

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UCC

Annual Report
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH COVENANTS TO BE FAITHFUL AS ...
A JUST PEACE CONGREGATION
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
AN ANTI-RACIST CONGREGATION

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH / UCC

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE:

Senior Minister	3
Minister of Music	5
Church Administrator	6
Executive Assistant	9
Moderator	10
Communications Officer	11
Clerk of the Rolls	12

REPORTS OF THE BOARDS

Board for Christian Education	17
Board for Church Life	18
Board of Deacons	19
Board of Outreach & Engagement	20
Board for Social Witness	22
Board for Stewardship	29
Board of Trustees	30

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

Building & Grounds Committee.....	32
Committee for the Arts.....	33
Pastor/Parish Relations Committee.....	34
Planned Giving Committee	34
Retreat House Committee.....	36

Sanctuary Committee.....	37
Senior Adults Committee.....	38

OTHER COMMITTEES AND CHURCH GROUPS

Central Atlantic Conference.....	40
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:	Minutes of 2013 Annual Congregational Meeting .	43
APPENDIX B:	CCC Leadership Roster 2013-2014	47
APPENDIX C:	Preliminary Annual Report of the Treasurer [Appended as a Separate Document]	

REPORT OF THE SENIOR MINISTER, THE REV. DR. MATTHEW BRADDOCK

I keep track of what I do throughout the year to make sure I'm using my time efficiently. Here is how I spent my time as your Senior Minister in the period from May 21, 2013 to May 20, 2014.

Administration = 20.6% (last year it was 20.5%)

This includes staff meetings and consultations with individual staff members, answering emails and correspondence, phone calls, monitoring safe church compliance, participating in decisions regarding church governance, long-range planning, and keeping our wider mission and ministry goals in mind.

Meetings = 21.4% (last year it was 17.5%)

I met with BSW and its workgroups (2 meetings), CE (50 meetings including Covenant Class and Youth Group), Clergy (16 meetings), Deacons (6 meetings), Executive Council (16 meetings and consultations), O&E (6 meetings, including new member orientations), Personnel (9 meetings and consultations), Pastor Parish Relations (7 meetings), Stewardship (4 meetings and consultations), and Trustees (11 meetings and consultations). I also met with groups like Planned Giving, the Retreat House Workgroup, Sr. Adult Committee, the Choir, The Governance Task Force, Communications, Sisters for Sisters, Scouts, Camp Leaders, Staff Search Committees and our Anti-Racism and our Lay Visitation Ministry.

Pastoral Care and Counseling = 12.6% (last year it was 15%)

Pastoral care is how we make the ministry of presence real in your life through visitation, spiritual guidance, and support. Pastor Gloria Grant and I each have various pastoral care areas we cover. I met with individuals for spiritual guidance and help in crisis; planned and conducted 2 baptisms; planned and conducted weddings (14 meetings) and funerals (13 meetings); assisted in retreat facilitation (Board retreats and the Sr. Adult Retreat); and made home and hospital visits (16 home visits, 2 hospital visits, and 22 other types of visits).

Worship = 30.5% (last year it was 34%)

A good portion of my time is spent designing worship services, coordinating with staff, writing sermons, and leading worship services on Sundays. My goal is to provide worship that is inspiring, creative, and thought-provoking, remembering that God is always the subject and object of our time together.

All The Other Stuff = 14.9% (last year it was 9%)

What other stuff? A lenten spirituality study; preparation for and meetings with the Potomac Association and Central Atlantic Conference; visits to camp at the Retreat House; networking with the wider community; attending CCC special events; research and study, professional development, and social engagement,

including lobby day for the Fairness for all Marylanders Act. This was my first full year serving on the Potomac Association Committee on Church & Ministry, which has added time to this category.

Among my professional commitments, I serve on the Board as the Treasurer for the Academy of Parish Clergy. The APC supports excellence in ministry through standards of competence and enhancement of pastoral leadership. I was glad to join my APC colleagues at the annual conference in Racine, Wisconsin in April.

I am continually inspired by the CCC staff, who continue to be wonderful colleagues in ministry. I want to highlight two new staff members in particular. Whitney Kinsey joined the CCC Team in March as our Director of Cooperative Youth and Youth Adult Ministries. Many thanks to the youth director search team, comprised of members from CCC and Takoma Park Presbyterian Church. It took a long time and many meetings, but I'm thankful for the result. In a few short months, Whitney has plunged into ministry with enthusiasm, creativity, and solid leadership.

Last September, we welcomed the Rev. Gloria Grant as Transitional Minister for Care & Community. Pastor Gloria spends much of her time visiting homes and hospitals, resourcing the Senior Adult Committee, leading worship, and being a vibrant, prayerful presence here. I am thankful for her time, commitment and generous servant's heart.

I am also continually grateful for our officers, board chairs, and numerous committed volunteers who make our programs run. Your support and efforts are valued and appreciated.

In the year ahead, I will be focusing on these priorities:

1. Continuing to work with our Governance Task Force to offer suggestions for simplification.
2. Thinking of ways to implement the important work of Outreach & Engagement as our church continues to grow and thrive.
3. Working with Trustees, Stewardship Board and the financial ministries of the church to grow in our ability to fund the vision we have for staff growth, capital repairs, and mission.

We continue to find ways to go where God is going and do what God is doing. I remain yours on the journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Matthew Braddock,
Senior Minister

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

It seems hard to believe that on July 1, I will begin my ninth year as Minister of Music and Organist at Christ Congregational Church-UCC. It is a difficult task to try to condense a full year of worship and music-making into a few short paragraphs.

This past year at CCC, we placed an increased emphasis on the instrumental music ministry. In the coming year, we will continue to develop our ministry for solo instrumentalists and instrumental ensembles in worship. The CCC String Ensemble and the Intergenerational Orchestra continue to grow in numbers. A wonderful variety of all styles of music has been offered throughout the year by solo musicians and groups of all ages, stages, and abilities. The Cello Ensemble, led by Sarah Cotterill, is thriving. This group has led music in worship on a number of occasions and the ensemble continues to increase in size and offers a wonderful array of talent. Lynne Joseloff continues to direct the newly formed Flute Ensemble and we anticipate increased participation in worship throughout the coming year as well. Lynne Joseloff also serves as our Chapel Choir accompanist and we celebrate the gifts and talents that she and Sarah bring to many of our ministries at CCC. All of our instrumental ensembles provide a wonderful music education component as well as affording the opportunity to lead our worship services.

Our Christmas Music Sunday featured carol arrangements by Mack Wilberg. Ninety-two musicians led worship in two services celebrating the season. The Chancel Choir was joined by forty of CCC's own instrumentalists of all ages, complemented by an eight piece brass ensemble with tympani. Our Assistant Director of Music, Sam Wack, led the congregation, choirs, and orchestra in many soul-stirring arrangements of exquisite carols.

The CCC Brass Ensemble ushered in our Easter Sunday services with festive accompanimental resources. This group has grown to a total of eight consistent members. We are blessed to have our "very own" brass at CCC. Stuart Kern, continues to assist me with repertoire suggestions and in shepherding the ensemble. It is my goal, in the next year, to have all of these wonderful instrumental groups rehearse on a more regular basis and to offer music more frequently throughout the entire liturgical year.

This spring, the Chancel Choir joined with several other local church choirs to sing the Requiem of Gabriel Fauré on Good Friday. The choral ensemble and orchestra were directed by guest conductor, Jason Fettig, with Mary Ann Willow, Director of Music and Organist at Silver Spring United Methodist Church, at the organ. The Chancel Choir continues to lead worship each and every week from September through the middle of June. I am thrilled to say that Jackie Walters and I have engaged in meetings and conversations around the next choir tour scheduled for the summer of 2016. Following on grandly successful tours during my time at CCC (Sweden, Latvia, Estonia and St. Petersburg, Russia in 2008 and Scotland, Wales and England in 2012) Jackie has graciously agreed to plan

another opportunity for the choir to concertize and share our gifts of music abroad. Our ministry of music "outside of the walls" of CCC is a theme that holds great importance for the choir, and I am grateful to be able to share this mission with Jackie, whose passion and love for music and travel ensure that we share our music professionally throughout the world.

Sam Wack continues to expand her leadership role with the choir, both directing and accompanying as needed. Sam is a blessing to the choir, to the music ministry, and to the entire congregation at CCC. Her musical ability combined with her love of this church family inspires all of us. I am so grateful for her gifts and talents and for the inestimable assistance that she offers to me weekly in preparing for our Sunday worship and other celebrations!

As I write this, we have just offered our annual Chapel Choir musical on Mothers' Day. The Chapel Choir (K-5th grade), with a total of thirty singers, accompanied by Lynne Joseloff, offered **The Big Fish: A Whale of a Tale** by composer Ken Medema. It is a gift and a joy to my heart to work with our children each week and to have them participate in our worship celebrations. I anticipate the continued expansion of the music and arts ministry for our children in the year to come.

I cannot close without thanking the Chancel Choir officers and our choral librarians, Ann Marshall and Toko Ackerman, for their fastidious work in taking such good care of our music. Their labor of love ensures that our music library is kept in good order, and that we are mindful of the wonderful stewardship that is involved with caring for the marvelous gifts of music in our CCC library.

My cup overflows.....it is a tremendous honor to serve the congregation at Christ Congregational Church along with such an outstanding staff.

With thanks to each of you for your love and support! To God be the glory!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nae Pearson,
Minister of Music and Organist

REPORT OF THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

2013-2014 has been a challenging year for the CCC facility. A few highlights follow.

Plumbing: We addressed a plumbing blockage in the 2nd floor ladies restroom. This required the installation of a service panel, as the blockage was not accessible with a basic "snake" repair and involved cutting out cinderblock, clearing the severe blockage and replacing pipe. Plumbers have cleared additional clogged sinks in the building, all resolved with a "snake" clean-out of the pipes. We fixed an HVAC hot water pipe leak in the Social Hall ceiling and replaced the Basement

Lobby water fountain, as the compressor blew in the unit and a fix was more expensive than a replacement.

During the severe winter, piping for the window well sump pump outside Room 009/010 was replaced when the weather moderated. Water in the system froze and compromised the pipes and the sump pump motor mechanism. Fortunately, no emergency repairs were necessary during the severe cold; the pipes and sump pump motor were tended to when temps rose above freezing.

We tended to a second repair in the Generator Room sump pump well, caused again by small toys from daycare lodging in one of the check valves of the well. This repair was less expensive. Rommel Cranston Plumbing reported that while the affected valve was compromised, it will continue to function correctly, as the volume of water in the well and resulting pressure will insure the check valve will open and close as it was designed to, thus no check valve re-build.

This second incident necessitated a ban of small part toys in the playground area until a renovation of the courtyard is completed. At that time the church will review the risks of small part toys for the drain system. The renovation will address the courtyard drain cover configurations, which is where the toys most likely migrated from, among other issues of interest to the Child Care Center. In 2012-2013, the downspout drains were capped to prevent small part toy migration and an extensive and expensive repair was done in the well to repair damage to the valves from lodged small part toys.

A working group was organized to address courtyard renovation specifics and a plan will be presented to the Trustees and Congregation when a detailed proposal and construction costs are in place. As of this date, the presentation information is underway, but not yet complete.

HVAC: We've had usual repairs to the HVAC system, expected in an aging system. These included fan belt replacements on Duct Units and Fan Coil Units throughout the facility. As the older Powers Thermostats have failed, we have replaced them with Honeywell stats, which are easier to program and operate.

This past winter brought serious damage to one of the system's air handlers which resulted in a twice flooded mechanical room and ultimately a very expensive repair of fan coil units in the affected handler, as well as a professional clean of carpet in the basement lobby.

If we have a similar winter this next year, we will need to set unoccupied heating set-points higher and/or reprogram system thermostats to keep the system in operating mode 24/7 until the temperatures moderate. According to Rommel Cranston, the unoccupied heat set-point of 60 degrees should have been sufficient to keep the fan coil units from freezing and bursting. We checked in with Cranston prior to the arctic vortex incidents and were advised we should be fine.

Unfortunately, we experienced fan coil and air handler failure. The affected unit was designed and installed at renovation without a damper system, which means outside air flows over this unit continually. The space constraints of the mechanical room dictated the system's design. In short, the unoccupied set-points were not sufficiently warm to keep the heat coils from freezing and bursting.

The fan coil units and the handler have been repaired and all is back in order.

Designated Major Maintenance Projects:

Generator Room Roof: The re-build and repair of the Generator Roof is complete. Costs came in under estimates. Titan Restoration did the work and the roof has been leak-free since the re-build.

Heavy Duty Surge Protection (TVSS): Recommended by the Insurance Board, this installation is in progress and will be completed by the end of the 2013-2014 church year. It began with an energy audit of the facility by Benfield Electric.

Several safety issues were uncovered and all have been taken care of with Phase I of the install, which occurred on Friday evening, May 16th. Phase I included the install of commercial protection on systems and main electrical panels in the Mechanical Room and the chiller enclosure. The 2nd phase began with a second building walk-through with Benfield Electric and a review of the peripheral electrical panels and 24/7 equipment requiring data field protection. The walk through took place on May 20th. A date for Phase II install has not yet been confirmed, but is anticipated no later than mid-June. Funding for this project has been a part of the major maintenance budget for this church year.

Technology/IT: In the 2012-2013 church year we replaced the computer network server, strengthened back-up capability and replaced the computer in the Front Office and the Christian Education office. This year we replaced the Finance Office computer and updated software and anti-virus protection at this station. All hardware is now current with up to date software and of course, high quality anti-virus protection.

We took care of a phone hacking incident with additional security enhancements. We upgraded Wi-Fi capability in the facility, which was needed for ministry programming, particularly youth ministry programming. "Log-me-in" capability, which enables remote computer access, was set-up for Pastor Gloria.

We did not move forward with a planned update of Senior Minister, new Associate Minister, Music Director and Finance phone consoles due to the amount of unanticipated repairs to the mechanical systems this past winter. Replacements will be considered for the 2015-2016 church year.

Office for new Associate Pastor, Minister for Care and Community: We painted and furnished an office for Pastor Gloria Grant. Furnishings came in under budget as we were able to negotiate favorable discounts with vendors and suppliers. Building and Grounds volunteers repainted the office.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Abraham,
Church Administrator

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The CCC Office acts as a hub for connecting members with church and local events and activities. The continued diligence of our stalwart volunteers helps to make this possible.

Capture and Direct Distressed Callers: The front office is the front line for fielding callers and visitors who are coming to the church in need of all kinds of services. (The D.C. Diaper Bank has been particularly popular!) For example, a caller in March, 2014 who was unemployed and seeking rental assistance was directed to Friendship Place/Aim Hire, a private organization in Washington, D.C. There she received rental assistance, help with her housing situation, job training and has since become a full-time employee and been able to complete her education. She was not only a featured speaker at Friendship Place's annual meeting as a model of what can happen with proper intervention, but also a featured success story in an article in the **Washington Post**.

Copier: In the Fall of 2013, CCC got a new Xerox copier. Although the rollout of the new machine was rocky (culminating in the replacement of the machine), it seems to be working adequately presently. Because of the favorable contract terms we were able to negotiate with Xerox, we have saved over \$1,000 in copier charges this year – with a savings of over \$478 in bulletin copying charges alone.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Communications Committee in the upcoming year on CCC's social media and other electronic communications and making members' interactions with CCC even more seamless.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Bailey, Executive Assistant

REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

We have much to rejoice and be thankful for at Christ Congregational Church, as well as challenges to consider. We welcome the new members who may be reading their first annual report and participating in their first annual meeting with us.

When we vote on officers, boards, committees, and other representatives at the annual meeting, over 90 people will have agreed to take on a formal role in our church, making over 150 currently doing so. Each Sunday, a large group of children head to Sunday school. With them go a score of teachers who have volunteered their time and energy. Every Sunday, a variety of volunteers and our staff prepare for and bring about the worship service we enjoy and make us welcome, and every evening other volunteers and our staff support a vibrant youth ministry. Yet more volunteers and staff work every day to support ministry and activities here at CCC and in the wider world. We owe all these folks our thanks.

We face challenges, too. We swim upstream against a national demographic of declining membership in mainline protestant churches. Each year, some of our most generous members who have been the solid financial support for our congregation pass away.

To meet these challenges, we draw on our strengths, on hearing the voice of our still-speaking God, on how God draws us together in community, and how God challenges us to love more deeply and broadly. All that I spoke of earlier are signs of this living out in our community, and of the voices of those who urge us that we can do more and better things.

The work of our boards and committees this past year reflects a vibrant life here at CCC. We had a spiritually uplifting and successful stewardship campaign. As a self-supporting congregation, it is your annual giving, both in talents and dollars, that allows our church to thrive. Outreach and engagement has led the outreach to our visitors that has resulted in a steady stream of new members this year. Welcome! The Board for Social Witness made us mindful of a variety of missions, ministries and environmental stewardship through a series of events. Ponder, act! As a church, we supported the successful effort to pass an anti-discrimination law for the transgender community. Celebrate! We need to continue living into the challenges of our three covenants, Anti-Racism, Just Peace, and Open and Affirming.

Our members also worked on two special initiatives this year: how best to retool and revive our retreat house property in West Virginia, and how to better govern ourselves. We want the retreat house to be a place able to welcome, support, and nurture ministries here at CCC. It needs work. With governance, we seek to better enable people not only to participate in the ministry of the church, but to

flourish in it. Each group met faithfully all year. Members gave of time, energy and expertise, and met together to work out how best to meet the needs of our congregation. Their reports will be useful to understanding where we have been and inform where we need to go.

Our staff is one of our strengths. Matt has given us a strong presence in the pulpit, leadership for our staff, participation in our decision-making, and ministry to us. Nae, supported by Sam, has orchestrated a diverse and vibrant music ministry. I enjoy our choirs, but I take special joy in watching our youth choirs, seeing the children as they grow up. We have been blessed this year to add Gloria as a half-time associate minister. She has already been a blessing to communities here, including our older adults. Late in the year, we added a full-time youth director, Whitney, who is already working on our next year of youth ministry. Thank you also to the search committee who worked hard for many months to find her. We have continued to benefit from the time and talents of Sue Wilson in supporting Christian education. Special thanks to her for supporting the youth work while we searched for a youth director. Dianne is a faithful and busy steward of our building, which has many users to coordinate. Veronica supports all of us in many ways, including delivering our e-mail "blasts", working with Marilyn Hall, our Communications Officer. Stephanie Helsing continues to direct our summer youth camp, giving of her time and talents in that volunteer position. In addition, we've had the support of many other part-time folks providing janitorial and professional services. Thank you all!

It has been an honor to be your moderator this year. Thank you to the members of the Executive Council for their time and talent. Almost everyone did double or triple duty with other groups. I have made new friends and deepened other friendships. Mostly, I have a much better appreciation for all that folks do and give to make our church the nurturing, vibrant place it is. I would leave you with this challenge, which I also accept for myself: how is our still-speaking God calling you to engage in our church life and ministry?

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Hill,
Moderator

REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The mission of the Communications Officer is to promote and foster increased communications about CCC's activities and covenants among the members or the congregation and to external audiences.

In transitioning to the role of Communications Officer this year, I focused on gathering input from members of the congregation about the communications needs that should be addressed. With executive support from Veronica Bailey, we

expanded **eNewsNotes** to a twice-monthly broadcast. This e-mail newsletter has proved to be an effective supplement to the Sunday bulletin announcements that permits more detailed notices to be widely communicated and is an important vehicle for letting new members know about our activities. Please consider writing a “spotlight” piece about your group in the upcoming year. I thank all who have drafted and submitted items for the bulletins and **eNewsNotes** this year.

Anne Weissenborn graciously continued to manage and maintain the bulletin boards around the office. The bulletin boards will always be an essential medium to communicate CCC events and activities.

Barry Johnson continued to act faithfully as CCC webmaster for **cccsilverspring.org**, and made many page updates and changes throughout the year. I convened a website review group comprised of Barry, Luis Serna, John Malone, Veronica Bailey, and Holly Brooks for several meetings in the fall to discuss the structure, maintenance, and organization of the current website. I also gathered input from staff about the website. In the coming year we will evaluate alternative website software that would facilitate direct content management by multiple staff members, and make a recommendation to redevelop **cccsilverspring.org** on a new platform. I thank Barry Johnson, Luis Serna, John Malone, Veronica Bailey, and Holly Brooks for sharing their ideas and recommendations about this important communication medium.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Hall,
Communications Officer

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF THE ROLLS

	<u>2012-2013</u> July 1-June 30	<u>2013-2014</u> July 1-May 15
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	July 1 - 707 June 30 - 726	July 1 - 726 May 20 - 517
MEMBERSHIP INCREASES		
By Letter of Transfer	2	6
By Affirmation	22	8
By Confirmation	7	7
Total Increases	31	21
MEMBERSHIP DECREASES		
By Death	5	4
By Request	4	23
By Letter of Transfer	3	7

Moved to Inactive Status by Request	NA	28
Moved to Inactive Status by Church	NA	165
Members Retired with no Associated Date	0	3
Total Decreases	12	230
ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP		
Average per Sunday	195	180
Weeks	52	44
MONTHLY RECORD		
Highest Month of Attendance	12/2012 - 1716	12/2013 - 1640
Lowest Month of Attendance	8/2012 - 467	2/2014 - 448
Lowest Sunday of Attendance	7/1/2012 - 75	9/1/2013 - 100
Easter	430	440
Christmas Sunday	12/16/2012 - 415	12/15/2013 - 437
Christmas Eve 5:30 pm	325	375
Christmas Eve 9:00 pm	258	200
SERVICES PERFORMED BY MINISTERS		
Baptisms	6	5
Funerals and Memorial Services	10	3

MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

NEW MEMBERS (14)

Jane Anderson	Kerri Hufford
Marian Anderson	Jane G. Osburn
Steve Anderson	Severn Savage
Phil Fox	Kristin Sundell
Gloria Grant	Elaine Tiller
Brad Hufford	Robert Tiller
Carly Hufford	Scott Robert Wales

COVENANT CLASS (7)

Wiley Clements	Jack Hoskinson
Ben Doggett	Colby Potts
Spencer Helsing	Brianna Staples
	Abby Wilson

MEMBERSHIP DECREASES
DECEASED MEMBERS (4)

Pauline H. Gallup
Louise G. Petzold

Zilpha F. Platky
Marvin Wunderlich

MEMBERS RETIRED BY REQUEST (23)

Ann Helfienbein Bohnet
Ann Bullock
Robert Bullock
Donna Harshman
Allison Hood
Elizabeth Porter Hood
Margaret Hood
Michael S. Hood
Hilary Jones
Deborah Parker Junod
Mark Junod

John F. (Rick) Kasten
Tom Martin
Laurie C. McKenna
Albert McMeen
Jane Murley
Molly Nagler
Nancy Louise Petzold-Earp
Kathryn D. Powell
Suzanne Reed
Carl Rhodes
Vicki Jo Weeks
Adriane Wodey

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED (7)

Mark Athitakis
Elise Gifford
James M. Gifford

Robert Gifford
Nancy B. Lohman
Shawn Neidorf
Sara Durys Watson

DECEASED FORMER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS (Not Counted in Membership)

MOVED TO INACTIVE BY MEMBER REQUEST (28)

Kristen Adashi
Lynn Bennett
John Charles Boyer
Gregory Michael Breads
Catherine Bruns
Christian Frederic Cloke
Catherine Ann Cottom
Elizabeth D'Entremont
Chris M. Dirda
Michael Dirda
Donna F. Dunn
Karen Eppinger
Brian Hanes
Laurie Hughes

Amanda Rachel Keating
Stephenetta Koffa Benjamin
Mary Vann Land
Jennifer Renee Leedy
Gregory Linden
Peter Charles Lohman
Stephen R. Lohman
Leland Luft
Eric David Marshall-Main
Jeremy Scott Marshall-Main
Kathern E. Murray
Erin Kara Murray-Hause
Brian E. Pence
Nyna Dueece Werner

MOVED TO INACTIVE STATUS BY CHURCH (165)

David Henri Fein Adams	Jennifer Ann Kaupert
Jane Maplesden Applewhite	Ross Harriman Keating
Claire O'Leary Arnold	Rebecca S. Keller
Nora Arnold	Marsha E. Kessler
William Arnold	Jeff Kestner
David Oliver Ault	Sarah Kestner
Carolyn Bayer	Karen D. Kielman
Jane Beckwith	Stacey Kielman
Julia Beckwith	Carly Patricia King
Stephen B. Bisbing	Kera King
Jeanne Bohnet	Nancy Virginia King
Don Borks	Charles K. Klein
Sharon Bottcher	Robyn L. Klein
Jennifer Laura Breads	Estella Kohler
Carol Brown	Benjamin Lewis Krieger
Greg Brunette	Duncan E. Krieger
Emily Ann Bublit	Jane R. Kuhl
Ruth Ellen Bulger	Ruth M. Kurtz
Mike Butler	Joseph Lagomarcino
Abbey Laura Cailloux	Beverly Le Masters
Peter Chatfield Cailloux	Thomas Le Masters
Joanne Campbell	Susan Elizabeth Leckie
Jan Carruthers	Sheila Linden
Olive L. Carter	Kathy Lipton
Igor Cerny	Barbara Little
Ann E. Claxton	Kim Lourenco
Vanessa Lacy Claxton Raditz	Thomas Lourenco
Ann Hughes Cloke	Alma Lugo
Neil Thomas Corran	Adam MacLeod
Claudia Curry	Sharon Maya
Ben Dean	Afaf S. McGowan
Lara Rubey Dean	Donna McMillan
Matthew Dean	Jeffery A. Meiring
Victoria Adele Dean	Charlotte R. Miller
Leigh Dencker	Joseph Miller
Jeffrey Dennie	Patricia Diehl Millner
Joanne Dennie	Barbara A. Muller
Rowland Gregory Dennie	Angela Nance
David Burke Dorworth	Christopher Neal
George Drumbor	Mayra Neal
Martha Jean Dunn	Monica Laurette Neal
Sara Anne Dunn	Vicki E. Noble
Paula Dunwoody	Hallock Northcott
Thomas Dunwoody	David Novello
Jeannie Edwards	Earline B. Noyes

Jerome Edwards
Helen H. Ellis
Larry L. Ellis
Rebecca Ellis
John Emanuelson
Paul Anthony Esposito
Kelley Ann Espostio
Mary Pat Evans
Christopher Robert Felton
Eric Fisher
Carolyn A. Fukuda
Marion Fultz
Geoff Galster
William E. Gayer
Jennifer Gelman
Adrienne Goldstein
Geoff Grammer
Shawn Gray
Emily Anne Gustafson
Marcia Gustafson
Michael Lawrence Hanes
Margaret Elizabeth Hannapel
Deborah Jane Harmon
Bruce E. Hause
Charles M. Hildebrandt
Ed Hirsch
Amy Elizabeth Homewood
Lee Homewood
Elizabeth A. Hotchkiss
Mairi Hunter
Jerry Irion
Jean Jawdat
Elizabeth Dale Johnson
Rosemary D. Johnson
Alison Kimber Jones
Ruth E. Jones
Joan C. Kaltreider
Randall Kaltreider

Deborah O'Leary
Brittany O'Steen
Greg Pearson
Mary Pelz
Erika Pelz Butler
Philip Perrine
Elizabeth Pitts
Lorraine Powell
Clark Prichard
Ken Prichard
Nora Elizabeth Prindle
William R. Prindle
Rachel Anne Ratcliffe
Michael Ray
Erica Reeves
Amy Rinker
Marcia Sprague
John Bradford Thomas
Andrew J. Todhunter
Katherine Hope Todhunter
John R. Touchton
Janet A. Vecchia
Monte Watkins
Beth Weissenborn
James Wendorf
Jessie Lacy Wendorf
L. Paige Whitaker-Young
Chelsea Rae Wilson
Nicole Wilson
Harold V. Withuhn
Tom Withuhn
Claude Wood
Gretchen Wooden
Alma J. Woolbert
Felicity Wright
Leah Yasenchak
David C. Young

MEMBERS RETIRED WITH NO ASSOCIATED DATE

Katherine H. Coblentz

Respectfully submitted,

David Main, Clerk of the Rolls

REPORTS OF THE BOARDS

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2013 – 2014 Membership: Debbie Boger (Chair), Geri Brennan, Zoe Braddock (Youth representative), Kristen Brown, Paul Gieser, Mary Harrill-McClellan, Stephanie Helsing (resigned mid-year), Lynne Joseloff, Bill Kaupert, Ann Keeler, Holly Stephens, Steve Williams (moved at the beginning of the year and did not participate)

Our Mission: The mission of the CE Board is to support the church school teachers and youth leaders in educating our children and youth in their Christian faith journey, as guided by the covenants and community at the Christ Congregational Church.

What We Accomplished this Year: In 2013 – 2014, the CE Board supported CCC and Takoma Park Presbyterian Church in accomplishing a task set forth in the previous year: to identify and hire a Youth Minister for the new Combined Youth Ministry (CYM) for the two churches. The churches were delighted to welcome Whitney Kinsey into this role in March 2014. Though this position was funded as a 30-hour/week position, we were further delighted in bringing Whitney on board as a full-time staff member for at least two years, as a result of a generous anonymous contribution to the program. For the majority of this year, the CYM was run by volunteer youth leaders from both congregations and support by CCC staff member Sue Wilson around social justice-related curriculum. Senior High youth numbered 27, and attendance at Sunday night youth group meetings was anywhere from 7 – 22 youth. The Middle School program had 23 youth, and weekly attendance was approximately 8. CCC also hosted an OWL program for 15 6th & 7th graders from October 2013 - January 2014 with CCC and TPPC volunteer leaders and a confirmation class for 9th graders from January - May 2014, co-led by Pastor Braddock and Bruce Esposito. Seven ninth-graders were confirmed into the church in May, 2014.

The CE Board continues to support the Director of Children's Ministries Sue Wilson, in running a church school program for increasing numbers of children on Sunday mornings. As many as 120 children participate in Sunday morning church school, and twenty volunteer teachers give their time to teach these classes with assistance from up to six senior high youth. These teachers are trained in the curriculum and "safe church" practices, and they have access to occasional teacher-to-teacher learning activities.

Challenges We Faced This Year: This year was full of the joys and challenges of running an expanded program with insufficient staff support. It was a challenge to build and maintain a thriving youth group with no Youth Minister for most of the year, and it was a challenge to maintain a thriving and sufficiently-resourced

children's program with Sue Wilson doing double-duty as Staff director of the both the Children's and CYM programs.

Our Plan for the Next Church Year: One priority for the coming year is to support Whitney in fostering a CYM that is truly "combined," in which students from one church feel as one with students from the other church. We also plan to address many issues associated with a growing Children's program, including engaging adequate number of volunteer teachers and seeking to better serve youth and children of all abilities, making our programs truly inclusive. This will require more resources both in numbers of volunteers as well as training in ministry for children and youth with special needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Boger, Chair
Board of Christian Education

BOARD FOR CHURCH LIFE

The Board for Church Life has once again seen a very busy year.

- The year began with our annual Bethany Beach weekend held August 16-18, 2013. A special thanks goes to Melissa Milkie (not a member of this board) for spearheading this event. A wonderful time was had by all.
- The CCC Halloween Party was a big hit again this year thanks to the efforts by Melissa Milkie, Sue Wilson and the youth. The party was held on October 26, 2013 and was a very successful event. BCL helped with funding of the event while the youth decorated, staffed and cleaned up.
- The annual Advent Workshop was held again this year on November 24, 2013. Families gathered immediately after church for a potluck soup luncheon and then stayed to create wreaths of candles and evergreen boughs for their home tables.
- Christmas caroling was a fun-filled event held on December 15 and organized by CE, following their youth pizza supper. BCL provided refreshments for the carolers upon their return at the end of the evening.
- The annual Big Band Dance was held on February 8, 2014 with a Valentine's theme and was titled "An Evening of Jazz." Again we are grateful for the time and talents of the Big Band and of the CCC Youth, who decorated, staffed the event, and raised funds for their summer mission trip.
- Winter Weekend at YMCA Camp Soles was held in Pennsylvania February 14-17, 2014 with our friends from the Washington Ethical Society.
- The Board supported the ministers on April 6, 2014 in honoring the 'elders' of the church -- those who have been members for 50 years or more -- at a special service and reception.

The Board for Church Life continued to provide refreshments after the second service each Sunday. Grateful recognition goes to Glenda and Bill Neal (not board members) for their continued work to welcome members and visitors as they enter the church every Sunday. And, finally, Glenda continues to run the Parent's Night Out program which provides free, cooperative childcare for church children one Friday evening a month so that parents can enjoy an evening out. These events round out the work of the Board for Church Life.

Finally, we'd like to express our gratitude to CCC's Friends of the Earth for providing all the coffee used during coffee hour. Without this generous donation, we would not be able to support coffee hour in the same manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Peterson

BOARD OF DEACONS

2013 – 2014 Membership: David Bell, Joan Boyer, Jim Brown, Susan Gray, Marti Hoffacker (resigned), Karen Lee, Pete Macleod (resigned), Ann Marshall, Audrey Platt, Neville Platt, Olen Stephens, Betsy Thomas, John Wack, Leslie Weyn, Lynn White, Tim White

Our Mission: The Board of Deacons nurtures the spiritual life of the CCC community. At one of our recent board meetings, we went around the circle, each describing in one or two words what it is to be a Deacon. The word used most often was "service." Other words were compassion, helpful, worship leader, and soul of the congregation. The Deacons are all of these and more.

What We Accomplished This Year: The Deacons supported the ministers during Sunday morning worship services each week, providing readers/liturgists. The Board continues to encourage congregants to take part in services as lay readers.

The sacrament of communion takes place on the first Sunday of each month as well as on Maundy Thursday and Confirmation Sunday. Deacons prepare and serve the communion elements.

Throughout the year Deacons took part in baptisms and in welcoming new members into the congregation, and were present to support bereaved families during memorial services.

During Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, the Deacons supported the ministers in the special services for those seasons, hosted a Christmas Eve reception to especially welcome returning students and visitors who were home for the holidays, and coordinated a quiet day for Palm Sunday afternoon.

We welcomed the Rev. Gloria Grant as the Transitional Minister for Care and Community, working closely with her to facilitate Lay Ministry training sessions throughout the year.

The Deacons and particularly Karen Lee worked closely with Pastor Matt to support the Covenant Class. Seven young people took part in the class this year. We welcome them into the life and fellowship of CCC.

Challenges We Faced This Year: This year the board was made up of only 14 or 15 members, instead of the required 21. Despite fewer numbers we were able to accomplish all of the duties and expectations of the Deacons.

Our Plan for the 2014-2015 Church Year: In the upcoming year, the board will continue to work for clarification of the role and mission of the Board of Deacons in the life of the church as we support the worship and member care ministries of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gray, Chair
Board of Deacons

BOARD OF OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Our Mission: The Board of Outreach and Engagement (the O&E Board) organizes and leads a program to inspire interest in Christ Congregational Church (CCC), extends the opportunities of church membership to those persons who may wish to participate in the fellowship of the church, and assists new members in becoming actively involved in church life.

What We Accomplished This Year: The O&E Board held four visitor informational meetings, which a total of eleven persons attended. There is one additional informational meeting planned for June, 2014. These meetings provided information on CCC's theology, structure, finances, programs and membership expectations. Fourteen persons have joined the church over the course of the year. We anticipate seven youth will join as part of the Covenant Class process on May 18, 2014 and other adults will join on June 22, 2014. The O&E Board provided greeters on Sunday mornings and at special services throughout the year to welcome visitors to the church. Board members reached out to those visitors who provided contact information.

In September, the O&E Board finalized the production and distribution of the new print promotional materials for the church. We used these new materials when we participated in the Takoma Park Folk Festival by hosting an informational table. This provided outreach to the wider community. We hosted a reception with the Board of Deacons following the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve service. We will again host

the Memorial Day weekend open house at the Retreat House in West Virginia. This open house provides an opportunity for visitors and newer members of CCC to visit the CCC Retreat House and build community in a smaller gathering venue.

At the recommendation of the O&E Board, the Congregation voted at the 2013 Annual Meeting to revise the church membership categories to better reflect the current membership of the church. The membership categories now include: Active Members, Associate Members, Inactive Members and Retired List of Members. In coordination with church staff, the Board of Deacons, the Financial Secretary and the Clerk of the Rolls, the O&E Board compiled a list of 175 members on the church rolls who have not been active in the last several years either by participating in the church's work and worship, or supporting the church through their gifts of time, talent and /or treasure. In February 2014, letters were sent to the 175 members explaining the new membership categories and asking them to respond, indicating to which membership category they would like to be assigned. As of April 27th, the church office has received 57 responses. The response can be broken down into the following categories:

- Remain Active and keep on mailing list: 1
- Move to the Inactive Members list and keep on mailing lists: 10
- Move to Inactive Members list and remove from mailing lists: 19
- Remove from Active membership of the church and remove from mailing lists: 22
- Letter returned, unable to forward (will be moved to the Inactive Members list): 5

The O&E Board is pleased with the 33% return rate. In many cases, folks indicated that they were currently out of the area and unable to participate at CCC. In some cases, folks were now members or active in other churches locally or throughout the country. For those who do not respond by May 15, 2014, their membership status will be moved to the Inactive Members list. At any time, Active Membership status can be reinstated by contacting the O&E Board.

In March 2014, O&E Board in conjunction with the Stewardship Board and Nominating Committee hosted Taste of Ministry as part of the yearly Stewardship Board's campaign for time, talent and treasure. We compiled the Time and Talent response sheets and passed the information gathered on to church staff and Board/Committee chairs.

We replaced the Colesville Road and parking lot rainbow banners which had faded and suffered from wind damage. We also worked with church staff to ensure that Colesville Road signs and banners announced special worship services during Advent and Lent. At the beginning of the Advent and Lenten seasons, we mailed to visitors (who have provided complete mailing addresses) pamphlets about worship services and events.

Challenges We Faced This Year: The church continues to welcome a large number of one-time visitors and returning visitors who require Sunday morning outreach and follow up phone calls, e-mails and conversations. The O&E Board encourages all members of the church to welcome attendees, pass the pew register and extend hospitality. Separately, the mailing of letters to the inactive church members and solicitation of feedback was time-consuming to coordinate and tally, but produced solid results.

Our Plan for the Next Church Year: We plan to participate in another community outreach event in the fall such as the Takoma Park Street Festival or similar event. We also plan to host a Blessing of the Animals event in October which would be open to CCC and community members. We would like to use some of our budget to support new small groups formation such as providing start-up funds to assist with childcare, outside speakers or refreshments. Groups of immediate interest are Families of Young Children and Young Adult Ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Esposito, Chair
Board of Outreach & Engagement

BOARD FOR SOCIAL WITNESS

2013-14 Membership: Chuck Mason, Cyndy Wright-Johnson (Special Offerings Liaison), Dayna Majarowitz, (Immediate Past Co-chair), Jennifer Bunch, Jim Conklin, Marjorie Hoffman, Mark Thiel, Ndimyake Mwakalyelye, Richard Jaeggi, (Treasurer), Ron Rising, (Co-chair), Sam Lehman, Youth Representative, Sue Bratten, (Co-chair)

Our Mission: The Board for Social Witness (BSW) shall organize and lead a program to encourage and support our church's Christian witness in the world, wherein our church undertakes to labor for the progress of knowledge, the assurance of responsible freedom for all persons, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the support of mission needs. The Board shall lead and coordinate action and advocacy on social justice and peace issues; educate the congregation about mission emphases and needs of the denomination; identify service opportunities for social justice and human service needs; and allocate financial support for appropriate missions, organizations, and activities related to these needs.

—CCC Constitution, April 2010

What We Accomplished This Year: This year, the BSW broadened the scope of its emphasis on our three covenants—Just Peace, Becoming an Anti-racist Church, and Open and Affirming—by offering six after-church events, each of which focused on one or more of the covenants and our social witness advocacy goals. BSW provided lunch, followed by movies or documentaries and informative discussion. These events were intended to provide education on issues as well as

opportunities for CCC members to volunteer and learn more about local, national, and international causes and programs supported by CCC. About 30 to 35 people attended each event:

- **A Hidden Existence**, a 20-minute youth-produced documentary sharing the stories of formerly homeless teens. Gandhi Brigade Executive Director Richard Jaeggi led the event along with Gandhi Brigade staff and volunteers. Richard is BSW member and treasurer.
- **The House We Live In**, a documentary on U.S. prisons, preceded by a prison-style lunch and followed by discussion led by BSW member Chuck Mason.
- A discussion led by Leo Hosh on the issue of Palestinian/Israeli relationships and issues, and a second offering in the spring, **The Stones Cry Out**, a documentary on the issues Palestinian Christians face and discussion also led by Leo Hosh and Marla Schrader. Authentic Middle Eastern food was served at both events.
- **Chasing Ice**, a feature film on climate change with discussion led by BSW member and Stewards of the Earth Committee chair Jim Conklin.
- **African Voices**, with pictures and discussion led by Lois Stovall, CCC member and president of KRMA-US Partners, and special guest Veronica Eragu from Uganda; Dayna Brown, BSW member, author of **Time to Listen: Hearing People on the Receiving End of International Aid**; and Ndimyake Mwakayelye, BSW member, discussing her visit to Zimbabwe and the Mbare Church where BSW and CCC have relationship and history.

We continued our relationship with **Independence Now**, a local group working to support people with disabilities, and took food contributed by CCC members to St. Luke's Food Pantry at St. Luke Lutheran Church where it is distributed to persons and families in need. BSW also coordinated the five annual all-church special offerings and asked CCC members to support the **Shaw Community Ministry**. The Board highlighted for CCC members issues and actions that they and the church could take regarding important economic, social, environmental and political issues. We have also faithfully and judiciously allocated the CCC mission funds.

Information on organizations, programs, and causes supported by the BSW this year include:

Shaw Community Ministry (SCM)

Since 1991, SCM's mission has been to work with the children, youth, adults, and seniors of the Shaw community in DC to enhance lives and to expand opportunities in the areas of: education, health and wellness, leadership and youth development. BSW member Marjorie Hoffman serves on the Board of Shaw Community Ministry. BSW allocated \$1,000 and sought member food and monetary donations for Thanksgiving baskets. Marjorie Hoffman, SCM board

member and BSW member, requested donations from the CCC congregation for this year's Shaw summer camp, **Shaw Community Values**.

Shepherd's Table

The BSW supports CCC's participation in Shepherd's Table, a soup kitchen and service provider in downtown Silver Spring for persons who are homeless. CCC has provided volunteers for Shepherd's Table on the second Wednesday of each month for over 25 years. Volunteers set the table, serve, and clean up after dinner. BSW allocated a quarter of the Christmas offering (\$1,806.20) to Shepherd's Table this year.

Discretionary Mission Funds

The BSW distributes the discretionary mission funds allocated in each year's unified budget. The Board sought more information from each of the groups in advance of making these decisions and the criteria for allocating funds this year included:

- Support of CCC and UCC missions and covenants;
- How much need there is and how much our contribution will matter to the mission of the organization;
- Level of interest and participation by CCC members;
- Balancing distribution among local, national, and international organizations.

In addition to the organizations discussed above, the following organizations and causes were supported by CCC through BSW this year, and the remaining funds will be allocated at the May BSW meeting:

Local Initiatives:

- **Silver Spring Green**—brings together businesses, civic organizations, residents, and government to enhance our environment, economy and shared sense of community. BSW requested a proposal from Silver Spring Green and consequent to receiving it voted to give \$500 for its work on living classroom and school greening projects at Broad Acres Elementary School.
- **Interfaith Works/Community Ministry of Montgomery County**—Pursues social justice by identifying and meeting the needs of the poor and leading and engaging Montgomery County's faith communities in service, education, and advocacy. BSW allocated \$1,000 to support CCC youth involvement in this ministry.
- **Gandhi Brigade Youth Media**—Prepares young people to become powerful leaders through the integration of spirituality, entrepreneurship, and community relationships. Gandhi Brigade was founded by CCC member Richard Jaeggi and is based in Silver Spring. BSW allocated \$1,500 to support the Gandhi Brigade this year.

- **The Senior Connection**—Provides mobility for older adults by linking them to services and resources so they can live as independently as possible while remaining integral members of our community. CCC member Sue Dollins is Executive Director and many CCC members are volunteers. BSW allocated \$1,500 to support its activities this year.
- **Impact Silver Spring**—Seeks to build and sustain community-based networks that support people who are creating social, economic, and civic momentum that contributes to inclusive local economies and vibrant communities. BSW became a “Neighbor” sponsor by contributing \$500 for IMPACT Now!, the annual gala event to celebrate diversity in the Silver Spring community and to honor the winners of the IMPACT Momentum Awards. BSW also contributed \$1,000 to support IMPACT's programs.
- **St. Luke Lutheran Church Food Pantry**—provides food to persons and families in need. BSW provided a box to collect nonperishable food donations from CCC members. The donations were taken to St. Luke's pantry for distribution weekdays to persons referred to the pantry by Montgomery County organizations.
- **Stewards of the Earth**—helps CCC members and the church to be more environmentally sensitive, as well as live up to our principles of economic justice. Projects this year include running the fair trade coffee/tea/chocolate project, arranging for the use of reusable cups and glasses at coffee hour and other church functions, purchasing compact fluorescent bulbs, the printer cartridge recycling program, and maintaining the environmental library.
- **Montgomery Victory Gardens**—works to teach environmental awareness, alleviate hunger and build a more robust, sustainable local food system in Montgomery County through a three part mission: 1) teach more people how to grow their own food; 2) connect residents to farmers, food producers and food events in our county; 3) advocate for good food policy, from our County Council to the U.S. Congress. BSW contributed \$500 to this organization.

National Initiatives:

- **CCC Youth Trip for Habitat WV**—For the past four years, CCC youth have attended the **Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity** workcamp in West Virginia. Sponsored and organized by the Potomac Association Youth Committee, CCC helps fund the building materials for the home the youth build. BSW allocated \$500 this year to support this effort by our youth.
- **Back Bay Mission**—Back Bay Mission, a community ministry of the UCC, serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the wider church community by faithful witness for social justice and compassionate service to the poor and marginalized. BSW allocated \$500 this fiscal year.
- **Wider Church Ministries**—\$1,000 was allocated to support Hurricane Sandy Relief and rebuilding of UCC churches damaged by the storm.

International Initiatives:

- **Project Mala**—Provides educational and vocational opportunities for youth in remote villages of eastern Uttar Pradesh, India. With over 1,000 children currently enrolled, the goal is to help eradicate the use of child labor on the carpet weaving looms and enable working children to regain their lost childhood. CCC members Neville Platt and Holly Brooks are Board members of Project Mala USA. BSW provided \$500 of support to the project this fiscal year.
- **Mbare Church**—CCC has had a long relationship with Mbare Church in Harare, Zimbabwe, which was the home of Vesta Sithole, who was known to the CCC fellowship. Her daughter Ndimyake Mwakayelye is a BSW member. CCC helps with donations for persons in need and some building support for the church. This fiscal year BSW contributed \$500.
- **KRMA**—helps under-resourced rural women in existing women's cooperatives in Kaberamaido District Uganda move toward economic sustainability and enabling them to send all their children to primary and secondary school, and beyond. BSW gave KRMA \$500.
- **Ukraine Playground**—provides a safe place at a Ukrainian school where children can play. Request for funds came from Larry Gipson, Peace Corps volunteer. Larry stated that the playground at the school is so old and unsafe that the children really cannot play on it. The community is very poor and unable to repair it without financial support. BSW contributed \$500.

Collection of UCC Special Mission Offerings: BSW oversaw the collection of UCC special mission offerings including Neighbors in Need, the Christmas Fund, One Great Hour of Sharing and Strengthen the Church. CCC continues to be a **5 for 5** church, collecting for all four of the UCC's special offerings and contributing to Our Church's Wider Mission through our unified budget. BSW is responsible for determining how the Christmas Fund collection is allocated, and this year \$3,612.40 to CAC for Veterans of the Cross; \$1,806.20 to Shaw Community Ministries, and \$1,806.20 to Shepherd's Table.

Challenges We Faced This Year: Again this year we had irregular attendance by board members and several dropped out midyear. Our six after-church events required planning and volunteering by dedicated board members, but further volunteering would have made tasks easier.

Our Plan for the Next Church Year: This fiscal year we intentionally developed several areas where CCC members could become involved and volunteer. Based on the six after-church events, we intend to encourage CCC members to go the next step and take action.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Bratten and Ron Rising, Co-chairs
Board for Social Witness

Reports from BSW'S Working Groups and Initiatives:

Stewards of the Earth: Stewards of the Earth work under the oversight of the Board of Social Witness to support and sponsor CCC activities that promote stewardship of the environment and the welfare of God's creation throughout the world.

Stewards of the Earth have sponsored and staffed the CCC Fair Trade Program for twelve years! This program provides organic fair-trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and other items to our members and friends, and CCC is in the top 1% of the 8,500 participating faith organizations in terms of sales thanks to all of YOU who support this program by your purchases. The real winners are the hard working farmers and their families who have a market for their goods at prices that provide a fair return for their time and investment. In 2012, supporters across the United States purchased enough coffee to utilize the entire annual harvest of 1,614 family farms. In addition, the Equal Exchange Program donated an extra \$130,000 to development and farming projects worldwide. In the past 12 months, the program at CCC has donated \$156 worth of coffee and tea to Shepherd's Table; \$335 worth of product to the Board of Church Life and other church organizations for use in CCC functions; and made any surplus funds available to fund environmental and fair trade projects at CCC.

Stewards of the Earth worked with the Board of Trustees to support CCC's purchase of renewable "green" electricity on a 3-year fixed-price contract through Groundswell's Community Power Project. We also encouraged CCC families to participate in the residential part of the program. Twenty-four member and neighborhood households have contracted for 100% wind-generated electricity as of this writing.

Stewards of the Earth worked with the Board of Social Witness to sponsor an after-church showing of the environmental adventure movie "Chasing Ice," which was attended by 34 CCC members and friends from the neighborhood. Several expressed interest in becoming more actively involved in environmental activism.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Conklin, Chair
Stewards of the Earth

Anti-racism Working Group: The Anti-racism Working Group has been functioning this past year as a virtual group with a listserve. About 60 members and friends of the congregation are on the listserve. Items of interest have been shared to help CCC be informed as part of our commitment to our CCC covenant—Becoming an Anti-racist Church. If you are not a member of this listserve and wish to join, please contact Jim Henkelman-Bahn, hjames34@comcast.net, to have your name added.

As a part of honoring our commitment to the CCC covenant, the Anti-racism Working Group and the Board for Social Witness have arranged for a conversation on race over lunch after worship in June. This conversation—**Are We There Yet?**—which will be led by Ronnie Galvin, executive director of IMPACT Silver Spring, will focus on white privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Henkelman-Bahn, Group Leader
Anti-racism Working Group

Open and Affirming Working Group: The major activity for CCC's Open and Affirming working group over the past year has been promotion of the Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2014 (SB-212), that would ban transgender discrimination in the state. This legislation is in line with CCC's commitment to honor and celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities.

Major activities included collecting letters of support from congregants that were provided to state legislators leading up to debate of the measure, hosting phone banks, sponsoring a transgender educational program, as well as sending a delegation of CCC members and friends to attend Equality Maryland Lobby Day held February 17, 2014 in Annapolis.

The bill was favorably voted on by the Maryland State Senate on March 4, 2014 and by the Maryland State House of Delegates on March 27, 2014 and signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley on May 15, 2014. A signature drive to take this issue to the ballot in November is anticipated from opponents of the bill over the summer. If the petition receives enough signatures, there will be more work for us to do to be sure the general public supports the Fairness for All Marylanders.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Carrigan, Group Leader
Open & Affirming Working Group

Middle East Working Group: After several years of occasional programs organized by individuals at CCC to address the ongoing Palestine/Israel ("I/P") conflict, in early 2014 members especially concerned about this situation asked the Board for Social Witness if it would be willing to take under its umbrella a newly constituted Middle East Working Group. The Board agreed. The first activity of this now official group was a screening of the recently produced documentary, "The Stones Cry Out," which addresses the history of Christians in Israel and the West Bank from 1948 to the present. A number of Working Group members have joined UCCPIN (UCC Palestine/Israel Network), a national e-mail network of persons concerned about the P/I situation. In addition, a "yahoo group" has been created within CCC

to keep members informed about the same or similar national and local events and actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Weissenborn, Group Co-Leader
Middle East Working Group

Ugandan Ministry Global Initiative: In May 2013 the Board for Social Witness made the first contribution to a new global initiative founded by CCC member Lois Stovall. During the past year KRMA-US Partners, named after the women farmers of Kobulubulu, Uganda, has launched its first joint agricultural project with a signing ceremony in Uganda, and Lois is now preparing to return to monitor and evaluate the project's progress. Revenues from sales will be used to support secondary level education for girls in the village. In addition, a new webpage designed by CCC member and Board for Social Witness co-chair Ron Rising has been completed, (www.krma-uspartners.org) and the application for 501(c)(3) status filed with IRS. Several CCC members who work in Africa have facilitated contacts in Uganda so that this ministry can use best practices and avoid any duplication of services available to these women striving to move toward greater sustainability. In the fall, Lois participated in **African Voices**, a BSW after-church event, to describe her work. Veronica Eragu from Uganda was a very engaging guest.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Stovall, CCC Member and
President, KRMA-US Partners, Ltd.

BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

The hardworking members of the Board of Stewardship have been: Richard Ablard, Tom Doggett, Paul Erickson, Valerie Freeland, David Gayer, Carolyn Hoskinson, Elaine Kim, Sonia Lawson, Dick Meyer, Sharon Rising, Nancy Surprenant, and Jeanne Young.

The focus of the Stewardship campaign this year was two-fold: Gratitude and Connections. Our aim was to connect with every pledger and to create an intimate space in which our pledgers could connect with each other. This we did through nine small group gatherings in the homes of Board members and other church members, including Sue Dollins, Trish Esposito, and Gregg Brown and Stephanie Peterson. In those gatherings, we sought to facilitate the expression of all that each of us is grateful for in our wonderful CCC community through the placement of individual leaves on a beautiful tree created by the talented Elaine Kim. The branches of the tree, "reaching wider," symbolize the reach of CCC into the world; the roots of the tree, "growing deeper," symbolize our individual faith journeys.

The spirit and sharing in those small groups gatherings was truly amazing and quite inspirational, and we thank each person who participated in those gatherings.

Although the total amount pledged this year is about the same as last year, we are very thankful for the 44 pledge units that increased their pledges, and the 22 new pledges received.

Respectfully submitted,

John Malone and Mary Pence, Co-Chairs
Board of Stewardship

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FY 2014 Membership: Gregg Brown (Chair), Jim Walters, Stevan Fisher, Steve Jordan, Tom Ault, Jim O'Steen, Anne Weissenborn, Judy Cox, Chris Bublit

Our Mission:

Quoting from the Constitution of Christ Congregational Church:

"The Board of Trustees oversees the financial resources of the church, including hiring and compensating staff, maintaining the church's properties, managing its investments and financial resources and implementing its programs. A key task involves developing the annual budget with input from staff, other boards and the congregation. The nature of the work requires liaison with other boards and committees. The Chair acts in the capacity of President of the Corporation, including representing the church in legal proceedings."

Christ Congregational Church is many things; a place of worship, a spiritual home, a faith community, a resource for the broader community. It is also a business employing staff with a budget of \$840,000 per year and owning and operating property worth several million dollars. The trustees' responsibility is to take care of the "material side" of CCC to make sure that the business is well run and the property well maintained so that we can fulfill our spiritual mission.

What We Accomplished This Year:

FY 2014 Budget versus Actual: The congregation passed a deficit budget of (\$40,419) in June of 2013. We are projecting to end the fiscal year at breakeven due to the timing of hiring new staff and proactively managing expenses. This is good news and we are thankful we did not have to dip into our financial reserves this year.

Hired two new staff: The Reverend Gloria Grant, Transitional Minister for Care Community and Ms. Whitney Kinsey, Director of Youth Ministry joined the staff of CCC during the fiscal year rounding out the Church's staff and fulfilling an important mission of the church.

Clean Energy Consumption: On May 12, 2014 the Church entered into a 3-year contract with Constellation New Energy, effective June 13, 2014 and ending May 17, 2017, to purchase 100% wind power for its electricity consumption at a fixed rate of \$.094904. The Board wishes to thank to Jim Conklin for helping the board obtain clean energy for the Church.

Capital Campaign – Debt Reduction: We are in year 2 of the 3 year debt reduction capital campaign and have continued to pay down the Church's long term debt. As of May, 2014 our SunTrust Loan balance is approximately \$151,000 and our member loan balance is \$112,500. Principal payments towards our long term debt were paid out of contributions from the capital campaign while the interest payments of approximately \$12,900 were paid out of the Unified Budget.

Major Maintenance: Our Property Administrator, Dianne Abraham, has once again helped the church run its building and grounds efficiently while keeping a keen eye on costs and the budget. HVAC, plumbing, electrical and roofing costs for the building were the major expenses incurred this fiscal year.

Playground Renovation: We have been working with our daycare tenant, Silver Spring Child Care Center, on a renovation plan to improve the drainage, replace the playground surface, and new landscaping with a children's memorial. A committee comprised of Dianne Abraham, Gregg Brown, Judy Cox, and Christopher Lewis from CCC and Mary Lou Kitchen and Jennifer Kirwan from SSCCC have met over the course of the year to refined the scope of the project and obtain quotes from civil engineers to prepare design drawings and bid out the work. Trustees allocated \$6,500 to hire CV, Inc. to prepare civil engineering plans with SSCCC allocating \$13,000 for a total cost of \$19,500. SSCCC has already paid for core drilling test and has fundraised money from its parents to help cover their portion of the expenses.

New Board Members: We successfully filling four (4) seats on the Board for next year thanks once again to the tireless efforts of Judy Cox and Priscilla Peterson. The board would like to recognize and thank the following members with expiring terms for their years of service to the board: Jim O'Steen, Tom Ault and Jim Walters.

Challenges We Faced This Year: The major challenge during FY 2014, as it has been in almost every year, is preparing a unified operating budget that supports the vibrant growth of our ministry and various programs of the church when the financial resources pledged by the membership do not keep pace with the envisioned ministry and cost of inflation in the Greater DC area. Another major challenge is dealing with the cost and time involved with operating and maintaining the church's complex building systems specifically the HVAC.

Our Plan for the Next Church Year:

Budget for FY 2015: An important annual duty of the Trustees is a preparation of a draft budget for review and discussion at the annual meeting. The draft budget to

be presented at the annual meeting will have a deficit of approximately \$63,000. This is due to having a full staff in place. We anticipating having a deficit and not being as fortunate as this year by breaking even. Pledging will need to increase in order to support our current staffing levels. It is important to remember that it costs just over \$2,300 per day, 365 days per year, to run CCC. Our total projected income for the coming budget year is just over \$2,100 per day. This means that every day of the coming year adds an additional \$200 to the deficit.

Major Maintenance: As mentioned previously, our list of major maintenance items is long and growing. In the coming fiscal year budget we reduced this line item to \$13,010 to help offset the growing deficit. The church will need to be judicious with what critical building items get repaired or replaced.

Concluding Remarks: CCC is a vibrant and growing church with many needs and wants from the diverse congregation. We have had a successful Capital Campaign to reduce our long term debt. We have had a successful Stewardship Campaign which has seen an increase of pledging. However, our expenses continue to exceed our income and over the long term this is not sustainable. CCC will need to continue to grow its membership base and corresponding pledge income in the coming years so that it can support its current staffing levels and major building expenses. This is a challenge that the congregation will explore over the next several years and no doubt be successful in resolving as they have been in years past.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregg A. Brown, Chair
Board of Trustees

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mission: To make our church building and grounds clean, safe and beautiful. The committee conducts three quarterly meetings during the fall, winter and spring to discuss upcoming work projects, and holds monthly Work Day events for nine months of the year. We take direction and schedule events with the church property administrator.

The Building & Grounds Committee is comprised of four regular members and is assisted from various members from the congregation who help during work day projects.

Accomplishments this year: Aside from maintaining gardens and grounds by weeding, mulching, pruning and planting bulbs and flowers, the committee was successful in painting Pastor Gloria's office this winter with select colors, painting first floor foyer baseboards, and refurbishing and painting walls in the social hall.

Challenges the Committee encountered: Enlisting volunteers to participate in Work Day activities has always been difficult. However, we were able to enlist a few volunteers from the congregation to help with grounds work and painting projects. Many hands make light work. Scheduled Work Day activities may sometimes be cancelled due to unforeseen church events (such as funerals).

Plans for next year: The committee will continue conducting Work Day events to maintain church grounds and conduct painting projects in the winter as specified by the Property Administrator. In addition, the committee will engage Cub Scouts, Brownie Scouts and the Church youth group to help beautification efforts by planting bulbs and making new flower beds etc.

Finally, the committee will provide support and monitor activities in the upcoming daycare playground renovations project expected to start this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Lewis, Chair
Building & Grounds Committee

COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS

2013-2014 Membership: Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Laura Boyer, Carl Brandt, Sonja Fisher, John Hildebrandt, Jeanne Young

Our Mission: The primary responsibility of the Committee is to plan programs of art (in liaison with the Board of Deacon), to mount exhibitions in the Tate Gallery and elsewhere in the church as deemed appropriate.

What We Accomplished This Year: The below exhibitions were held in the Tate Gallery:

- **Light Play** was extended through the summer – Coriolana Smith and Doug Wolters
- **Impressions in Watercolor**, 2013 Takoma W/C Group members Barbara Bell, Jim Burks, David Daniels, Rolf Eppinger, Monika Griff, Jim Haynes, Margo Kabel, Phyllis McElmurry, Jane Solomon and Michael Shibley (August through Sept. 2013)
- **For the Beauty of the Earth** Photographs by Dan Pence, (October 2013 - February 2014)
- **Indoor Outdoor, A Celebration of Our Surroundings** Paintings by Marty Barrick (March –May 2014)

The benefits of the art gallery are significant, though they may be hard to assess. One of our past photographers, Douglas Wolters, is also a professional musician. He

has returned to CCC numerous times since his exhibit, playing cello for events with the church. He generously gives his time and his talent. Although we do not ask for donations from the artists who exhibit in the gallery*, we have received financial support from several artists this year. Dan Pence donated all of his proceeds to CCC's capital campaign. Marty Barrick sold (at least) three paintings and 10% of her sales went to the church. Outreach to the local community was certain this year, as several art sales went to people who come in solely to attend meetings in the building.

Our Plan for the Next Church Year: Recruit new members/leadership.

*** Sales:** While the Committee for the Arts does not actively encourage the selling of art objects that are on view in the Tate Gallery, we do recognize the desire to do so by some of our exhibitors. It is, therefore, CCC's policy not to list sale prices on wall labels, but to allow the listing of purchase prices to be posted on a table in the gallery. Artist(s) contact information is to be clearly displayed with the full checklist. Negotiations and sales are the responsibility of the individual artist(s) to arrange directly with interested buyers. The CCC office may assist by directing anyone interested in contacting the artist(s) directly. Once an object has been sold, it may be marked accordingly on the wall label, but should remain on view for the entire exhibition period. Special arrangements that deviate from this policy must be requested and agreed to by the Executive Board of CCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Chair
Committee for the Arts

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2013-2014 Membership: Tom Ault, Merlene Bagley, Elaine Kim, G.K. Meier, and Lynn White

Our Mission: The purpose of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee is to provide a communication link between Pastor Matt and members of the congregation. The committee maintains a listening ear for items of joys and concerns from members and provides ministerial support to Pastor Matt. Although we schedule regular monthly meetings, we remain flexible depending on Pastor Matt's schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Merlene Bagley, Chair
Pastor/Parish Relations Committee

PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

FY 2014 Membership: Chris Bublitz, Bruce Esposito, Jeanne Young, Tim White, Tom Ault, (Chair)

Advisors: Dan Pence, Church Treasurer; Allen Hill, Moderator; Pastor Matthew Braddock

Our Mission: The purpose of the CCC Endowment Fund is “to strengthen the long-term ministry of Christ Congregational Church by creating and building financial assets to help CCC develop significant new ministries beyond what would otherwise be possible through the church’s operating budget and to enhance the facilities of the church.” The Planned Giving Committee (PGC) exists to manage the Endowment Fund, promote planned giving in the congregation, and assist individual members in deciding whether and how to make gifts to the Fund.

What We Accomplished This Year: During this fiscal year, the Endowment Fund balance increased from \$522,591.25 on June 30, 2013 to \$596,537.27 as of March 31, 2014. The year-to-year March 31 change was from \$533,196.18 to \$596,537.27. The 14.1% increase in the fund balance since June 30, 2013 reflects capital appreciation, reinvested earnings, and gifts totaling \$20,000. Mark Waldrop and Barbara Linnehan, the children of Eleanor Waldrop, made significant gifts to the unrestricted endowment fund in honor and memory of their mother and in recognition of her great love and devotion to Christ Congregational Church.

The Planned Giving Committee accepted a restricted special gift of \$19,525 made in March 2014, with an additional gift of \$28,029 to be made in 2015. The generous gift totaling \$47,554 is from an anonymous donor who approached Pastor Matt wishing to make a substantial gift to CCC in the form of a restricted special gift with a designated purpose. After considering several possibilities, the donor chose to direct that the gift be used to expand the scope of the half-time cooperative youth ministry position so that the position also could encompass a ministry to young adults, thus creating a full-time position, the Director of Cooperative Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The gift finances the additional cost (including benefits) of a full-time rather than half-time position for a period of a two-plus years, March 2014 through June 2016. The youth and young adult position is a cooperative endeavor supported jointly by CCC and Takoma Park Presbyterian Church.

The Planned Giving Committee encourages contributions to be made as unrestricted gifts, but the Committee also may accept restricted funds – funds restricted to a purpose designated by the donor, if appropriate. Working with the Board of Trustees and the Senior Minister, the Committee approved receipt of the gift. The Committee found that the gift would provide the necessary seed money for a significant new ministry to young adults, a long-time goal of CCC. As such, the gift is consistent with the purpose of the Endowment Fund to “strengthen the long-term ministry of Christ Congregational Church by creating and building financial assets to help CCC develop significant new ministries beyond what would otherwise be possible through the church’s operating budget...”

The bulk of the Endowment Fund – \$458,598.04 – is restricted, i.e., the donors directed how their gifts are to be used by CCC; and most of these restricted funds – \$444,782.49 – comprise the Marian Tate Fellowship, which directs that the principal remain intact and that the earnings on this portion of the Fund be transferred to CCC's operating budget each year. In 2013-2014, about \$6,000 of earnings are being transferred to the operating budget from the Marian Tate Fellowship. The remainder of the restricted portion of the Fund – \$13,815.55 – is for the support of CCC's Music Ministry.

The Endowment Fund continues to be invested in the Moderate Balanced Fund and the Conservative Balanced Fund operated by the United Church Foundation, an arm of the UCC. During the year the PGC monitored the investments in these two United Church Foundation funds and compared their financial performance to other similar mutual funds. Through March 31, 2014, the financial performance of both funds was equivalent to the financial performance of the best mutual funds in each fund's comparable investment category as well as the financial performance measured by the industry indicator for the type of fund. In view of this solid performance, the Committee made no changes in the investment allocation of the Endowment Fund.

The Committee reaffirmed its overall goal, established at the beginning of the PGC seven years ago, to limit expenditures from the Endowment Fund and to grow the fund to a level that could initiate major new CCC ministries for the CCC community, including its larger community locally and in the world. The Committee continues to believe that a more adequately funded Endowment Fund could have a significant role in fostering new and expanded ministries.

Challenges We Faced This Year: The Committee limited its activities in FY 2014 in recognition of the ongoing capital campaign.

Our Plan for the 2014-2015 Church Year: The Committee anticipates conducting an expanded program on planned giving to increase understanding of the Endowment Fund and the diverse opportunities that are available to contribute to the fund in order to leave a legacy to CCC. While the Committee continues to encourage unrestricted gifts, in the coming year it may consider the efficacy of establishing special giving categories and would value suggestions from CCC members. The Committee also invites suggestions and will explore options for expressing gratitude and giving permanent public recognition to planned giving donors to supplement the contemporaneous recognition given through personal letters and CCC e-NewsNotes articles.

RETREAT HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Retreat House is standing strong and open for business. We faired quite well over the harsh winter with only two broken water pipes under the kitchen bathroom. Thank you to David Lyons for crawling under the house to fix them. At

the opening work retreat, the group of eleven cleaned the house from top to bottom, made repairs, reorganized the broom closet, weeded out flower beds, and put the house in order for another season. Thank you to everyone that came out for this opening retreat and to all that have come out to support work retreats over the past years.

The house is receiving frequent use from various groups and members of the church. I heard that in April the women had a wonderful women's retreat and at the men's "fly fishing and story-telling" weekend, three teenaged boys went tubing in the river. After summer camps, our young adults that grew up at the retreat house are the biggest users of the facility. There have been several unofficial class reunions and even a wedding in the chapel. The retreat house is open to everyone in the church. You don't need to be a group. Families are welcome to use the house weekends or week days throughout the season the house is open (April thru November). There are still free dates available this summer.

The Retreat House Committee will host its annual Labor Day retreat again this year, August 29 thru September 1. Whether you grew up at the retreat house or you have never been there before, everyone is welcome to come.

At this time we are still under the sleeping restrictions set by the West Virginia fire marshal, only six beds on the first floor of the house. We also have eight beds in the bunkhouse and the pavilion can accommodate twelve cots. A retreat house renovation fund has been established and pledges are coming in. A retreat house renovation task force has been appointed by the executive council to come up with a plan to return the house to its original functionality, improve the kitchen, and improve accessibility. The task force will be presenting an update separate from this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory Gray, Co-Chair
Retreat House Committee

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Our Mission: The mission of the committee is to assure that our sanctuary is ready for worship each Sunday with flowers and candles on the altar, and the worship space is adorned with paraments and banners which are liturgically appropriate. We also see that the lobby of the church, as the entryway to sacred space, is inviting and attractive each week with fresh flower arrangements. The committee especially works hard to prepare the sanctuary, and elsewhere in the church as appropriate, for major celebrative events during the Church Year-- Thanksgiving, Advent season, Christmas Sunday, and Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to Easter. The

Committee also supplies “wedding coordinators” whenever a wedding is performed at CCC.

What We Accomplished This Year: The committee once again functioned almost completely by e-mail connections this year, with two actual face to face gatherings. We met in September for a workshop on “Hosting Weddings at CCC” with our own Jackie Walters as the leader, along with Pastor Matt, to explore the Committee’s unique responsibility to act as wedding coordinators. We also plan to meet at the end of May (after the deadline for this Report) to organize ourselves for the coming fiscal year.

Our very dedicated and fabulously creative members (!) each signed up several times during the year to serve as the “flower duty person,” and followed through with her work faithfully. The flowers you see every week in the entryway and elsewhere are the generous gifts of our members. Everyone also worked together, as in past years, to decorate inside and outside the church for Advent and Christmas season, and to create strikingly beautiful altar decorations for the major worship services on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

Challenges We Faced This Year: This year we sadly accepted having three of our very long-term members (Shirley Boettner and Jean/Randy Caswell) “retire” from service due to health. They had each been a backbone of our Committee for so many years, and we will sorely miss their leadership and faithful and artistic contributions over the years.

Our Appreciations: We want to express our gratitude to the members and friends of CCC who generously donate flowers each Sunday to adorn the altar. The flowers are divided by the Committee members into several lovely bouquets after the worship service, and placed near the lobby windows, to be delivered by the members of Home Visit Ministry and others to the sick or grieving friends of the congregation.

We especially want to recognize the behind-the-scenes faithful work by Joanne Hollcroft who ensures that the oil in the candelabra is always filled and ready for use, and sends thank you notes after each Sunday to those who donated altar flowers; and Barbara and Doug Redmond who faithfully keep the outside display box decorated with appropriate symbols each season.

Finally, the committee again wishes to thank the incomparable CCC staff without whose support the Committee could never function, especially Dianne Abraham who is always there for us and foresees the Committee’s every need even before we think of it; Veronica Bailey who proactively takes care of bulletin notices for altar flower donations and who maintains a great database to keep track of the poinsettia and lilies donations; and all the hardworking custodial staff who go out of their way to help the committee get ready for every Sunday and particularly on

major holidays. We could never do our work without all of their support! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Toko Ackerman and Valerie Freeland, Co-Chairs
Sanctuary Committee

SENIOR ADULTS COMMITTEE

2013-2014 Membership: Ruth Haigh, Helen Hanes, Ruth & Bill Kaupert, June Leonard, Chuck Mason, Mary Michel, Corine Bloss, Audrey Platt, Neville Platt, Jeanne Young

The committee meets monthly, usually on the second Monday of the month to plan senior events.

Accomplishments: We have continued our popular monthly movie afternoons which have mainly been held on Fridays following fellowship at a bagged lunch held in the Conference Room.

- On June 14th 2013 twelve members experienced a visit to Hillwood House when the grounds were in beautiful condition. Following a guided tour of the house, we had a very enjoyable afternoon tea in their café.
- Chuck Mason again hosted his popular Sugartree Picnic on Thursday September 19th with seven people in attendance. A visit was made to Eylers Valley Chapel and our group made a small donation of \$25 in appreciation.
- Some 13 members enjoyed an educational visit to the National Capital Trolley Museum which included a trolley ride and this was followed by a meal at the nearby Azucar restaurant.
- A Silent Retreat at the very restful Dayspring Retreat Center on Wednesday October 23rd was attended by eight members who enjoyed the surroundings and a program prepared by Pastor Matt. He and Gloria provided an excellent soup and salad meal.
- On Thursday January 23rd we made a visit to the Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA) in Greenbelt. Fifteen members attended and we had the benefit of an excellent docent guiding us around the buildings. Everyone agreed that this was a good venue for another visit. We had a good meal at the Sir Walter Raleigh restaurant on our way through Greenbelt.
- On Friday January 31st, seniors hosted an all church event presented by Dan Pence in the Conference Room on **Discovering One's Roots and Publishing the Story**. Twelve people signed up for the event, but we were delighted when 26 turned up for the presentation and our soup luncheon. Thankfully the "loaves and fishes" went round well.
- On Sunday March 2nd CCC held a service of Ordination and Installation for our erstwhile very committed leader Sarah Anders, who has taken up an

ordained position at Rockville United Church. There was a wonderful attendance and it was a blessing to us to see Sarah making the progress she so richly deserves.

- We hosted a St. Patrick's Day lunch attended by twenty seven CCC members on Monday March 21st. We served a meal of corned beef and specially prepared beans accompanied by Irish Soda bread. Priscilla Peterson entertained the group with Gaelic tunes played on the penny whistle and told us their background, which was warmly appreciated. With a modest door charge of \$5 everyone said this was a very good event.
- A Senior Participation Service was held on Sunday May 4th when many members provided contributions. There was a theme of wisdom from the aged and Robbie Fitzpatrick and Aaron Botsko provided meditations which highlighted their appreciation of their grandparents' influences in their lives.
- On Friday May 9th, fifteen members, including some more *nouveau* seniors, attended the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Carderock where our own Toby Ratcliffe who has been there since leaving college gave a tour and very informative and interesting insight into the special work on submersible and surface vessels that are subject to research there. We followed the visit with a very enjoyable lunch at Normandie Farm restaurant.

Challenges: With our committee members' average age now over 80 and many members having served for over ten years, we feel it is time for an injection of new blood to carry forward this committee's work. With a wave of baby boomer retirees on the horizon we would welcome new committee members who have an interest in promoting more activities.

Plan for the Next Church Year: We plan to hold an all church workshop on ***Moving and Aging in Place and Help with Downsizing***. We expect this will be held in the fall of 2014. We will continue to look for new areas of interest for our senior members and try to bear in mind ambulatory issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Neville Platt, Chair
Senior Adults Committee

OTHER COMMITTEES & CHURCH GROUPS

CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:

The Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, held in Dover, Delaware, from June 7-9, 2013, turned out to be much more exciting than expected, for three reasons.

The first was the electrifying presence of Rev. Cameron Trimble as keynote speaker and workshop and worship leader. Previously involved in fostering new church

starts for the UCC, Rev. Trimble is now the Executive Director of the Center for Progressive Renewal, an organization founded in 2010 to “renew Christianity by training new entrepreneurial leaders, supporting the birth of new congregations, and by renewing and strengthening existing churches.” In her keynote address and workshops, she talked about how to transform churches by transforming people; and her worship service showed how a well-constructed service can be both energizing and spiritual. The following quotations only hint at her vision of what our churches could be: “Worship, like life, should be measured by the breaths we miss, not the ones we take.” “Touch the sacred ... move beyond the head and open up the right sides of our brains.” “Heal the broken, release the oppressed, challenge the oppressors, comfort the hurting, proclaim the good news to the excluded.” (Note: The CAC has been making Rev. Trimble’s services available to local churches in our conference.)

The second reason was a recollection and celebration of the Wilmington 10. The Wilmington 10 were nine young men and a woman convicted in 1971 on trumped-up charges of arson and conspiracy in the aftermath of protests and violence in Wilmington, North Carolina, over school integration. Among those convicted was Rev. Ben Chavis, Jr., who had been sent by the UCC Commission on Racial Justice to work with the protesting students. Due to the work of the UCC and others in the following years, the trial came to be seen as a profound miscarriage of justice; and in 1981 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit overturned the convictions on the grounds that both the prosecutor and the trial judge had violated the defendants’ constitutional rights. The prisoners were released, but not until late in 2012 did they receive pardons making clear their innocence. Following the annual banquet, the CAC showed a short film about the Wilmington 10 that highlighted the emotional moments when the defendants (or their survivors) finally received their pardons. Dr. Elsie Scott, a civil rights advocate, then led a spirited interview with Rev. Chavis and Dr. Irving Joyner, the lawyer who had labored long and hard to get the convictions of the Wilmington 10 overturned.

The final reason occurred outside the meeting’s agenda. Unexpectedly, we discovered that Rev. Ann Holmes was present as a delegate. In 1982, Rev. Holmes had first sought ordination as a chaplain from the Potomac Association of the UCC. What made the process unusual was that she made no secret that she was a lesbian. At CCC that led to a spirited debate during a specially called congregational meeting about whether we should instruct our delegates to the Potomac Association how to vote on Ann’s ordination – something our church had never done. In a divided vote, our congregation decided that our delegates should not be instructed but should be guided by the spirit of the ordination session; and the Potomac Association subsequently approved her ordination. That meeting and the Potomac Association’s decision were seminal moments in the UCC’s and CCC’s movement toward becoming open and affirming. Toko and Dave took the opportunity to introduce themselves to Rev. Holmes and shared the story of the debate and decision at CCC’s congregational meeting. Rev. Holmes

had never heard the story, and both she and her partner were deeply moved and very appreciative.

The Annual Meeting also received reports from various entities in the UCC and CAC (*highlight:* CAC's Conference Minister John Deckenback's "State of the Conference Report" announced that CAC supported five new church starts in the last 4 years!), approved the CAC budget and the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2014, and adopted a resolution reaffirming our commitment to non-violence as a Just Peace church. May this year's meeting be as stimulating!

Respectfully submitted,

Toko Ackerman & Dave Ackerman and Merlene Bagley (alternate)
Central Atlantic Conference

APPENDIX A: MINUTES OF 2013 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
Christ Congregational Church UCC, Inc.
June 2, 2013**

Moderator Karen O'Steen called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Braddock, Senior Minister, offered a prayer.

The Moderator declared a quorum is present and reminded the members the meeting is governed by Robert's Rules of Orders. She appointed Dave Ackerman as Parliamentarian.

Approval of Agenda

Bill Kaupert moved the adoption of the agenda; Aldene Ault seconded. The agenda was approved on a voice vote.

Presentation of the Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting

Jackie Walters, Church Clerk, moved the adoption of the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting. Tom Ault seconded. The minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Approval of Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees

Mary Stone moved the adoption of the 2012-2013 Annual Report. Toko Ackerman seconded the motion. The Annual Report was approved on a voice vote.

Report of the Clerk of the Rolls

David Main, Clerk of the Rolls, summarized the annual report of the Clerk of the Rolls and reported a total membership of 728.

Election of Board Members, Officers and Delegates

Priscilla Peterson, Chair, gave the report of the Nominating Committee. The committee has successfully filled all positions except the Auditor position and reports that each board feels confident it will have enough members to fulfill its responsibilities despite a few vacancies. The names included in the Nominating Committee's report for board positions are only those who are being nominated to fill a vacant full-term position or to serve a second term.

Priscilla noted the recent designation of a Governance Task Force, which will look at the numbers of board positions as one of its tasks. These numbers were decided during a time when membership numbers were considerably larger.

Priscilla recognized and thanked the 12 members of this year's Nominating Committee.

Priscilla moved the adoption of the slate of officers, board members, delegates and at-large committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee. Barbara Callendar seconded the motion. The members approved the slate of nominees unanimously on a voice vote.

Presentation of Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

Trish Esposito, Chair of the Board of Outreach and Engagement, read the following resolution and moved its adoption by the congregation.

Motion for New Member Categories (June 2, 2013)

WHEREAS, the Board for Outreach and Engagement is charged to oversee membership development, and to support review of membership on a regular basis, and

WHEREAS the Board for Outreach and Engagement recently, on behalf of the Executive Council, did review membership rolls and categories in the light of assessments from wider church bodies among other considerations, and determined that a modification of membership categories would make such assessments more reflective of membership participation in church activities, and

WHEREAS a modification of the description of membership categories was proposed to the Executive Council, and the Council moved that the proposal be taken to the church's Annual Meeting in June 2013, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, to amend Article I of the church Bylaws to include new membership categories as proposed by the Board of Outreach and Engagement.

Bob Brown seconded the motion.

Trish reviewed the current language of Article I of the Bylaws and noted there is no description there of types of membership or responsibilities of membership. She then reviewed the reasons for considering a change. Among them was accurately reporting active membership numbers to various components of the denomination. Membership numbers affect the budget, CCC's contributions to the wider church, communications to the congregation, and the work of the Nominating Committee.

Trish reviewed the proposed changes. Section 1 is unchanged. Section 2 establishes four categories of membership. As she reviewed the categories, Trish stressed that the changes are being made for counting purposes only, that individuals not in an active status can always ask to be reinstated as active members, and that no-one's name is ever removed from the Book of Membership maintained by the Clerk of the Rolls. Section 3 [old Section 2] describes how membership is terminated. Section 4 [old Section 3] describes how a member's status can be restored. Old Section 4 is being deleted because its language is incorporated in new Section 2.

There was no discussion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of the 2013-14 Budget

John Gipson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presented the 2013-14 budget. Before offering the motion, he reviewed major events of the past year and some assumptions.

1. The congregation sold the property at 9601 Colesville Road after having the property replatted and divided to meet county requirements on the setback of the house from property borders. CCC signed a parking agreement with the YMCA to allow CCC to use the parking on the Y's plat during Sundays and evenings. In return, the Y can use the parking on CCC's plat during weekdays. The Trustees used the proceeds to pay down the Sun Trust mortgage.
2. CCC conducted a successful capital campaign that raised pledges of \$1.1 million. Most of the monies already received have been used to pay down the principal on the Sun Trust mortgage.

3. As a result of the sale of 9601 and the successful capital campaign, the church's debt dropped from over \$1.5 Million in June 2012 to \$373,000 in June 2013, a reduction of 75%.
4. Other events (such as not hiring a Youth Minister, increasing the Senior Minister's housing allowance, and offering a cafeteria benefit plan to the staff) are described in the Board of Trustees' annual report.

Mission Giving – the bulk of the church's mission giving is a rental subsidy to non-profit tenants. It costs the church \$9.59 per square foot to run the building; we charge users \$3.29 per square foot. Combined with other elements, the total amount of the church's financial contribution to mission giving is over \$245,000.

From a projected deficit of \$64,000 in the budget approved at last year's annual meeting, we have a projected deficit of somewhere around \$6,000 at the end of this fiscal year.

John reviewed the assumptions the Trustees used to develop the proposed budget for FY14. In light of several requests and needs and on the theory that, when planning a budget "nobody gets everything, but everybody gets something," the Trustees:

- Developed a 5-year major maintenance plan which would cost \$180,000. John observed that a realistic major maintenance budget would be around \$50,000/year. The two crucial immediate items are (1) replacing the roof on the generator room and (2) installing commercial surge protection.
- Recommend giving the 1.5% COLA to all staff; increasing CE by \$1,200 to cover OWL training; increasing Music by \$1000; increasing the Board of Social Witness budget by \$1000; filling the vacant position of Minister of Care and Community with a half-time position with no benefits; reducing the OCWM contribution (while adhering to constitutional requirements); and increasing major maintenance by \$10,000 to \$23,000 which would allow CCC to do to what is absolutely critical. The proposed budget projects a net deficit of 5% (\$47,000).

Combining pledges to the operating budget with capital campaign pledges, income is projected to be \$800,000, the largest amount in CCC's history.

John moved the budget as proposed by the Board of Trustees be adopted. Marilyn Hall seconded the motion.

Discussion: It was pointed out that there is a mythology to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). The bulk of monies received by the denomination through OCWM is used for salaries of staff who support the mission and work of the entire United Church of Christ. David Smock observed that "By far the largest components under the Mission category in the budget are for OCWM and Potomac Association. But this isn't mission. This is primarily to pay salaries of UCC staff at the Association and national levels." Sue Bratten, co-chair of the Board for Social Witness, stated that CCC's budget for mission giving is not keeping up with the church's previous support of national and international missions.

In response to a question about whether and why the church is comfortable with passing a deficit budget, John pointed out that (1) CCC has savings; (2) giving is increasing; and (3) the church has

passed deficit budgets consistently and this is the first year in which we've actually ended with a deficit.

In response to a member's noting the line item for child care under the Board for Church life is not funded, John stated that if the Board for Church Life spends the same amount on child care this year as it did last year, no-one would object to a sum of \$250.

A member reminded the Trustees that, traditionally, the budget documents given to the members included a detailed spreadsheet on staff compensation. Noting the omission in this year's budget submission to the congregation, the member requested that the Board of Trustees provide that information.

A member asked a parliamentary question about whether proxy votes are permitted, and the Parliamentarian responded 'no.'

On a voice vote, the motion to approve the budget passed with one 'nay.'

Karen passed the gavel to the new Moderator, Allen Hill. After presenting Karen with a gift of thanks and expressing thanks for her service as Moderator, Allen adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Walters, Church Clerk