

January 13, 2012

Christ Congegational Church

January e-NewsNotes

Upcoming Activities & Events at CCC

From the Senior Minister: Principles of Spiritual Activism

I hope you are sensing a new wind blowing at CCC. I'm getting that sense that some people want to re-commit themselves to acts of service. Hearts want a house of worship where we know we will be accepted and wanted. Some want a church that calls every single person to be inspired and sent out to impact our community. People want a church known for its quality of caring and its uncontainable eagerness to reach out to those in need. I think it's exciting.

In order to get us thinking more about what it means to be an active community of believers in the world, my January and February sermons will be focusing on Principles of Spiritual Activism.

We need a new vision of a society governed by love, where kindness is the high standard. Conflict between individuals, groups and nations is steeped in misunderstanding and distrust. Negative, fearful, angry thoughts fuel rhetoric from opposing sides that invariably leads to alienation.

Many spiritual thinkers propose a different model, based on spirit and love put into action -- prayer made visible. If we really want to create a more compassionate and loving

world, we first need to become more loving and compassionate, ourselves. Spiritual activism is about connecting personal spiritual growth and community works of social justice. Our worship services will focus on these principles of spiritual activism:

- Satyagraha, or, non-violence
- Condemning racism
- Should Christians get involved in public protest?
- Speaking truth to power
- Seeking double justice
- Moving from silence to action

I'm looking forward to seeing you in worship and working by your side to further promote God's aims of peace, unity, and compassionate love in our communities -- modeling together the possibility of healing hope for the world.

Onward,
Pastor Matt

**Interfaith Service to Honor Dr. King's Commitment to Worker Justice,
Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, DC,
Monday, January 16, 3:00-5:00 PM.**

Faith Advocates for Jobs, led by the Rev. Paul Sherry, former president of the UCC, is sponsoring an interfaith service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 16th from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1500 Ninth Street, NW, DC. The sermon will be given by the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, senior pastor emeritus, Riverside Church, NYC. Also taking part will be Dr. Sherry, Dr. Wallace Smith, pastor, Shiloh Baptist, and unemployed workers, as well as the Shiloh Church Choir and Buddhist drummers. The service will also include "a litany from an array of Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist and other interfaith leaders." For more information, see the main CCC bulletin board. If you would like to travel to the service with a group from CCC, please sign up on the sheet provided.

Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22nd

The Executive Council is calling a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22nd to consider a proposal for a capital campaign in the fall of 2012 to reduce substantially, or eliminate altogether, the church's debt and thus to free up resources in our operating budget to allow us to sustain and support our programs, mission, and staffing. Pursuant to a motion of the Executive Council, the Moderator has appointed a committee (Mary Pence, Gregg Brown, Matthew Nelson, and Marilyn Hall) to develop and put forward a proposal for us to consider. All are invited to learn more about the situation and to share in these deliberations. The meeting will convene in the Sanctuary immediately after the 10:30 service. Child care will be available.

Jackie Walters, Church Clerk

CCC Scout Sunday - February 12, 2012

On Sunday, February 12th, CCC will celebrate Scout Sunday - a morning to acknowledge Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of all ages in our faith community. If you are a Scout past or present, come to the 10:30 am worship service dressed in your Scout uniform. If you have earned your Scouting religious award, Boy Scout Eagle Award, or Girl Scout Gold Award within the past year, please notify Trish Esposito by Sunday, February 5th so we may recognize you on Scout Sunday.

A note about Boy Scouts and CCC's Open and Affirming Covenant:

CCC is a charter organization for Cub Scout Pack 275- elementary school aged boys, their parents and parent leaders. In this role, CCC supports the Cub Scouting principles of citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect, and responsibility. As an Open and Affirming church, CCC

honors and celebrates people of all races, cultures, ages, abilities and sexual orientations. CCC does not support the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory policy that excludes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons from membership and leadership positions. CCC does not sponsor or serve as a charter organization for a Boy Scout Troop. In the past, CCC has communicated with local and national leaders of Boy Scouts of America and urged them to reverse their policy that contributes to a widespread attitude of insensitivity, discrimination and even hatred for those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

To learn more about religious awards in Scouting or more information about Scout Sunday, contact: Trish Esposito at 301-593-1858, trishespo@yahoo.com or Ann Keeler at akeeler@rcn.com.

Another Opportunity for Our Open and Affirming Journey

There will be a gathering at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church from 7 - 9 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18th, to learn more about the Gender Antidiscrimination Bill and the Marriage Equality Bill which are to be heard in the 2012 Maryland Legislative Session. It will be an evening of education and conversation concerning how these two bills will improve the lives of LGBT people. The meeting will be in the chapel of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814. If you have questions, contact Jim Henkelman-Bahn, 301-445-1752. Please RSVP to: dstaff44@comcast.net

Sunday Yoga Sessions for Spiritual Nourishment Pilot Program

Family Yoga for Spiritual Nourishment: 3 years old & up with parent or adult caregiver, 12:15-1:15 p.m., 2nd Sundays of the month: February 12th, March 11th, & April 8th (We know it's Easter; we'll make adjustments if needed once the sessions get started!) \$5 per participant.

Intergenerational Yoga for Spiritual Nourishment: 10 years old and up and Active Adults. 12:15-1:15 p.m., 3rd Sundays of the month. February 19th, March 18th, & April 15th. \$5 per participant
All sessions will be held in the meeting room with Lama Dajani.

Field Trip to Cambodian Buddhist Temple

On Thursday, February 2nd we'll meet at church at 10:00 a.m. for our field trip to the Cambodian Buddhist Temple. We'll lunch out afterwards at the Greek Restaurant on Randolph Road. Please sign up on the bulletin board indicating if you need a ride/can provide transportation. Contact Pastor Amy for more information. All are welcome!

2012 Momentum Awards

Since 2007, the annual IMPACT Awards have honored community members who ignite the power of Silver Spring's diversity through their work. IMPACT's Momentum Awards recognize achievement in the following categories:

- **SOCIAL MOMENTUM:** Those working in our community to build trust, relationships, a sense of belonging, and mutual support across lines of difference.
- **CIVIC MOMENTUM:** Those attuned to addressing in the public square the challenges faced by our diverse community.
- **ECONOMIC MOMENTUM:** Those who are positively impacting employment, income and/or commerce in ways that tap the power of our community's diversity.

If you know a person or group who qualifies, and you would like to submit an award nomination, go to www.impactsilverspring.org. The submission deadline is January 20, 2012.

Sisters for Sisters Meeting

Sisters for Sisters will meet on January 15th at noon in the Conference room. Please bring your brown bag lunch!

Toiletry Collection for Shepherd's Table

The Church School children will be collecting personal care supplies for Shepherd's Table. Please donate travel size containers of shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and disposable razors. The children will stuff the items into tube socks as their service project during the February 5th Communion Lesson with Carolyn Hoskinson. Please bring your donations to the bin in the lobby.

CCC Contemporary Theology Class - All Welcome!

We are a 9 a.m., Sunday morning adult education class at CCC and we would welcome your joining us. We meet in the Conference Room on the 2nd floor. There are at presently 15-25 of us, depending on the Sunday. We engage in lively exploration of Christian thought and history, usually centered on a book we have mutually chosen to read and discuss. Although our class is more than fifteen years old, many have joined recently -- even this year; so we are not a static group. Many of us see the class as an aid on our faith journey, with ample leeway for questions, spirited discussions, lapses into humor, and critical examinations of Christian issues. Readings are often a springboard for sharing and learning from one another's faith experiences. Leadership is shared. Childcare is available during our hour, for infants through two year olds. Although we have discussed changing our name to Contemporary Christian Perspectives or Exploring Christian Perspectives, we haven't decided that one yet. We are currently reading the Gospel of Mark accompanied by commentaries from various scholars.

We also have chosen our next few books: **Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can Be Restored** by Marcus Borg; **Luke** by Sharon Ringe; and **The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle** by Karen L. King. All three books are authored by well-respected religious thinkers, and we look forward to learning from them. (See below for ordering information for the next book.) Join us! We will welcome you. If there are questions, contact Mary Stone at: mnsdaintree@yahoo.com.

Contemporary Theology Class - Time to place orders for our next book:

If you want to be part of our group order for **Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can Be Restored** by Marcus Borg, please contact Lynn White by email to add your name to the list. We will begin this book on February 5, 2012. The estimated price will be about \$13. Lynn's email: tsw123@comcast.net.

January "Third Tuesday" Gathering for Spiritual Nourishment

"Exploring the Buddhist Faith," a presentation and discussion led by Chuck Mason, Pastor Amy & Pastor Matt will be held on Tuesday, January 17th from 10:30 - 12:00 with brown bag lunch at noon. All are welcome!

CCC Book Group Meeting on February 12th

The CCC Book Group will next read and discuss **Hannah Coulter** by Wendell Berry. It's a novel (part of Berry's Port William series and available in paperback) that takes place in rural Kentucky from the 1940's to the present. We will meet to discuss it on Sunday, February 12th at 7 p.m. at the home of Eleanor Waldrop. For information, contact Kathleen Boucher at kmmboucher@starpower.net.

Stuart Kern and Nae Pearson Featured in Local Concert Series

Stuart Kern, euphonium and double-bell euphonium, and Nae Pearson, organ, will present a concert of sacred music next Wednesday, January 18th at Marvin Memorial United Methodist Church. The concert begins at 11:30 a.m. and will feature works by J. S. Bach, Franz Schubert, Michael Burkhardt, and a set of spirituals arranged by Stuart Kern for the euphonium. The concert is free and open to the public. Marvin Memorial UMC is located in the Four Corners section of Silver Spring at 33 University Blvd., East.

Stuart and Nae would love to see some familiar CCC faces in the audience!

Spend A-While on the Nile!

Nope, it's not where CCC Chancel Choir is going on its upcoming tour. Nope, it not where the staff is planning to hold their next retreat. It IS the name and location for the next children's choir musical for the spring season. The musical will be presented in May on Mother's Day at the 10:30 a.m. service. The choir and cast of characters are beginning rehearsals this week (today right after church!) in the choir room on the second floor. Singers, actors, dancers of ALL AGES between K and 6th grade are encouraged to join in the cruise down the Nile, the location of so many wonderful Bible stories. Listening CDs and "text- only" song-sheets for easy home learning and reinforcement will be available for everyone! This is great for singing along in the car, on the way to sports practices, etc...) We have all marveled at the wonderful leadership that this young choir has offered the music ministry through recent productions such as "It's Cool in the Furnace," "A Technicolor Promise," and "Under the Sea in 3-D" ---children of all ages won't want to miss the opportunity to help the Captain (just wait 'til you see who that is!!!) of the cruise ship as everyone explores the stories of a great and mighty river in "Spend A-While on the Nile!" Join us at rehearsals immediately following the

10:30 a.m. worship service each and every week!

Singing for a Season

We are always blessed by the voices in all of our choirs. These fine singers give of their time, talent and gifts of music each and every week. We are also blessed by the many folks who come and join us "for a season." We celebrated Christmas with several singers who joined the Chancel Choir for a specific and particular seasonal occasion, and who attended the rehearsals for those weeks only. Perhaps you have often wondered what it might be like to sing with the choir but maybe you are concerned about the every week/yearly time commitment, or perhaps you feel that your voice might not be just the right kind for singing in the choir. Maybe you sang in high school and college and just loved the experience, but somehow you haven't found the time since then to sing. Do you ever feel that nudging to find a wonderful group to sing with? The Chancel Choir of CCC will welcome you with open arms and we'll celebrate your time with us and hopefully you too will find the choir so irresistible (like a new member did at Christmas!) that you'll join in on a regular basis. But in the mean-time, consider joining us for "just a season." We are now beginning rehearsals for our Lenten and Easter music every Thursday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. Now is the perfect opportunity to join the choir for this 12 week "season" of preparation. Need another gentle nudge? Call Nae Pearson at 301-585-8010, ext 224.

Musical Note: Taking a Peek Behind the Scenes!

You might imagine that January would be a quiet time for Nae Pearson, Minister of Music and all things musical at CCC. A reasonable assumption would be that after all of the wonderful musical events of the Advent and Christmas Season, which included many gifted soloists and instrumentalists, the Chancel and Chapel Choirs, and the congregation (during the neighborhood caroling), that Nae and all of the CCC musicians would simply take a nice, long break. Not so!

To begin the new year on just the right note, the Chancel Choir had a retreat at the church to reconnect and work on choral pieces for the spring. Those of you at the 10:30 service on January 8th were able to hear some wonderful new music.

Looking forward to the spring, we have a variety of musical events on the horizon that Nae has been busily preparing for, including:

- The Days of Simplicity Lenten concert series which provides a mid-week opportunity for reflection and fellowship;
- The participation of the Chancel Choir in an ecumenical concert on Good Friday (details to follow soon!);
- The Children's Musical in May which features our lively, young talent; and
- The upcoming Choir Concert in June showcasing the pieces that the ensemble will perform on their upcoming tour to Wales and Scotland.

Nae, Karen O'Steen, chair of the Music Committee, and the Music Committee have also been tackling a variety of issues ranging from:

- Developing, under the leadership of Jeanne Young, an Inclusive Language Statement to provide thoughtful guidance and perspective about the words we use in choral pieces, hymns and other music in our liturgy;
- Focusing on piano and organ maintenance issues to ensure that we are faithful stewards of our instruments; and
- Determining how to update the music information on the CCC website to provide a more complete and inviting picture of our program.

This gives you a flavor of the extent and variety of our efforts. Stay tuned and watch this space for more background and information about CCC's musical adventures! As always, your support is a critical piece that makes CCC's music program a success.

-submitted by Laura Holbrook

Music Connects Us to God ...

Seniors Movie Afternoon

Seniors are having another movie afternoon on Wednesday January 25th with usual format of bagged lunch in the Conference Room at Noon with movie around 1:00 p.m. in the Nursery. This time we will be showing "Patch Adams" starring Robin Williams.

Message from Sarah Anders

Dear CCC family,

On December 1st I began work as Director of Education at Rockville United Church. It is a good, solid community and I'm privileged to be part of it.

I want to thank you for your enthusiasm and support as I've traveled on this journey toward church employment. I continue in the ordination process and am grateful for the continued support of the Deacons' "In Discernment" group led by Bob Brown. Although I won't see you on Sunday mornings for awhile, CCC is my home church and I hope to attend special events.

Thanks again for your gifts of encouragement, friendship and many faith-filled, fun times. God has blessed us.

With love and gratitude,
Sarah Anders

Many Thanks

Many thanks to everyone for calls, cards, thoughts, and prayers during my recent back surgery. All went well and I am recovering pretty much as expected. Your support

meant a lot to Steve and me.

XXOO, Jeanne (Young)

Christ Congregational Church

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Please submit items for e-NewsNotes by 3 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. e-NewsNotes is published on the Friday thereafter.

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