



NewsNotes

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

Volume 64 – Number 6

June 17, 2008

Retreat House Dominates Annual Meeting

A motion by the Executive Council to donate ten (10%) percent of the proceeds from the sale of the Virgil Williams painting to discretionary mission giving under the auspices of the Board for Social Witness spawned a lively debate at CCC's Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1.

The debate took place in two parts following a motion by Mary Stone to table debate until after consideration of the annual budget. When debate resumed following adoption of the budget, members considered an amendment to the original motion offered by Jackie Walters.

Speaking in opposition to the proposal, Jackie moved to amend the original proposal by ear-marking the 10% for mission to "mission of the Retreat House ministry." Dan Pence, who first proposed the idea to the Board of Trustees, spoke against the proposed amendment, stating that CCC, having been blessed with a gift of unimagined proportions, had a "duty to give from the first fruits" as a community just as it asks its members to give "from the top" when considering their pledge.

Under parliamentary procedure, debate on the proposed amendment took precedence. Those who spoke for the amendment cited the importance of the Retreat House to the past and current ministry of CCC. When the question was called, Moderator Gordon Forbes called for a tally, and declared the amendment passed, 49 for and 23 against. On a subsequent vote, the original motion failed on voice vote with the result that 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the painting – almost \$83,000 – will go to the Retreat House Restoration Fund.

In other business, Tim White, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presented the budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09. Operating income of \$905,545 is predicated on an estimated pledge amount of \$719,000 plus other sources of revenue. As of June 1, \$663,000 had been pledged with approximately 60 pledges from last year outstanding. Tim stated that the Trustees strove to bring clergy salaries in line with Central Atlantic Conference guidelines and the Director of Music's salary in line with American Guild of Organist guidelines. The latter goal remains \$3,000 short of where Nae Pearson's salary should be based on his years of experience. Under CCC's Constitution, ten percent (\$75,078) of the operating budget, minus repayment on the debt, will go to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) -- the United Church of Christ and the Potomac Association. The Property budget rose to reflect higher utility costs, dealing with deferred maintenance, and making needed repairs to the organ. The program budget increased for the first time in several years. A projected deficit of \$19,644 is expected to be offset by a \$20,000 surplus from this year's budget. The budget passed with no debate.

Kristina Aabel for the Board for Social Witness moved that CCC endorse the Statement of Conscience of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and the motion passed unanimously. The congregation approved a motion from the Planned Giving Committee to spend up to \$1,000 from the accumulated earnings of the Endowment Fund for professional investment assistance. Gordon Forbes gave an update on the search process for the new Senior Minister (*see* article on p. XXX).

At the conclusion of the meeting, Gordon passed the gavel to Moderator-Elect, Trish Esposito.

Jackie Walters, Communications Officer

Search Committee Update

CCC has begun the important process to call its next senior minister. In its initial meeting, the search committee heard from our Central Atlantic Conference (CAC) Minister for the Potomac Association, the Rev. Dr. Kwame Osei Reed, about the process of searching and calling a minister. We learned that it is a long process but one in which we are guided in every step along the way by a detailed handbook prepared by the United Church of Christ and by support and assistance from the Central Atlantic Conference. We also were reminded that CCC is well known and highly regarded in the denomination and should attract an excellent group of candidates. At the search committee's second meeting – with the Rev. Susan Henderson – we focused on the tasks that need to be accomplished before applicants are sought. Both Kwame and Susan emphasized the role of the local church profile and of the period of discernment which precedes it. The church profile will provide prospective candidates with detailed information about CCC and the Silver Spring community and will include a statement of our expectations and aspirations for the near future as well as our expectations for the senior minister position. This is critically important and must be carefully prepared after a period of examination, reflection and input from the congregation. Representatives of the search committee met with the Executive Council at its June meeting to provide an update on the search process and to ask the Council for its assistance in leading CCC in the process of discernment and in preparing the church profile. The Council will address these at its July retreat. Please watch *NewsNotes* for periodic updates on the search. We also encourage you to contact any member of the search committee if you have questions or concerns.

Kristen Brown
Maureen Ingram
Bob Robey
Merlene Bagley (co-chair)

John Gipson
Elise Gifford
Nicole Wilson
Tom Ault (co-chair)

Allen Hill
Elaine Kim



Welcome Weekend Draws New Faces to the Retreat House

Turtles and newts and crayfish, oh my! Surrounded by God's creation, about 30 folks enjoyed the warm sunshine, fellowship, food, games, songs, hikes, and, yes, the local fauna at the recent Welcome Weekend hosted by the Board of Outreach and Engagement at the CCC Retreat House. Participants – visitors, newer members, clergy and others – trekked out to Yellow Spring, WV, Memorial Day weekend. Some came for an afternoon, some stayed the whole weekend. O&E gives special thanks to the Retreat House Committee and especially to Cory Gray, Bruce Strand and Phil Fox for helping make the weekend a success!

Last September a member of the congregation donated \$5000 to the CCC Endowment Fund with the intent that the earnings on the donation be used to support CCC's Music Ministry. The donor said at the time that an additional \$1000 would be donated each succeeding year until the gift totaled \$10,000. This spring the donor decided to accelerate the rest of the gift and on May 20 presented the church with another check for \$5000. The Planned Giving Committee (PGC) is very appreciative of this gift and has directed Treasurer Dan Pence to promptly invest it in the United Church Foundation (UCF) Balanced Fund so that earnings can accumulate. With the donor's concurrence, the PGC will let the earnings accumulate for a time before they are put to use in CCC's Music Ministry. *Planned Giving Committee*

CCC BOOK GROUP The next discussion of the CCC Book Group will be on June 29 at 7 PM to discuss the classic *Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad. The meeting probably will be at the home of Eleanor Waldrop, with the home of Mary Stone as the alternative. Call Mary at 301 681-6925 for exact place information as the date approaches.



YOUTH NEWS

New 5th Grade Youth 2008-09 Program

The Youth Committee has met several times to plan the upcoming year's programs and calendar. After careful discussion and deliberation we plan to pilot a new Sunday evening program for our 5th and 6th graders.

This fall we will begin offering *an annual* Our Whole Lives (OWL) class for 6th graders. OWL is a human sexuality program with an emphasis on our UCC faith values. The outstanding teachers are Terry Strand and Jim Conklin. In the past this class has included 5th and 6th graders.

We are proposing a **new monthly fifth grade fellowship group** that will meet on the second Sunday of each month, 6-8PM. Our vision is to have 5th grade families hosting the group at their homes, a bowling alley, or other fun destination for play and community building. This will encourage and reinforce current relationships formed in our Church School program and prepare the 5th graders for their 6th grade OWL year. This opportunity will happen because parents volunteer to host one or two second Sunday activities in the 9 month program year. Partner with a family and share the fun!

The Youth Committee will have a **Kick Off Orientation/Pot-Luck Supper on September 14th** for 5th thru 12th grade parents, volunteers and youth. Parents and youth will meet separately for information and planning sessions following supper.

Please put this important date on your calendar and come out for a wonderful beginning to next year's Sunday Evening Youth program.

The Youth Committee - Jim Conklin, Sonja Fisher, Sallie and Paul Holmes, Maureen Ingram, Kate and John Rogers, Kathy Stedman, Carrie White, Mike Weber, Sandy Dodson

Youth Ropes Course

The weekend of May 17-18th, 15 CCC youth plus six adults participated in a ropes course at FLOC (For the Love of Children) in West Virginia. A needed break from our beloved Retreat House, the ropes course was possibly the best Youth Retreat since our NYC expedition. The necessity of a diverse range of talents became obvious as we challenged our individual relationships and group dynamics, especially during our encounter of the epic 12 foot wall: how can we forget the strength of Andy and Travis, or the genius of Elise's simple logic? The support of our community provided us with an ample stage to test our limits. I (for one) never thought I'd walk across a wire 60 feet above a stream clinging desperately to Faith Nelson, and foster new friendships and memories. *Liz Gipson*

Deadline for the next NewsNotes is 5:00 PM Wednesday, July 9
Send articles to Susan Gray cccoffice@christ-ucc.org or leave them in the NewsNotes Box

In Appreciation ~ ~

The Sanctuary Committee thanks Ben Gallup for making a hanger for the new banners in the Sanctuary. Purchasing a new stand would have cost over \$500, and the result would not have been as beautiful or as perfect as Ben's craftsmanship.

Correction ~ ~

I'm sorry that I incorrectly named one of the youth quilters. Caroline Shinpoch made a beautiful quilt. Sorry, Caroline. *Terry Strand*

About CCC Members ~ ~

On June 13, Frank Cafilisch flies with his family to Palo Alto, California where his grandson, Tim, will graduate from Stanford. While on the west coast Frank will celebrate his 90th birthday on June 21.



Save the dates – Vacation Bible School
Peace Camp August 4 – 8 for kids 3 - 8

Library Notes June 2008

For men in the congregation (and women, too) some of these books from the CCC library may be of interest:

MEN TALK: How Men REALLY Feel about Women, Sex, Relationships and Themselves, by Alvin Baroff, 1991, 269 pp., hardback. Follows clients for six months in a male therapy group in Washington, DC.

GODS IN EVERYMAN: A New Psychology of Men's Lives and Love, by Jean S. Bolen (a Jungian analyst), 1989, 305 pp. "This book will help you discover the mythic depth that is the wellspring of your life."

FIRE IN THE JOHN: The Manly Man in the Age of Sissification, by Alfred Gingold, 1991, 157 pp. "You're not a lumberjack and that's OK...Learn how to corral a male mentor...and share your grief with strangers you meet at a bus stop, etc."

THE FLYING BOY, Healing the Wounded Man, by John H. Lee, 1987, 111 pp., "Why men run from relationships."

AWAKENING FROM THE DEEP SLEEP: a Powerful Guide for Courageous Men, by Robert Pasick, 1992, 249 pp., hardback. "A tool for personal transformation to help accelerate the shift from domination to partnership."

MEN AND GRIEF, A Guide for Men Surviving the Death of A Loved One (and) A Resource for Caregivers and Mental Health Professionals, by Carol Staudacher, 1991, 225 pp. (The subtitle says it all.)

Books are paperbacks unless noted. If you read one of these and feel it is outdated, please let me know. Thank you.

Peggy Mentzer, Library helper 301-847-0079

Safe Church Changes Things

CCC has endeavored to be a place and community where people are safe and respected. In our writing and affirming the Safe Church Policy this year we have further strengthened our commitment to “nurture a respectful, healthy, safe congregational life.” CCC and our programs desire to be experiences of God’s extravagant welcome. Having a Safe Church Policy is also a requirement for insurance coverage.

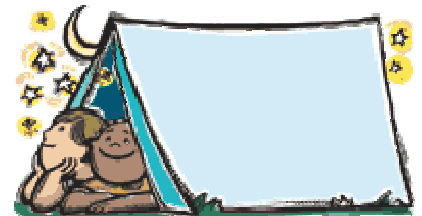
The entire congregation needs to be aware of what is necessary to honor our gospel following commitment to infants, children, youth, adults, and senior adults. It is our joy to invite persons into our faith community.

Guidelines for volunteer leadership among our children and youth have changed. We now require rather than suggest that two people are present in a classroom with one or more child/ren. This provides a greater margin of safety for everyone. The leaders have support and the children have a responder that can accompany them elsewhere if need be. *Our church school classes in the summer months and in the program year will not happen on days we do not have adequate volunteer staffing.* This means we have at least one adult who has been a CCC member a minimum of 12 months or an adult non-member active at CCC for a minimum of 12 months, recommended by a CCC member, in the classroom. The second person can be an adult or high school youth. There is a designated teacher and a designated shepherd or assistant.

For overnight activities such as Retreat House camping or mission trips there are specific lodging requirements. Here are two expectations: 1.) In a dwelling such as a hotel or the former Retreat House bedroom arrangement, same gender youth can share a room without adults. There must be adults next door or on the same floor as the youth. 2.) Dwellings that are dormitory-like without adjacent rooms such as our Bunk House and this year’s platform tents, require 2 adults sleeping in the room. Everyone must be of the same gender. [As an Open and Affirming congregation, we recognize that these guidelines are skewed for heterosexual situations. We trust that gay and lesbian persons will honor appropriate boundaries.]

In order for us to have summer camp, we need more adult volunteers than in the past. ***Senior High (July 6-12) and Middle School (July 13-19) need more volunteers,*** especially for the overnight periods. [Beds this summer are institutional strength cots which can be made into a bunk. The wooden beds are too big for the tents.] These “counselors” will assist with camp program as needed and have daily chunks of down time for personal renewal. When it comes time for bed, these counselors will crawl into their sleeping bags for some good ol’ storytelling and sharing. This can be an awesome time for experiencing the sacred through new friendships and insights.

Come soak up some Holy Spirit in the hills of West Virginia. Volunteer for 3 or 6 nights.
Sign up to teach church school, this summer and/or the new church school year.
Please contact Rev. Sandy Dodson for further information.



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

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HAPPENINGS IN JUNE & JULY

June 19 - 21 -- Middle School Immersion in Homelessness

June 21 - 28 -- Senior High Kentucky Trip

Sat., June 21 -- CCC Outdoor Spirited Group - Sugarloaf Mountain Trek
8:30 AM

July 4 - 6 -- Young Adults Retreat at the CCC Retreat House

Sun., July 20 -- Red Cross Blood Drive

Summer Camps

July 6 - 12 -- Senior High Camp

July 13 - 19 -- Middle School Camp

July 20 - 26 -- Elementary Camp

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UCC**

**Phone:
301-585-8010**

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

**Email:
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
Susan Gray, Support
Administrator

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

www.christ-ucc.org