

## What won't people talk about?

Sports and weather have long been safe topics. Most of us have an allegiance to some team that can make for a social minute or two on the metro. And opinions about weather are pretty benign in the event sports talk gets heated (this being Skins country...oops, no offense to Ravens fans; there, see? Time to talk about the weather!). Used to be religion was off limits, but my goodness not anymore! You want to run for office, you better have a born again story to tell or you can write off a sizable constituency that cares about nothing else. And sex, which used to be taboo, has gone public on cell phones, lap tops, and cable television to the tune of a bazillion dollars!

Ah—dollars. Money is the topic we still hold dear. Talk money, and you turn off and turn away everyone.

Hello? Anyone still there? Don't go away yet. Please.

Yup—I'm talking money. But only superficially, so please stay with me. I believe CCCers desire everything that you have built: the programs that serve all ages and many interests, the staff who provide devoutly Christian professional leadership and support, the buildings that afford worship and mission and reflection and recreation in city and country. Does that sound expensive to you? It is. Are we paying for it? No. Can we?

That is the question. The superficial question.

The deeper question is the one I've been asking since I arrived, and will ask until I leave:

Who are you?

And related: what do you want?

I believe money can reveal who we are. Money is one way we walk our talk. Not in a small way, but in a big way. I pay for what I value. Money given is faith lived. Money helps Jesus matter.

I value faith communities who publicly and happily present themselves as God-centered and God-serving. This is why CCC matters. People can choose to be part of our community. I hope they do. I am glad that you have. And there are other choices out there; for varied reasons, all of us have chosen CCC.

Will CCCers embrace this amazing vision of program and personnel and property with conviction, with time-spanning commitment, with enough money?

I hope so.

While I'm here, I'll help; and when I'm gone, I'll still help: I am committed to supporting CCC for five years of financial giving, even after I'm gone. So tell me, while I'm still here: who are you? What do you want? Money helps Jesus matter.

*Rev. Richard Thayer*

## UPDATE ON SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah, 29:11)

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As we enter a new phase of our search for a permanent senior minister, we are heartened by words of Scripture, God’s constant presence and the overwhelming support and prayers of the congregation. Christ Congregational Church has been blessed with more than 100 candidates expressing an interest in the senior minister position. Reading and discussing their profiles, conducting the numerous telephone interviews, and making seven site visits has been an enriching spiritual journey of discernment for the committee. We completed the last three of these site visits during the past month and are now preparing to bring candidates to Silver Spring for an onsite interview and a “neutral pulpit” experience in which the full search committee observes as a candidate preaches and leads worship in an area church. We invite your continuing prayers, thoughts and support as we move forward in God’s grace.

*The CCC Senior Minister Search Committee*

## Thank You

Thanks to all volunteers who attended September’s Building & Grounds WORK DAY grounds clean-up. We weeded beds, planted Daffodil bulbs and pansies, mulched trees, fertilized turf, and began removing weeds from sidewalk walkways. Wow, but there is still so much yet to be done. We hope that more folks will help us during our next WORK DAY, Saturday, October 16 from 9:00AM – 12:00PM. A special thanks to kids Lars and Everett Schimmelfennig for their help planting and watering flowers.

## Child Care Is a Matter of Hospitality

Providing child care is an act of Christian hospitality, according to the CCC staff. In a recent meeting, CCC’s ministerial and program staff discussed the barriers to engagement and participation encountered by parents of young children when there is a lack of qualified child care at church. “Qualified” raises a host of issues, from safe church training to children/care provider ratios to costs for paying for trained professionals. In today’s legal and social environment, churches across the country and across faith and denomination face the challenge of studying and responding to these issues.

In the near-term at CCC, the staff is proposing to identify a go-to pool of trained, approved professionals who can provide child care that our parents of young children can feel confident about so they can participate in meetings and events. Members and friends of CCC are invited to send the names and contact information for professional child care providers they would recommend to Amy, Kristen or Richard by Sunday, October 31. *Jackie Walters, Communications Officer*

## October Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is scheduled to hold a Church and Community blood drive at Christ Congregational Church Sunday, October 24 from 8:00AM until 1:30PM in the Social Hall during church service. All adult members in our congregation are invited to make a vital and needed donation. Collected blood is sent to local hospitals to serve those in medical emergencies. The American Red Cross is hoping to obtain thirty donations or more from this blood drive. Your contribution in this effort could possibly save a life. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule your donation. Thank you.

## CHRISMON WORKSHOP DEC. 12<sup>th</sup>

Make a home size Chrismon for your tree at the Chrismon workshop on December 12th in the Social Hall, following a light lunch. This workshop which is sponsored by the Board for Church Life, has been held periodically since 1978. Our last one was in 2006. Chrismons are Christmas ornaments which are symbols from Christian history that refer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All are made in white (a symbol of purity) and gold (a symbol of majesty). They originated in Danville, Virginia in 1957. The Chrismons which are displayed each year in the sanctuary were made by church groups from 1972 to 1980. Since that time, Chrismons have been made to take home. It would be a copyright infringement for them to be sold or made into kits. That is why you will never see them in stores. There will be Chrismons of various degrees of difficulty at the workshop so that all ages might participate. The very simple ones are made with styrofoam, glue and glitter. The more advanced ones are made weaving pearls and beads on wire. Samples will be available for you to copy or you may create your very own design. Anyone interested in helping, let Glenda Neal know ([gbneal58@yahoo.com](mailto:gbneal58@yahoo.com) or 301 622-3948).

## 7 x 3 = 21 = Preparing CCC for Winter

Next time you do one hour's worth of work, consider how much you accomplished in one focused 60-minute period. Then, consider one Saturday morning at CCC broken up into 3 1-hour slots, each slot staffed by 7 people. That equals 21 hours of focused work. So, consider what 21 energetic, focused CCC'ers could do on the next outdoor workdays on **October 16, 9 a.m. -- noon**: mulch flower beds and trees; edge sidewalks, pull weeds, apply winter weed pre-emergent, trim shrubs, rake leaves. Imagine how much fun a family could have working together before rewarding themselves with a post-service project treat!

Robin Davis and her twin boys planted pansies near the memorial sweet bay magnolia tree (didn't know CCC had one of those, did you?) and sidewalk from the parking lot to the portico. Check out the beautiful display next time you enter the church. If you haven't visited the memorial garden on the Indian Spring side of the church, pause a moment there on one of the benches and offer a silent thank-you to Bridgette Dougall who has been faithfully cultivating that garden for years. On September 25, Trish Esposito spread fertilizer there. Tony Ingram removed weeds from along the sidewalks and Christopher Lewis mulched trees in the parking lot.

Can you see your way clear to being one of 21 giving one hour on **the next Saturday outdoor work day, October 16**? Those who do will contribute to a hospitable first impression for our church's members, friends, and guests. Watch for the sign-up sheet posted by the Building & Grounds Committee on the bulletin board outside the church office. Can't do October 16? There is another opportunity on November 20.

*Jackie Walters, Communications Officer*

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*Jackie Walters, Communications Officer*

## CCC's Production of *Quilters* the Musical

The planned production of *Quilters* has been postponed until after the new year. Please look for information about planning meetings. There is still a lot of excitement around the production. Questions? Please talk with Terry Strand, 301.942.8883.