discussion, I introduced a spiritual song, "Down to the Valley to Pray."

Then, the children were given the task of taking each short-phrased commandment on the tablets and adding a rhyming phrase to fit into an 8-beat rhythmic pattern in 4/4 time (I am a music teacher, after all!). The rhythm of the words was performed on the drums, alternating and accompanying the singing of the song, along with piano accompaniment played by me and the piano-playing kids. Some of the funniest rhymes were: (*Cont. on p. 2*)

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

Send copy to Jackie Walters at jjwalters.SilverSpring@verizon.net or place in *News Notes* box in the office.



Spotlight On ~ Transitions

We are well into the first months of the tenure of our Interim Senior Minister, Rev. Susan A. Henderson. As part of CCC's commitment to the process of finding a permanent full-time Senior Minister, your Transition Committee has been meeting periodically with Rev. Henderson as she goes about her Interim work. She has met also with a number of other groups in the church, and many of you on boards and committees have benefitted already from her careful insights, observations, and encouragement. Please continue to be part of the discernment process so that we both support Rev. Henderson and grow from her wisdom. Feel free to talk with any member of the Transition Committee as we support Rev. Henderson; remember that we also hold in support Rev. Sandy Dodson and Director of Music Nae Pearson as they help keep our pastoral and programmatic work continuing in good order. We all strive to keep the interim work open and productive. Our worshipping congregation is strong, the community we serve still needs our commitment, our families grow. Our communicating openly and feely with one another will keep us attuned to our mission. Thank you.

Transition Committee: Bob Brown, Shirley Coll, Sue Dollins, Mabel Elliott, Bill Prindle

Senior Adults Plan April Retreat at Bon Secours

CCC's Senior Adults are headed to Bon Secours Retreat Center on April 29 – 30 for an overnight retreat. The theme of the retreat, "Experiencing God in Later Life," will be addressed in a talk by the Rev. Susan A. Henderson, in a music meditation led by Nae Pearson, and in sessions led by some of our own seniors on "Developmental Tasks in Later Life" and "My Most Alive Moments" There also will be free time! You may visit with your friends, stroll the beautiful grounds or spend prayerful time in the Bon Secours chapel. Bon Secours' recently renovated rooms have a double bed and private bath and are comfortable, clean and easily accessible! The food at Bon Secours is healthy and plentiful. The cost of \$99 for singles and \$155 for couples includes your room, four meals and two snacks.

Although April seems far away, we must reserve space at the center now! Therefore, **deposits are due in the church office by March 5th**. (\$30/single; \$60/couple.) Brochures are available in the church foyer. If you have questions, please chat with any of us on the Retreat Planning Committee. We hope to see you there!

Retreat Planning Committee: Dave Ackerman, Toko Ackerman, Sarah Anders, Shirley Coll, Mable Elliott, Ruth Freitag, Nancy Kosinski, Audrey Platt, Neville Platt, Betty Stith, Jeanne Young. Advisor: Rev. Susan A. Henderson

Ten Commandments (*Cont. from p. 1*) "Respect, Obey your parents, they're really not so bad!" and "Keep the Sabbath Holy, it's only once a week!"

The musical exercise should help the children internalize and memorize the Ten Commandments for their future consideration. The kids had their own story-telling experience, complete with dramatic outcomes, when they told their stories to me, a total stranger, but their sister in Christ. Hopefully, they will remember the song and remember the Commandments as something valid in their everyday lives.

Teaching Church School is the best way to get to know some of the liveliest members of our church, and I recommend it to all the parents: to place themselves in the role of teacher in the eyes of their own kids. I didn't need to be a musician to do what I did with them. They are great kids and worthy of attention. *Anne Rolls*

For and About Members

Annual Fifty-Year Member Recognition ~- Sunday, March 9

Please join the congregation at the 10:30 service on March 9 as we recognize those who have been members of CCC for 50 years or more. Special recognition will be given to members reaching the 50-year milestone this year. After the service there will be a reception in the Social Hall. Please come meet or renew acquaintances with people who have served the church for so long. *Marian Dirda, Board for Church Life*

“The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.”
Matthew 6:21, Eugene Peterson translation.

Through our church’s active volunteer hours and financial support for many social justice organizations, we are all participating in moving our world that much closer to God’s hope for creation.

Stewardship is not just about pledging and money. It is, as the Prophet Micah reminds us, about “doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.” Christ Church has long been a steward of justice, declaring itself a “Just Peace Church,” an “Anti-Racist Church” and an “Open and Affirming Church.” We have taken part in establishing Progress Place and in launching the Gandhi Brigade. Your pledge to the church supports the stewardship of Justice to which God through the Prophets has called us.

CCC shows stewardship for our local and global communities through the many organizations the Social Witness Board supports. Here is a complete list of the groups that received financial support, and some volunteer support, from our church last year: The Senior Connection (see additional information below); Shaw Community Ministry; The UCC Coalition for LGBT Youth; Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition; Stewards of the Earth (CCC) - which in turn sent money to several environmental organizations; Shepherd’s Table; Project Mala (India); SMYAL - an organization supporting LGBT youth; Back Bay Mission - Biloxi, Louisiana; Rebuilding Together; Action in Montgomery (non-membership level); Community Ministry of Montgomery County. The Christmas offering this year supports the Global Ministries - for the Bridgman Centre for youth in Soweto, South Africa; as well as the Isithembiso Community Initiative for rural HIV-AIDS-related food programs outside Johannesburg, South Africa. Thank you, everyone!



The Senior Connection

Volunteers from The Senior Connection provide simple duties that are vital to the well-being of older adult residents of Montgomery County. These volunteers are dedicated to the people they serve and are grateful for the benefit of meeting new friends and learning from the experiences they have lived over a lifetime. Montgomery County Government depends on The Senior Connection to meet a need that is not provided on a government level.

The Senior Connection has a 14-year history of providing quality services in a reliable and comfortable manner, while increasing the confidence of the person needing the service. With the support of the volunteers, residents can live in their own homes longer and get to places that most of us who are still driving take for granted every day. Imagine a day when you can no longer do that. What will you do?

Sue Dollins, the Executive Director of The Senior Connection, can provide information on her program, as well as other transportation services in Montgomery County. Sue is the founding director of ASSISST, one of the two organizations that merged to become The Senior Connection in 2003. One-hundred thirteen volunteers provided over 6,800 services to 737 residents in Montgomery County last year. Nine of those volunteers are from CCC and provided more than 350 services at a value of just over \$20,000. Volunteer opportunities are abundant and flexible and most volunteers spend 2 – 3 hours per week making such a large contribution. To volunteer, contact Sue at (301) 962-0820 or E-mail: suedollins@cs.com.

Opportunities

CCC Outdoor Spirited Group Hike, Saturday, March 1, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

~~ Join us for a short and easy late winter trek along the South Tract trails of Patuxent Wildlife Refuge between Bowie and Laurel, MD. Along our route from the Visitor Center parking lot to Cash Lake, we will walk through a restored eastern hardwood forest that serves as a year-round refuge for songbirds, waterfowl, and other native wildlife of Maryland’s coastal plain. If you are a bird watcher, or someone who enjoys a quiet walk with friends in quiet surroundings, this trip is for you. Following our hike, we will spend some time learning about eastern coastal habitat flora in the native plant tract adjacent to the Visitor Center. (Cont. on p. 4)

Opportunities (Cont. from p. 3) For gardeners, this may be an opportunity to get some new ideas for your own spring planting. Further information on the Patuxent Research Refuge is available on their website at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/> and also at http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us_nwr/md_patux.htm. The trip is open to CCC adults and all CCC youth who can complete a 2-3 mile hike on level terrain. Youth under 18 years of age not accompanied by a parent will need to bring a parental permission slip and have a current health form on file in the CCC church office. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, warm layer clothing and hat, rain jacket/gear, water, lunch, personal items. Meet in the CCC parking lot at 8:30 AM on Saturday, March 1st, to arrange ride sharing, depart for the refuge by 9:00, finish trek by 2 PM, and start back to CCC by 2:30. Sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Trip leader is Tim Wehrkamp, t.wehrkamp@att.net, 301-552-1836.



 Save the Dates - American Red Cross Blood Drives at CCC in 2008:
 March 30, July 20 and October 19

BEAUTIFUL BETHANY WITH CCC FRIENDS...MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Mark your calendars for Bethany Beach weekend, August 15 to 17, 2008. This is a great opportunity to stay with CCC friends and families at the Christian Church Conference Center in beautiful Bethany Beach, DE, just two blocks from the ocean. Come enjoy the beach, sunsets, rocking chairs on the porch, private rooms for each family, community playground right on the grounds, good meals, and more. Cost for the weekend, including five meals, is approximately \$113 per adult, \$55 for ages 5-15 and free for under age 5. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Milkie at 301-585-2273 or mmilkie@socy.umd.edu.



EAT WELL AND FEED OTHERS ~~ Is it a challenge to prepare a delicious and healthy meal for your family each night? Cloverly Street Dream Dinners, owned by CCC member Yihung Mohs, provides a unique opportunity to prepare and freeze nutritious, delicious meals while benefitting the families of **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition (SSIHC)**. For every customer who books a session to prepare meals for their family by February 28 and who references SSIHC, Yihung will donate an entrée to SSIHC. For more information go to www.dreamdinners.com. Once you choose the date and time you want to prepare your meals, you will be directed to "select dinners and session." During the check-out process, there will be a place for "special notes." Type in **SSIHC** so their families benefit from your purchase. When you sign up, please notify Sandra at ssihc.sandra@verizon.net

Appreciation A Note of appreciative crowd 9 and to members of the logistical support--planning, tending. All in all it was a fun evening that for a donation to the Building Fund: \$500.



Thanks from the Big Band ~~ to the large and that came to dance or to listen to our music on February Board for Church Life, led by Marian Dirda, for their advertising, hall decorating, refreshments, and door-inspired the Band to new heights. Preliminary figure
Chuck O'Connor

Thank you to all those who brought in items for the **hygiene kits**. We were able to assemble 14 complete kits which we brought to the Church World Service Center. These kits are far-reaching in giving to those in need. *Middle High Youth*

Superbowl Sunday proved to be another day to celebrate the outpouring of support and generosity from our congregation who donated more than \$1400, all of which goes to Shepherd's Table. We greatly appreciate your contributions to fight hunger in our community. *Senior High Youth*

Twelve volunteers from CCC served 167 people at Shepherd's Table on Wednesday, February 13. That was the largest crowd I've seen in years. Without our volunteers, we couldn't have served so many so well. Thank you. *Jim Walters, February Coordinator, Board for Social Witness*



Library Notes

Member Terry Strand donated The 36-Hour Day (4th ed., 1999; Nancy Mace & Peter Rabins), a family guide to caring for people with Alzheimer's disease, other dementias and memory loss in later life. Terry hopes this information will help another family who will travel down this road.

The church library also has The Peace Book, 108 Simple Ways to Create a More Peaceful World by Louise Diamond (2001). Referred to by the Rev. Sandy Dobson during Advent, this 197-page book is easy to read and thought provoking. The 13 chapters include helpful resource guides.

Other books recently added: Donated by the Dean family, The Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels (1979) won two national book awards in 1980. *The New Yorker* said, "An intellectually concise study. The economy with which Pagels evokes the world of early Christianity is a marvel." The UCC at 50: Our History, Our Future, co-edited by J. Martin Bailey and W. Golder (2006), is an interesting collection of signed articles and color photos. Rev. Jim Todhunter gave The Purpose of the Church and the Ministry, Reflections on the Aims of Theological Education, by H. Richard Niebuhr (1956).

Lastly, How Long Does It Hurt: A Guide to Recovering from Incest and Sexual Abuse for Teenagers, Their Friends and Their Family, by Cynthia L. Mather (1994), and Deliver Us From Evil, What the Bible says about Satan, by Myra B. Nagel (1999). These books are on the right bookcase, third shelf. *Peggy Mentzer*

The Stewards of the Earth has acquired for the Environmental and Fair Trade Library (2nd floor hall) the following new materials:

- 1) DVD – *Troubled Waters*, a documentary produced by the UCC for the National Council of Churches, explores the critical issues of water shortage through the lens of faith and from the perspectives of peoples around the world who struggle daily to find access to clean, safe water. Narrated by Lynn Redgrave.
- 2) DVD – *Happy Feet*, a delightful, PG-rated animated musical starring emperor penguins and chock-full of social justice messages about the environment, immigration, discrimination, being "different," and self-worth. The star penguin, Mumble, proves that by being true to one's self, one can make all the difference in the world. Robin Williams and Nicole Kidman are just two of the well-known voices in this film.
- 3) DVD – *Planet Earth*, an 11-part series on 5 DVDs using fabulous filming techniques, including special aerial photography, to give a dramatic view of the natural world. The film focuses specifically on pole to pole, mountains, deep oceans, deserts, ice worlds, shallow seas, great plains, jungles, fresh water, seasonal forests, caves, and planet earth: the future. Narrated by Sigourney Weaver.
- 4) Book – Animal, Vegetable, Miracle – A Year of Food Life, by Barbara Kingsolver. This bestselling author chronicles one year in her family's life in which they committed themselves to eating either food (animal or vegetable) they had grown themselves or had been grown locally. The author also emphasizes eating organically, in season and humanely-produced food.
- 5) Two Companion Reports – published by the United Church of Christ.
 - The first, published in 1987 by the UCC's Commission for Racial Justice and entitled *A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Communities and Hazardous Waste Sites*, points out the inequitable placement of these dangerous sites in communities with little economic or political power and especially those populated by people of color.
 - The second, published in 2007 by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries and entitled *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty – 1987-2007*, examines the progress (or lack thereof) of the "race-toxic waste" inequities delineated in the 1987 report. The report notes in its foreword, "It is ironic that twenty years after the original *Toxic Wastes and Race*" report, many of our communities not only face the same problems they did back then, but now face new ones because of government cutbacks in enforcement, weakening health protection and dismantling the environmental justice regulatory apparatus."
- 6) For the Children's Library (Room 107), the Stewards acquired the CD *Why the Dog Chases the Cat*, a Grammy-nominated musical story collection of American folktales with a special emphasis on African-American folktales.
Winifred Roberts for Stewards of the Earth

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Mailed February 19, 2008

HAPPENINGS IN February & March

Wed., Feb. 20 ~~ Days of Simplicity Concert – noon ~~ *Jay Marciano, Piano*

Sun., Feb. 24 ~~ CCC Book Group will discuss Ivan Doig's novel, *The Whistling Season*, at the home of Mary Stone, 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Wed., Feb. 27 ~~ Days of Simplicity Concert – noon ~~ *Ann Marlowe, Flute*

Fri., Feb. 29 – Senior Adult Brown Bag Lunch & Movie ~~ 11:30 a.m.

Sat., March 1 ~~ Outdoor Spirited Hike ~~ 8:30 a.m. (see pp. 3 & 4)

Sun., March 2 ~~ Monthly Potluck Lunch ~~ Noon

Wed., March 5 ~~ Days of Simplicity Concert – noon ~~ *Molly Stier, Classical Piano*

Sat., March 8 ~~ Safe Church Workshop – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Lunch & childcare provided.

Sat., March 8 ~~ Women's Second Saturday Gathering at Panera in downtown Silver Spring --- 8:30 – 10 a.m. – All women welcome for coffee/tea and conversation.

Sun., March 9 ~~ 50-Year Member Recognition ~~ 10:30 Service of Worship –

Wed., March 12 ~~ Days of Simplicity Concert ~~ noon ~~ *Patricia O'Connor & the Aurora Lyre Quartet*

Wed., March 12 – CCC Volunteers at Shepherd's Table

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UCC

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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.

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