



# NewsNotes

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

Volume 64 - Number 9

September 28, 2009

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH, UCC

9525 COLESVILLE ROAD  
SILVER SPRING, MD  
20901  
(301) 585-8010

[www.cccsilverspring.org](http://www.cccsilverspring.org)

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
9:00 AM  
10:30 AM

CHURCH STAFF:

**Rev. Susan Henderson**  
Interim Senior Minister

**Nae Pearson**  
Director of Music

**Kristen Curlee**  
Christian Education  
Interim Coordinator

**Dianne Abraham**  
Church Administrator

**Susan Gray**  
Support Administrator

## Challenge and Opportunity ~

The Silver Spring Post Office's closure of its bulk mail facility effective October 1 unexpectedly presented CCC with the challenge and opportunity of looking in a holistic way at how it presents itself to its members, visitors, the wider church and the public at large. The most immediate and noticeable opportunity is to complete the transition of *NewsNotes* from a paper, mailed format to an electronic format.

As a community with a sense of mission and purpose to discern God's call, CCC needs to link its visual image to the vibrancy and vitality of its mission and programs. The gift of having to "do something" about *NewsNotes* also presents an opportunity to examine how we do correspondence, reports, brochures, bulletins and announcements.

In early October, we will be unveiling a new web site, <http://www.cccsilverspring.org>. Thanks to the superhuman efforts of Barry Johnson, Holly Massett, and Trish Esposito, our web site will have a bright, contemporary new look and be well-organized and accessible. Keeping pace with technology to deliver news in more timely and less costly formats is prudent stewardship and effective outreach.

*NewsNotes* will continue to be an integral component of CCC's communications strategy, and the staff and Communications Officer are committed to ensuring *NewsNotes* remains accessible to all CCC members and friends. Between now and January, keep checking *NewsNotes* and the web site for more information about CCC communications and how you can participate in turning opportunities into realities.

*Jackie Walters, Communications Officer*

## Rally Day 2009 ~

CCC's first Rally Day, a quickly-organized gathering paired with the All Church Picnic on Sept. 13, was a good first effort to showcase the church's boards and committees and to recruit new volunteers. That's the assessment of church leaders and staff as they size up the impact of an initiative that's been long discussed at CCC but hadn't been tried until last month. "We'll do it again, without question," said CCC Moderator Tim White, who participated in a post-Rally Day discussion at an Executive Council meeting on Mon., Sept. 14. "People loved the energy and sense of community."

Visitors and CCC members who entered the church lobby on Sept. 13 strolled by displays featuring the church's popular music ministry, the new Pastor/Parish Relations Committee and a demonstration of flower arranging by the Sanctuary Committee, among others. Members and staff were on hand at tables to answer questions and to promote their group's work to those who might want to assist. One floor down, there were more displays featuring the Board for Social Witness, the Christian Education Board, and craft activities for young children. The Social Hall was filled to capacity for the annual picnic organized by the Board for Church Life. The day also marked the beginning of the church school year.

Susan Henderson, CCC's interim minister, called Rally Day a "homecoming" for CCC members. "We had all been at a different pace and different schedules," she said. Ideas for next year's Rally Day already are percolating. Rev. Henderson said church leaders would like to see more members use Rally Day as a vehicle to learn about CCC activities and sign up as participants. White said church leaders have discussed using incentives such as a raffle to encourage people to visit all the display tables. Maybe, he added, there's a way to create food stations that are situated among church displays to blend the All Church Picnic and Rally Day into a facility-wide event.

Rev. Henderson said CCC's Rally Day was launched following a staff discussion during the summer. In August, the Board of Outreach and Engagement joined in, helping coordinate a three-week organizing effort. At other churches, she said, similar Rally Days can take months to pull together. "We did this on a wing and a spirit," said Rev. Henderson.

*-Susan DeFord for the Board of Outreach and Engagement*

## Retreat House Master Plan Process Moves Forward ~

At a meeting on August 6, architect Lisa Dall'Olio demonstrated her commitment to retaining historic properties for modern purposes and to applying environmentally sensitive solutions to multiple use buildings. The four schematic designs she presented also demonstrated Lisa's ability to listen to myriad points of view and to merge diverse interests into a single cohesive resolution.

Ranging from a modest expansion of the original house to the building of a separate, stand-alone retreat center in the field across the road, the designs shared several common responses to existing problems. These included upgrading kitchen and bath facilities to meet current life safety and health codes and ADA standards; adding additional sleeping space, including ADA and family sleeping areas; and expanding common area spaces for meetings, quiet pursuits, and arts and crafts. All of the schematic designs preserved the

screened front porch and took advantage of the views across the field to the mountain.

The eleven people representing the Retreat House Task Force, Retreat House Committee, and Executive Council found much to like in all four designs. In the end, they asked Lisa to focus on the scheme that will upgrade the house's safety and improve its functionality as a multi-generational retreat and camp center while retaining the intimate, rural feel that has endeared it to generations of CCC members. In choosing one of the more modest schematic designs, the group also considered the long-term implications and costs of managing the property from a distance of 120 miles. Should CCC at some time in the future have the desire and the need for a larger retreat center and the resources to manage it, the schematic design for a stand-alone retreat center can remain in the Master Plan as a resource document.

The next step in the Master Plan process is for Lisa to refine Scheme A2, the design the group selected, conduct more research into building and health and safety codes, and assign some preliminary cost estimates.

Later in the fall, Lisa will present her findings to the congregation for its review. *Jackie Walters, Retreat House Task Force*

## Henry H. Lewis, Contractor for CCC's Renovation, Dies ~

Henry H. Lewis, founder and president of the contracting company that renovated the building in 2001-02, died on April 16. A lifetime member of his own church in Reisterstown, Henry conducted his business with the integrity and care of a man of faith. His work included the renovation of several historical and landmark churches, including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for which Henry obtained the approval and blessing of Pope John Paul II.

Henry was remembered by his family and friends as a man of integrity, kindness and wisdom. Under his leadership, his employees donated their time and expertise to several *pro bono* projects for schools and churches in his community.

The members of CCC's Building Design Committee also remember Henry for his rock-solid integrity and fairness. Throughout a project his site supervisor described as one of the most complex he ever worked on, Henry approached every aspect of CCC's renovation, from bidding to resolution of recurring problems long after warranties had expired, with candor, honesty, and respect for all parties. Building Design co-chair Tom Ault recalls, "Henry was quiet-spoken, and his values modeled how business should be conducted throughout his company. It was a pleasure working with Henry and his employees. CCC was very fortunate to find such a builder."

On behalf of CCC, Tom Ault and Jackie Walters, Building Design Committee co-chairs, sent a condolence card to Henry's family.

## Coming Events ~

### National Equality March ~

**Washington, DC, October 10 – 11** Equality Across America is a decentralized network of Congressional District-based organizers across the country working toward LGBT equality. The group emphasizes the language of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in support of "Our single demand: Equal protection in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states." Full equality would include (1) "The right to work our jobs and go to school free of harassment and discrimination;" (2) "The right to safety in our daily lives, and protection from hate crimes;" (3) "The right to equitable healthcare, and the right to donate blood;" (4) "The right to equitable immigration policies;" (5) "The right to marry;" and (6) "The right to serve in the military openly." On Saturday, October 10, the group will oversee a wide variety of events throughout the city. On Sunday, October 11, there will be a march starting at noon and a rally on the west lawn of the US Capitol "to show support for full equality on the doorstep" of Congress. **The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns is promoting this event.** For a full schedule and other information, go to [www.nationalequalitymarch.com](http://www.nationalequalitymarch.com) or take a flyer from the Board for Social Witness bulletin board.

### Men's Kitchen Surprise ~

**Wednesday, October 14 at noon** the senior adult men are again serving a "no frills" lunch with musical entertainment by Nae and Steve. Dress is very casual...jeans and sweats acceptable or anything resistant to BBQ sauce. No fancy tablecloths. *Bring your own eating utensils: knife, fork, spoon;* and be prepared to take them home to wash. Napkins provided. We are inviting you to bring sports memorabilia and equipment to put on display. There will be an open mike for you to share a humorous sporting anecdote or experience. Cost \$7.00.



Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby.

## POETRY WORKSHOP ~

**Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 11:30**

Have you always wished you could write poetry but don't know how to get started? Were you scared off by all that "abba" rhyme stuff in school? Did you think poetry was just about mushy emotional feelings? Or just for girls? Well, my friends, your opportunity for enlightenment is at hand. Sharman Brown, a poet who exhibited her work in the Tate Gallery in February –March this year, is conducting a poetry workshop for CCC's Third Thursday Discussion group on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.



A poem can be as long or as short as it needs to be to express an idea. *The Iliad* is a poem and so is In a Station of the Metro:

The apparition of the faces in the crowd;  
Petals on a wet, black bough.

Please join us with your thoughts and ideas, either in your head or written down. Sharman will provide suggestions and clues on how to arrange those ideas into poems that express the point or mood you want to convey: joy, sorrow, excitement, humor, and whatever else you can imagine.

## Shaw Community Ministry Open House ~

**Saturday, October 17** from 1:00 – 4:00 PM Shaw Community Ministry is holding a Gala to mark the reopening of its new, renovated space at 1726 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC, and to thank all of the UCC congregations and individuals who have been so supportive over the years. Everyone is invited to



meet Shaw Community Ministry's dynamic new executive director, Anne Troy, and her staff as well as the SCM board, and to glimpse the exciting programs now being offered to Lincoln-Westmoreland Housing residents and others in the Shaw area. There will be lots of food, including make-your-own yogurt parfaits, led by SCM's nutrition class instructor. Youth participants in SCM's programs will hold Zumba, line dance, African dance and yoga demonstrations. Moonbounces and a DJ will add to the festivities. The Shaw Community Ministry building sits on top of the Shaw-Howard University Metro station on the Green Line. Use the exit marked R Street and follow the music. If you would like to carpool, contact Anne Weissenborn at 301-681-6042, or at [weissenborn@starpower.net](mailto:weissenborn@starpower.net).

## Couples Communication ~



Couples Communication is a group that works to improve communication between partners. Using the premise "understanding not agreement," couples listen to one another to improve the quality of their conversation, or as we often say to one another, to ensure that our message was sent and our message was received. Using the techniques of the awareness wheel and the dialogue, couples work to improve their communication skills. A training session will start **Sunday, October 18** and run four Sundays. We will meet right after the second service (11:45 or so) for one hour. Please contact Terry Strand if you need child care (301-942-8883).

If you would like to learn more about this highly successful method of communication, please feel free to contact the Strands, the Bell-Weyn or the Jarvis-Gibson couples. We will be leading the training.



Dear CCC Family,

I cannot find words adequate to express my gratitude for your support during the period of grieving the tragic loss of my sister, Thelma Davis. Your many expressions of love and support, including thoughts and prayers, cards, calls, gifts and flowers are a source of strength.

Thelma lived a life full of joy and activity. She had just purchased a new car as part of the celebration of her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 8. She was on her way to an annual church homecoming in Maysville, NC, when she was called to her own homecoming. Her son, Clyde Davis, was released from the hospital on the same night of the accident with minor physical injuries, but the psychological and emotional scars will last a very long time.

Please continue to pray with and for us that we will remember the goodness of God, and the love that we have for each other. Peace and Blessings, *Delilah Marrow*

To: Members of the Church Family

Thank you very much for your acts of kindness during Jack's illness and death. I appreciate the many cards of sympathy, notes and letters. The flowers have been lovely. Flowers by the Board of Deacons will be cherished. Susan (Henderson), Nae, Susan Gray and other staff members have brightened my path. Thanks. The program and services for the memorial were outstanding. The reception provided by Referral and Service was lovely. Many thanks to all who helped to make this possible. The music was outstanding. Jack would have loved it. Susan Henderson's selection of poems was very touching. I also appreciate the two trips to the cemetery to talk with Jack. Susan is very kind and generous. Thank you for all of the prayers you have sent.

God Bless, *Iona B. Hiland*

Dear CCC Friends,

Thank you to all of the wonderful people here at CCC who have been so kind and thoughtful after the death of my dear husband, George. I do appreciate the many cards and nice notes, your calls, visits, flowers, and your attendance at the Memorial Service on September 19. I am so grateful to be a part of such a caring and supportive Church Community. *Emma Kay Barclay and Family*

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**HAPPENINGS In October**

Monday, October 5 ~	Executive Council
Wednesday, October 14 ~	Senior Adults Fall Luncheon CCC Volunteers at Shepherd's Table
Thursday, October 15 - Sunday, October 18 ~	Covenant Class Cleveland Trip
Friday, October 16 ~	Parents' Night Out Middle School Wake In
Saturday, October 17 ~	Liturgical Movement
Sunday, October 18 ~	Sisters for Sisters Couples Communication Training
Monday, October 19 ~	Board Meetings
Saturday, October 24 ~	Annual Halloween Party