



# NewsNotes

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

Volume 65 - Number 6

June 8, 2009

The rains give way to sunshine, and longer June days bring a sense that time is slowing down at Christ Congregational Church. There aren't quite so many meetings scheduled each week, and summer vacations invite us to play. Worship with us on Sunday mornings during the summer at our new time. Volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School, or help a child from the Shaw Community attend summer camp. Spend a relaxing weekend at the beach with other folk from CCC. Summer is here – unwind, breathe deeply and let the Spirit lead.



## Memorial Day Storm Affects CCC

The Memorial Day storm that dumped more than 4 inches of rain on Silver Spring caused water problems on the basement level for the first time in many years. Church Administrator Dianne Abraham was notified by the Silver Spring Child Care Center very early Tuesday morning that the classrooms on the parking lot side of the church as well as combined Rooms 009/010 on the lowest level were flooded.

Dianne spent the morning vacuuming up water in Rooms 004, 006 and 009/010 and the carpeting in the lower hallway outside those rooms. Water-soaked rugs were vacuumed and hung in the social hall to dry. Water in the hallway outside 009/010 was caused by mulch from the playground washing down the courtyard steps and overwhelming the drain outside the pump room.

The water seeping in through the walls and saturating ceiling tiles on the parking lot side offers more of a conundrum. The drains in the window wells and the sump pumps were working properly. Cory Gray and Kent Abraham pulled down the water-logged ceiling tiles but could find no evidence of water in the ceilings or where the water came from. When Cory Gray and Kent

Abraham took down ceiling tiles and investigated possible sources of water, they found no moisture trail or evidence of where the water came from. Sometimes this happens and doesn't repeat itself again. There are similar locations in the church's attic where water came in during some heavy, violent storms but not in others.

The Board of Trustees and Dianne will be investigating several possibilities over the coming weeks, but it is possible and likely there was just more water in a short period of time than the building's drains, gutters and downspouts could handle.

Teri Brush and Bailey's day porter, Abraham Olebalas, completed clean-up on Tuesday. Immediate expenses associated with the water damage include replacing one of the area carpet rugs in Rooms 009/010 and purchasing a dehumidifier to dry out the carpeting and prevent mold and mildew on the lower level. By Thursday, May 28, the previously soaked carpet was bone dry and rooms 009/010 did not have any mildew odor. Ceiling tiles will be replaced on a future Building and Grounds Workday.

## Retreat House Charette Yields Memories and Provides Direction

Fifteen people attended the Retreat House charette on May 30 led by architect Lisa Dall'Olio and her husband and partner, Matthew Grove. Participants were given seven questions and asked to walk around the room to look at pictures of the house and grounds as well as detailed site drawings. People were invited to write comments on the pictures and drawings.

A lively discussion about favorite and worst memories led to the conclusion that favorite memories of the Retreat House centered on people, whereas worst memories centered on things that had gone wrong, like overflowing septic systems and mice in the kitchen. Among the things that annoyed people the most were snoring and lack of privacy. Several constituencies in the church were represented at the meeting, from families with young children, to campers, to senior adults.

By the end of the morning, there appeared to be consensus on several major points to guide the architects in the next stage: developing schematics. These points include:

- retaining the house as a place to get away from the complexities, noise and distractions of contemporary life to a place of freedom, quiet, intimacy, and simplicity;

- restoring the house so that it is easy to maintain and keep clean without destroying the historic and classic architectural features that give the house its charm
- meeting life safety, health and building codes
- incorporating green design strategies to conserve and recycle water and to conserve energy
- creating more storage, both to organize supplies and equipment and to use space more efficiently
- creating accessible sleeping and bathroom spaces
- creating meditative and activity spaces on the property

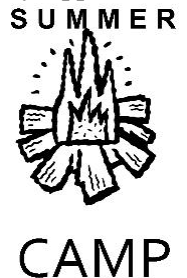
Mid-July is the target for Lisa and Matthew to prepare three schematic designs for the Retreat House Task Force's initial review. The congregation will have other opportunities to review and comment on designs and plans. For more information about our architects, visit [www.gdaaia.com](http://www.gdaaia.com).

*Jackie Walters for the Retreat House Task Force*

## Opportunity to Support Shaw Community Ministry Summer Camp

Once again Shaw Community Ministry is requesting contributions from UCC/Potomac Association members and friends for the summer camp programs it has supported over the years. First, SCM is seeking funds for "camperships" at Camp Friendship, the day camp for youngsters living in the Lincoln-Westmoreland Housing complex at 7<sup>th</sup> and R Sts., NW, DC. These contributions pay for field trips to zoos, museums, swimming pools and athletic events, the costs of which total about \$70 per child for the six-week program. Secondly, SCM is seeking funds to send as many LWH children as possible for two weeks to

Camp Letts, the YMCA overnight camp on the Bay. The cost per child for the latter camp is \$1240; however, any amount will be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent via Anne Weissenborn, SCM board member/treasurer, at 10021 Raynor Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20901, or to SCM at P.O. Box 26223, Washington, DC 20001. Please specify which camping program you wish to support, if you have a preference.



## Summer Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 - 9:20 AM Service of Worship  
A service of contemplation, reflection, and meditation

9:30 - 10:15 AM Service of Worship  
An intergenerational service of worship

Childcare is provided for infants through toddler/2-year olds in the Nursery during both services. During the second service there is a class for Lambs (3, 4 and pre-kindergarten 5 year olds) in Room 006. Children in kindergarten and older are invited to participate in worship. A children's bulletin will be available each week to help children follow along and engage in the service.

Adult education classes will not meet during the summer.

### Vacation Bible School

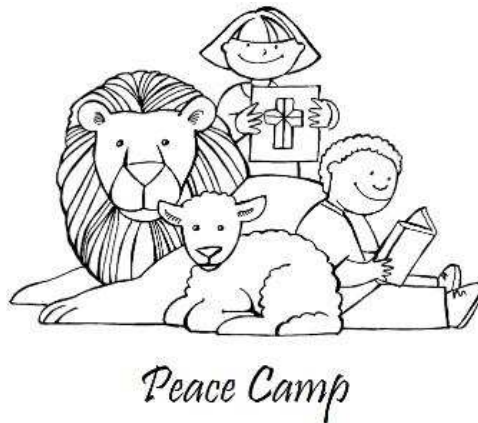
#### *PLANTING SEEDS OF PEACE*

Monday August 3 – Friday August 7, 9 AM – Noon,  
for children three – eight years old.

J.M. and Jerry Parks will again lead the Vacation Bible School Peace Camp. Volunteers are needed to assist with one of the classes and to help with art projects.

Four teen counselors are also needed. If you would like to take part, call Jan Forbes at 301-881-2856. Child care will be provided for volunteers with younger children.

Without volunteers, Peace Camp can't happen.



### Beach Weekend is coming!

Sign up by August 2 for Bethany Beach weekend, **August 21 to 23, 2009**. This is a great opportunity to stay with CCC friends and families at the Christian Church Conference Center in beautiful Bethany Beach, DE, at reasonable rates just two blocks from the ocean. Come enjoy the beach, sunrises, rocking chairs on the porch, community playground right on the grounds, good meals, cards and games in Campbell Hall, and more. Cost for the weekend, including five meals, is \$118 per adult, \$55 per child ages 6-15 and free for ages 5 and under. Sign up on the church bulletin board by August 2, indicating the number of adults and the number/ages of children attending. Payment is due August 2 in the church office box (make check to CCC). If you have questions, please contact Melissa Milkie at 301-585-2273 or [mmilkie@socy.umd.edu](mailto:mmilkie@socy.umd.edu).



## *Thank You Notes*

“Thank you” doesn’t adequately express my appreciation for your kind words and gifts on my last Sunday as Director of Senior Adult Programming. CCC’s senior adult community graciously welcomed me when I began working here. During my tenure, this group’s enthusiasm and openness to new ideas has been transformative for me personally, and it has allowed the program to creatively embrace the unique spiritual journey of older adults. A special thanks goes to the Senior Adult Committee whose support and guidance has been critically important for the success of this ministry. Through each step and misstep of this journey, their “leaning toward grace” has taught me and filled me. Christ Congregational Church is indeed a special place. Thank you for your support as I continue my journey toward ministry. Wherever I go and whatever I do, my heart remains here. May God’s abundant love continue to light our path.

In faith and love, *Sarah Anders*



Dear CCC Friends,

There are no adequate words to tell you how grateful I am for the many cards, letters and messages you have sent me, and continue to send, during these past months. Thank you for understanding that for a long time my limited energy had to focus on healing and I could not manage visits or calls. But always I was aware of your prayers, support and love.

Since I have been home, your generosity has continued with wonderful meals from many of you, offers of rides and cheerful phone calls.

One of my nurses said that it was too bad that I have no family nearby to support me. I smiled at that because I knew better.

Thank you and God bless all of you.

Love from *Nancy Kosinski*

## Proposed Tour to Passion Play in 2010

The once-every-decade performance of the Passion Play by the villagers of Oberammergau in Bavaria, Germany recurs again in 2010. At its annual retreat in January, the Chancel Choir supported seeking a proposal from Music Contact International to attend the Passion Play and to visit neighboring countries.

There has been some support from choir members at CCC and from neighboring churches for the proposed 10-day itinerary starting in Munich, traveling briefly in Bavaria, and visiting Liechtenstein and three areas of Switzerland: Lucerne, Zurich, and the Lauterbrunnen Valley (near Interlaken). Concert opportunities include the beautiful Baroque Benedictine monastery in Ettal, Germany and venues in Liechtenstein and Switzerland. Nae would like to perform Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, as well as works by other American composers.

The current estimated cost of the trip is approximately \$3,900 per person excluding airline fees and taxes and tickets to the Passion Play (the latter is optional).

Director of Music Nae Pearson is interested in knowing whether members and friends of CCC are interested in this trip. Singers are especially welcome, but anyone who has an interest should contact Nae at [HolyMusic@aol.com](mailto:HolyMusic@aol.com) or 301-585-8010, ext. 224, or Jackie Walters ([jjwalters.silverspring@verizon.net](mailto:jjwalters.silverspring@verizon.net)) by June 30, 2009.



**Choir  
Tour**



**New, Upgraded Office Technology  
Coming Soon!**

The CCC office is moving forward with new church management software to facilitate record keeping, event scheduling and communications within the church community. During the summer, we will be converting data from our old data base and testing out the new. Watch for opportunities to assist the office staff with your computer skills and expertise! With the expiration of the current lease, we will be upgrading the copier as well. The new one will have better collating capabilities for producing the weekly bulletin and NewsNotes, and will have features currently unavailable to us. Watch for more details!

The deadline for the next NewsNotes is 5:00 PM Sunday, June 28, 2009  
Send articles to Susan Gray [cccoffice@christ-ucc.org](mailto:cccoffice@christ-ucc.org) or leave them in the NewsNotes Box.  
Publication will be on Monday, July 6 and mailing on Tuesday, July 7

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
**U. S. POST PAID**  
**SILVER SPRING, MD**  
**PERMIT NO. 113**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailed June 9, 2009

**HAPPENINGS In June and July**

Sunday, June 7 ~	Summer Worship Schedule Begins Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 10 ~	CCC Volunteers at Shepherd's Table
Saturday, June 13 ~	Potluck for families of young children
Sunday, June 14 ~	Fair Trade Coffee Sale
Monday, June 15 ~	Board Meetings
Friday, June 19 ~	Parents' Night Out
Sunday, June 28 ~	NewsNotes Deadline

**Summer Camp**

Middle School Camp - June 28 - July 4  
Elementary School Camp - July 19 - July 25

**Vacation Bible School**

Peace Camp - August 3 - August 7

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH, UCC**

**Phone: 301-585-8010**

**Email:**

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

**Rev. Susan A. Henderson,**

Interim Senior Minister

**Nae Pearson,**

Director of Music

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