

Reminder! Next Sunday, June 19th CCC services will shift to a summer schedule with a single service at 10:00 AM. This schedule will continue through Labor Day.

June 2011



ENews Notes

From the Senior Minister

As I enter my fourth month at CCC, some people have asked how I think about leadership. My leadership style is inspired by words from the *Tao Te Ching*: "People are born soft and supple; dead, they are stiff and hard. Plants are born tender and pliant; dead, they are brittle and dry. Thus whoever is stiff and inflexible is a disciple of death.

Whoever is soft and yielding is a disciple of life. The hard and stiff will be broken. The soft and supple will prevail. The soft overcomes the hard; the gentle overcomes the rigid. Everyone knows this is true, but few can put it into practice" (Ch. 76 & 78, S. Marshal paraphrase).

There's a time to act and a time to wait. A time to be direct and a time to keep silent. A time to speak and many more times to listen. Since my arrival at CCC, I've been trying to encourage collaborative and flexible leadership in which ministerial staff, program staff, and lay leaders share God-sized ideas freely while challenging one another in healthy ways. I want to maintain a balance between being a creative visionary, a pastoral presence, and an accessible executive who supervises the daily needs of congregational life.

As Senior Minister of CCC, I believe one of my jobs is to be a hero-maker who equips staff and lay leaders to make great decisions and to then be able to evaluate them. My leadership style permits people (including me) to take risks, make mistakes, enjoy successes and hopefully learn and grow from them. At all times, I want to make sure we at CCC are forming healthy relationships with one another, holding each other close even when we disagree.

What does this mean? Well, lately it means I've been spending a lot of time with Amy, Nae, Sue, Dianne, and

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Leonor, learning about who does what and thinking about ways we can encourage each other to minister with integrity and excellence. It means the leadership team has been working on ways to find balance, encourage creativity, and work collaboratively. It means I've been spending A LOT of time in meetings with Boards, Committees, Task Forces, Teams, and other *ad hoc* groups; learning about how CCC operates and getting a sense of how different people envision our future.

In terms of pastoral care, Pastor Amy and I have been sharing visitation and pastoral duties. In addition to providing a variety of spiritual practice and growth opportunities for our church, Amy has been covering hospital and home visitation, maintaining the prayer list, and providing ongoing attention and support to congregants, including our Senior Adults. I am also covering home visitation and emergency pastoral care on Amy's days out of the office (Thursday-Saturday) as well as preparing Sunday worship services, weddings, funerals and baptisms. We have both been coordinating with Called to Care. Of course, there is lots of overlap. Amy and I are in constant communication about CCC's pastoral care needs. Be assured, if you need either of us to be present in your life, we will gladly and graciously respond!

As always, please feel free to drop me a note or stop in for a visit (it's safer to call first, just in case I'm out) and let me know how life is treating you. If we have not yet had a chance to get to know each other more, I welcome the opportunity.

Finally, many of you have asked about the arrival of my family. Chris and the kids move to Silver Spring on July 13. We have a house in East Springbrook, which I am slowly painting and preparing for the family's arrival. Chris' mom, Nancy, will also be moving in with us later in the Summer.

Please note, I will be taking three weeks off in June and July - traveling to Italy with Chris to perform a wedding and then packing and moving the family upon our return. Pastor Amy will be preaching and administrating while I am away.

Onward,
Pastor Matt Braddock

News from the Upstairs Corridor

Along with our usual responsibilities, the leadership team who inhabit the upstairs offices at CCC have been busy over the past month. Here are some highlights of their additional activities:

Pastor Amy Lewis recently returned from the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis. This continuing education event has become the premiere homiletics event for active Protestant preachers. After listening to luminaries from various preaching traditions, Amy came back to CCC, fully energized with a pile of preaching books and lots of creative ideas. Amy continues to work towards Privilege of Call in the UCC, and will soon take UCC Polity in conjunction with the Spring Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference.

Thanks to **Sue Wilson** for the extra work she did coordinating CCC's recognition of Church School Volunteers and Graduating High School Seniors. Many people expressed how wonderful it was to see so many of our hard working volunteers standing in front of the church. Sue and the Board for Christian Education worked hard behind the scenes to make it all happen.

Dr. Nae Pearson -- that's right, DOCTOR -- received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. After watching his many years of hard work and rigorous theological reflection, we are proud of Nae's accomplishments. He is now busy preparing end-of season recitals and concerts.

Pastor Matt Braddock recently co-signed a letter with Cyndy Wright-Johnson in support of the Potomac Association's Open and Affirming Resolution. We hope that this resolution will pass at the Association's October meeting. Matt also personally endorsed a letter to the Maryland Congressional Delegation asking for passage of [United American Families Act](#), which would ensure immigration rights for same-sex couples. Currently, same-sex partners of U.S. citizens and permanent residents are not considered "spouses" under federal law, and their partners cannot sponsor them for family-based immigration. Matt also attended the annual Gerald May lectures, sponsored by Shalem Institute. This year's speaker was Richard Rohr, a contemplative-in-action. Matt will be attending the UCC Central Atlantic Conference meeting at the University of Delaware.

CCC Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is scheduled to hold a Church and Community blood drive at Christ Congregational Church this Sunday, June 12th from 8:00AM until 1:30PM in the Social Hall during church service. All adult members of our congregation are invited to participate in this important event. The American Red Cross is hoping to obtain twenty-five donations or more from this blood drive. Your contribution in this effort could possibly save a life.

CCC Chancel Choir

Tour the UK in 2012 with CCC's Chancel Choir: Wales, Scotland and England's Lake District are the destinations and venues for the Chancel Choir's next international concert tour in June 2012. Interested singers, "groupies," and the just plain curious are invited to an informational meeting in the Choir Room this Sunday, June 12th following the 10:30 worship service. Manfred Hilker from Music Contact International will present the proposed itinerary and answer questions. For additional information, contact Jackie Walters at jjwalters.silverspring@verizon.net.

Explore the Arts

That is the theme for summer music and arts camp being offered from Monday, June 20th to Friday, June 24th, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon each day at Christ Congregational Church. Do your kids like acting, singing, dancing, drama and music? Are they between the ages of 7-11 years old? If you answered yes to either of these questions then it's time to sign up for **Explore the Arts!** The music ministry of CCC in conjunction with the Girl Scout's Gold Award Project Committee, will be offering this week of exciting music and arts educational and fun-filled ventures. Michelle Esposito, a CCC youth and girl scout, is working with music director Nae Pearson, to plan and implement this offering to boys and girls ages 7-11.

This program is open to CCC members and friends; the communities around CCC; and the general public. The cost for the week is only \$25.00 per child and includes all materials and a daily nutritious snack. In recognition of CCC's Safe Church policy, we anticipate a limited number for enrollment, so please do not delay in registering if your children plan to attend. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Michelle Esposito at 301-593-1858 or contact Michelle by email: michelle.espo@yahoo.com. Registration forms are available from Michelle or from Nae Pearson in the music office at 301-585-8010, ext. 224

Musical Note: The Role of Music in Worship

The Music Committee has been on a rich journey this year. One of the issues we have devoted a great deal of thought to is the essential role that music plays in our worship together at CCC. We were lead in this effort by Claudia Tornblom. Here is the result of our thoughtful discussions:

Music has been an integral part of worship for thousands of years. Yet we still ponder the question, "What is the role of music in worship?"

Music for worship can be the vehicle for presenting and remembering text, whether from the Old or

New Testament or from other sources. Music for worship can present orchestrations of such remembered melodies and, even without voices, remind the listeners of those texts and teachings. However, music for worship is not merely a vehicle for words and can be wholly unrelated to any text. Such music can enable the listener to experience the wonder, purity and power of God not through the intellect, but through the senses and emotions. Like nature, music awes us with the grandeur and beauty of God's creation. Like love, music awakens deep emotions that words can barely touch - emotions of joy and pain and loneliness - through which we become vulnerable and thus open to receiving God's grace. Like meditation, music elevates us away from the cares of the world, raising us to a higher plane as we experience human striving to emulate the perfection of God. Like humor, music can lead us to greater appreciation of others and light-heartedly open our eyes to our own imperfections.

Music binds us together in communities of shared experience and striving. Music represents and honors our respective histories and cultures. Music contributes to worship provided that it is offered sincerely, is faithful to the artistic vision of the composer, and honors God's perfection with the highest achievable quality.

Music enriches worship as it enriches human experience. Music in worship leads us to wonder, opens us to grace, and inspires us to strive toward oneness with God.

As always the Music Committee and Nae Pearson, are interested in hearing your comments about this and/or any aspect of CCC's music ministry. We would also like to offer our heartfelt gratitude to you, the congregation, for the many ways you support our music program, whether it is by being a choir member, accompanist, instrumentalist, encouraging parent, or enthusiastic listener. *Music Connects Us to God...*

News Adult Education Offering

The Contemporary Theology Class will be starting a discussion on UCC history and polity (church organization) for the next six Sundays. Sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. All are invited! The discussion will be based on "Short Course in the History of the United Church of Christ" which can be printed from the UCC website: <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/short-course/shortcourse.pdf> Broader resources of UCC history and structure including polity: http://www.ucc.org/education/polity/#History_Resources If you have any questions, e-mail or call Tim White tsw123@comcast.net 240-328-6848 (home).

Shaw Community Ministry

If you think you've been hearing a lot about the programs of Shaw Community Ministry, you're right! More people, young and old, are being reached in a life-changing way by SCM. This coming summer, Camp Shining Star, held at Shaw's facilities downtown, will provide a place to go, things to do, and wonderful adult role models for about 30 children aged 5 and up. We turn to you again for contributions of any amount to help provide a safe and fun environment for these children, whose families have few options. The Shaw Community Ministry Board also gives as many as a \$1,000 scholarships as possible in June to a carefully screened group of high school seniors. Please consider giving generously to the SCM scholarship program. Make checks out to: Shaw Community Ministry and mail to: 1726 7th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001. Both programs need your support. Thank you.

Summer Fun

CCC Retreat House Summer Camp planning for 2011 is underway!

Camp registration forms are on the website. Go to:
<http://www.ccsilverspring.org/education/outdoor.shtml> and click "Camper".
Dates are as follows:

Elementary School (completed 3rd-5th grade), July 10th - July 16th

Middle School (completed 6th - 8th grade), June 19th - June 25th

High School (completed 9th - 11th grade), June 26th - July 2nd

Please contact Stephanie Helsing (nizwa328@rcn.com) or Anne Nicotera (anne.nicotera@comcast.net) with questions.

Beach Weekend at Bethany Beach DE, August 26-28, 2011

This is a great opportunity to stay with CCC friends and families at the Christian Church Conference Center in beautiful Bethany Beach, Delaware at reasonable rates just two blocks from the ocean. The cost for the entire weekend, including five meals is approximately \$118 per adult, \$55 for ages 5-15 and free for children under age 5. Sign-up will begin in May. For further details, contact Susan Gray at 301-593-5454.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA AND CHOCOLATE SALE THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH in the church lobby.

Leonor Rivera
Christ Congregational Church, UCC

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