



NewsNotes

Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming Church
Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

Volume 65 – Number 5

May 4, 2009

May is a month filled with celebration! With the presentation of *A Technicolor Promise*, we celebrated our Children's Music and Arts Minister. On May 17th we will celebrate with three of our youth who will confirm their faith and make a covenant to be members of our church and on May 31, we will honor everyone who has shared their time and talent to enhance our ministry.

On May 24th, the focus of our celebration will be the ministry of Sarah Anders.

For the past three years, Sarah has held the position of Director of Senior Adult Programming. She now leaves this position in order to continue her seminary studies fulltime. Sarah has worked with the Senior Adult Committee to develop programs that provide opportunities for fellowship with members of CCC who are 55 and up. Over time, Sarah's work with programming has developed into a valued ministry. Silent retreats, Third Thursday Discussion and worship and community building opportunities have been a gift. Her legacy serves to remind us that the formation of faith develops throughout our entire lifespan.

While Sarah's ministry with this particular program will be missed, this is not a moment of good-bye. Sarah remains a member of CCC and she continues to work with the Deacons who, along with the Potomac Association, guide her through the In Care Process that leads her towards ordination. To enhance this process, she will participate in worship leadership and offer pastoral care. While it will be much different, we will continue to enjoy her ministry amongst us. Please plan to join us to celebrate Sarah's ministry and transition.

Rev. Susan A. Henderson



Children Vote on Heifer Project Budget

During Children's Time on Consecration Sunday, Carolyn Hoskinson led the children in a mini-Annual Meeting to decide on a budget for the offerings they had collected. First, Susan Henderson demonstrated saving and contributing with her piggy bank. Then she compared how her family decides to spend the money saved and collected in the piggy bank with how the congregation decides to spend the money collected during the stewardship campaign by making decisions for the Unified Budget at the Annual

Meeting. With a total of \$546 to spend, the children weighed the benefits of purchasing a water buffalo, a heifer, flocks of geese, and other animals. Susan explained what each choice could mean for a family. For example, a buffalo provides milk, helps a farmer do more work in the fields, and generates income when rented out to neighbors. After hearing the presentation, the children voted to purchase two flocks of geese at \$20 each and a heifer for \$500, leaving a total of \$6 as the basis for rebuilding their mission fund.

**Appreciation for Sarah Anders,
Director of Programming for Senior Adults**

On **Sunday, May 24th** during the 10:30 worship service, we will celebrate and thank Sarah Anders for her gifts of ministry. Sarah will conclude her role as CCC's Director of Programming for Senior Adults on May 29th in order to focus her energy on full time studies at Wesley Theological Seminary. She will continue as a member of the congregation and serve as occasional worship leader.



Chancel Choir To Host Choral Concert At CCC

Sunday, May 17th, 4:00 PM The Chancel Choir of CCC and the Sanctuary Choir of Marvin Memorial United Methodist Church will present the *Lux Aeterna* (Light Eternal) of Morten Lauridsen in a concert on Sunday, May 17, at 4:00 PM in the CCC sanctuary. The choirs will be directed by Nae Pearson with Mary Ann Willow, Director of Music at Marvin UMC, accompanying. The *Lux Aeterna* is a radiant choral work combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth that has moved audiences worldwide. The concert program will also include works by Giovanni Palestrina, Patricia Van Ness, John Rutter, John Tavener and Gabriel Fauré. Please join us for an afternoon of sacred music!

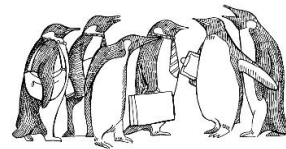
Learn More About Christ Congregational Church

Interested in learning about CCC--its history, covenant and governance? Please save these dates. On **May 17, May 31 and June 14** at 6:45 PM, O&E will be holding three information and Q&A Sessions. All are welcome, particularly visitors and new members. Childcare will be provided. More details coming soon.

Annual Meeting, June 7, 2009

Following the service of worship on **Sunday, June 7th**, CCC will hold its 65th Annual Meeting. Child Care will be provided. The meeting agenda includes: 1) A congregational vote of affirmation for the general direction of the proposed Long Range Staffing Plan. The Long Range Staffing Plan documents may be found on the CCC web site, christ-ucc.org; 2) A congregational vote on the revised CCC Covenant. Please see the article on this topic in the April issue of NewsNotes; 3) Approval of the Nominated Slate of Officers and Board members for 2009-2010. The Nominated Slate will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office on Sunday, May 17th; 4) Approval of CCC's Unified Budget for 2009-2010. Budget hearings will be held on Wednesday

evening, May 27th and Sunday, May 31st following the 10:30 service of worship; and 5) An update on the Senior Minister Search Process and intermediate staffing plan recommendations for July 2009-June 2010.



Annual Meeting

Retreat House Charette - May 30

During the last few years, there have been many conversations about the Retreat House. We've had visioning days, reports to the congregation, and times of solitary reflection. We are finally ready to put pen to paper and consider new directions with our building and property. On Saturday, May 30, architect Lisa Dall'Olio will conduct a "charette" for all interested members and friends at the church.

A charette is a collaborative session in which a group of people draft a solution to a design problem. The purpose of a charette is to consult with all the stakeholders and integrate the interests of a diverse group of people into the final design solution. For the Retreat House charette, Lisa will most likely start with the priorities the Retreat House Task Force identified.

As the Task Force listened to you and spoke among ourselves, what most clearly emerged is the desire to retain the intimate feel of the retreat and camp experience centered around the existing house. Based on that concept, the list below seems to reflect the priorities for improving the Retreat House property. We present these not as a *fait accompli*, but as a starting point for the congregational conversation with our architect, Lisa Dall'Olio.

Primary Objectives

1. Retain the House as the central focus of the Retreat Experience and make it structurally sound.

2. Meet current life safety and health code requirements to provide a safe and secure environment, especially for our children.
3. Create a multi-purpose space that can accommodate at least 30 people, arts and crafts, and other typical retreat and camp activities.
4. Modify and/or create spaces that are accessible for all, including a sleeping space with unit heating and air conditioning.
5. Improve kitchen facilities for sanitation, working space, and food storage.
6. Have improved and enlarged bathroom facilities

Secondary Objectives

1. Improve parking areas and put them out of site
2. Improve access to the riverfront
3. Install a clothes dryer.

We invite you to join us in a conversation with our architect on **Saturday, May 30** at 9 a.m. If you are unable to attend and would like to submit comments based on the identified priorities, please send your comments by email to Jackie Walters (jjwalters.silverspring@verizon.net) or put them in the designated box in the church office. You may also mail them to the church. We are counting on wide participation in this important endeavor in the life of our church.



Visit the Retreat House - Memorial Day Weekend Retreat, May 22-25

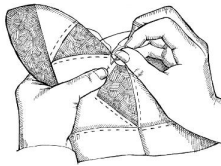
If you have not been out to the Retreat House, plan to take part in the Memorial Day Weekend Retreat, May 22-25. Discover the beauty and charm of the West Virginia mountains. You can stay for 3 nights (Friday evening through Monday morning), for an afternoon, or anything in between. This annual event is especially for newer members and visitors and those who have not been to the Retreat House before, but all are welcome. As space inside is limited, we encourage camping! A sign-up board will be posted in the foyer.

Thank You!

The Sanctuary Committee would like to offer a special thank you to Daisy Scout Troop #143 for two lovely silk flower arrangements the troop has donated to CCC. The new flower arrangements will be used to beautify the church entrance. The Daisy Scouts meet weekly at the church and this is their way of thanking CCC. The troop leader is Lauren Jones. Thank you Lauren and all!

Thank you to all for your thoughts and prayers over the past couple of months as we've both faced medical crises. Your cards, calls, visits, meals, rides, . . . have meant the world to us.
Barbara and Chet Callander

Saturday Women's Groups Prove Successful



The Saturday Stitching Group formed for Lent was an opportunity for multi-tasking women to take time to be – simply. Projects included knitting, quilting, crocheting, cross-stitch, mending, props for Children’s Time, and the Easter banner for the sanctuary. Conversation ranged from support and encouragement to the benefits of tap dancing lessons. Women who participated are interested in continuing the group. So if you’re in search of some set-aside time to work on a creative project and the structure of a regular meeting in the company of other women appeals to you, **Saturday mornings** in Room 208 from 8:30-10 are for you.

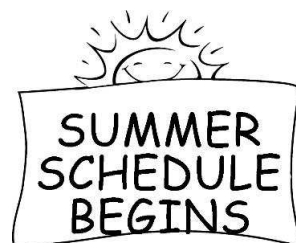
The Second Saturday group for women is another successful informal gathering opportunity that meets at Panera on the corner of Georgia and Colesville every second Saturday of the month from 8:30-10. The next meeting is **June 13**.

Both of these groups are open to anyone who can come when it’s convenient and for the time you have to spend. For more information, call or email Jackie Walters 301-565-3197; jjwalters.silverspring@verizon.net.

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) wants to hear from you!

The PPRC has held two meetings so far and our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th. From time to time the PPRC will be publishing articles in NewsNotes to get the congregation thinking. This month's question to the congregation – 'How are you feeling supported by this church?' If you would like to respond please seek out a committee member listed below. You may also find us by the PPRC Committee member notation on our church nametags.

Paul Holmes pholmes@usa.gov 301-593-6558
Trenton Osborne trenton.osborne@gmail.com 301-608-0140
Alison Petersen alpeters@allegisgroup.com 301-593-1597
Ruth Prindle rprindle49@msn.com 301-649-4698
Lynn White tsw123@comcast.net 240-328-6848



Summer Worship at Christ Congregational Church

The summer worship schedule begins on Sunday June 7th! Responding to some of the hopes expressed in the past couple of summers, the Worship Committee has developed a schedule that offers opportunities that are intended to help meet some of those needs.

From 9:00 to 9:20 will be a time of prayer, reflection and contemplation. On a given Sunday, you might experience a reading followed by a period of silence, a presentation of the works of a theologian followed by a time of reflection or reflective silence. Periodically communion will be served.

From 9:30 to 10:15 there will be an intergenerational service. This will include the elements of worship we experience other times of the year, however it will be developed in a way that welcomes and involves people of all ages. Music will be provided by members of CCC under the direction of Nae Pearson.

Between the two services there will be a time of fellowship and singing. After the 9:30 service, there will be lemonade and conversation.

The Deacons and Worship committee are excited about these offerings. Their hope is to provide meaningful opportunities for us to worship God together. With them, the worship staff looks forward to the possibilities God will unfold. Come join us for summer worship!

In Christ,

Susan

The deadline for the next NewsNotes is 5:00 PM Sunday, May 31, 2009
Send articles to Susan Gray cccoffice@christ-ucc.org or leave them in the NewsNotes Box.
Publication will be on Monday, June 8 and mailing on Tuesday, June 9

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Mailed May 12, 2009

HAPPENINGS In May and June

Sunday, May 10 ~	Children's Music and Arts Ministry Musical
Wednesday, May 13 ~	CCC Volunteers at Shepherd's Table
Friday, May 15 ~	Parent's Night Out
Sunday, May 17 ~	Confirmation Sunday Choral Concert New Member Orientation to CCC
Monday, May 18 ~	Board Meetings
Friday, May 22 - Monday, May 25 ~	Memorial Day Retreat House Weekend
Saturday, May 30 ~	"Charette" Meeting with the Retreat House Architect
Sunday, May 31 ~	NewsNotes Deadline New Member Orientation to CCC
Sunday, June 7 ~	Summer Worship Schedule Begins Annual Meeting

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC**

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Rev. Susan A. Henderson,
Interim Senior 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