



NewsNotes

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

Volume 62 – Number 17 December 12, 2006



CCC's Rich Music Traditions Evoke the Joy and Solemnity of the Season on Christmas Sunday & Christmas Eve



At identical services at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Sunday, December 17th, Bruce Eicher, guest organist (and former teacher of Nae Pearson at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore); Tom Jones, percussion; and John Spirtas, tympani, join the Chancel Choir in presenting the *Gloria* of well-known English composer, John Rutter. *Gloria*, a concert work, despite the use of a religious text, was commissioned by the Voices of Mel Olson and first performed in Omaha, Nebraska in 1974. The words come from the second section (the Hymn of Praise) of the Ordinary of the Mass, which in the liturgy follows the 'Kyrie'. The familiar opening words are those of the angels proclaiming the birth of Jesus, as found in the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. Rutter's setting is based largely on one of the Gregorian chants with which the text is associated. He describes the three movements as 'roughly corresponding to traditional symphonic structure', the mood of the sections being respectively 'exalted, devotional and jubilant by turns'. The use of organ, tympani, and percussion makes for plenty of joyful exuberance in the outer movements and yet also for a hauntingly ethereal middle section.

Music on Christmas Eve at the 9:00 PM Service will be modeled after the annual Service of Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge. First held on Christmas Eve 1918, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was planned by Eric Milner-White, newly appointed Dean of King's, whose experience as an army chaplain had convinced him the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn '*Once in Royal David's City*'. The service will feature familiar carols sung by the congregation as well as anthems for the Christmas season sung by the choir and soloists, accompanied by organ and string orchestra. This service of word and sacred music leads us to celebrate the solemnity, the simplicity, and the joy of the season.

At the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service ("The *Spontaneous* Christmas Pageant"), a CCC orchestra directed by Jane Weber will play. Brass, woodwind and string instrumentalists of all ages from among the congregation traditionally play for this service which attracts people from all generations.
Nae Pearson, Director of Music

Christmas Fund Offering To Be Collected on December 17

The annual Christmas Fund offering, one of four UCC Special Mission Offerings, will be collected on Sunday, December 17, at all services. The original, and a continuing, purpose of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance to retired and low-income clergy and lay employees of the UCC. Since its inception as the Veterans of the Cross offering, the fund has assisted more than 1,400 families in the form of grants or continued assistance for health and pension (*cont. on p. 2*)

Deadline for the next *News Notes* is Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 5:00 PM.
Send copy to Jackie Walters at jjwalters.SilverSpring@verizon.net, phone (301) 565-3197, or place copy in *News Notes* box in the church office.



Spotlight On ~
NewsNotes' New Look & Purpose

NewsNotes Acquires New Look and Purpose

If you received *NewsNotes* electronically, you . . .

- (a) Would have received the Advent issue the day before Thanksgiving instead of a week or more later;
- (b) Would be able to print it on 8.5 x 11 paper AND see *color* graphics;
- (c) Would see exactly the same issue as those getting it by mail, only earlier;
- (d) Would save CCC postage and the cost of paper;
- (e) All of the above.

The correct answer is (e). *NewsNotes* is now posted on CCC's web site in PDF format, which means that the electronic and paper versions are identical – except that color graphics are indeed in color. Along with a new look, *NewsNotes* is moving towards, well, 'news.' A church the size and busyness of CCC needs a medium that conveys substantive (which ≠ long) news – the *why* behind the *what*. While calendar events will still be published (in "Happenings" on the last page), articles will feature more in-depth profiles of programs and people and will report news of importance to the whole Church. With few exceptions, *NewsNotes* is published monthly with deadlines the Wednesday following the Executive Council's monthly meeting so the Council can report news of its deliberations and decisions in a timely manner. Staff will contribute regularly. Boards and committees should see *NewsNotes* as a vehicle for marketing their programs, praising volunteers, describing their mission, and conveying news of important decisions that affect the membership.

Send your comments – positive and negative – to Jackie Walters, Editor: jjwalters.silverspring@verizon.net

Christmas Fund Offering – (*cont. from p. 1*) premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas gift checks to annuitants. This year, CCC will allocate half of the Christmas Fund receipts to the UCC for these purposes. Another one-fourth will go to the Capital Area Food Bank, which provides food to distribution centers in the metropolitan area. The remaining quarter will benefit Mbare Church, our partner church in Harare, Zimbabwe, and the greater United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. *Jean Narayanan for the Board for Social Witness*

Personnel Committee Announces Performance, Development and Partnership Process for CCC Staff

The Personnel Committee has developed a Performance, Development and Partnership (PDP) process for CCC staff that is designed to align each staff member's work with CCC's strategic direction, to encourage staff ownership for their own development, and to manage expectations between the staff and congregation. Consistent with the Committee's charter, the Committee designed the program to meet the needs of the professional staff and to improve communication between the staff and members of the Committee. To facilitate ongoing feedback on staff performance and hence improve staff development and morale, the process provides for periodic communication and assigns each CCC professional staff member a liaison from the Personnel Committee. For 2006-2007, these assignments are:

<u>Personnel Committee</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Bud Dennie -----	Jim Todhunter
Dave Ackerman -----	Sandy Dodson
Tom Gustafson -----	Sarah Anders
Lynn White -----	Nae Pearson
Jim Brown -----	Dianne Abraham

If you have any words of praise or concerns or problems with staff personnel matters, please see or call any one of the above Personnel Committee members. *Bud Dennie, Chair, Personnel Committee*

Thank You ~~~

Many thanks to all of our CCC friends who have kept our family in their thoughts and prayers over the past few years during Betty's illness. And very special thanks for all the care and support you have given us in the weeks since Betty's death. We feel so fortunate to be part of such a caring church family. *Chet & Barbara Callander*

We wish to thank all of the wonderful people of CCC for their support and prayers on the recent loss of our son, Scott. Jim and Sandy for their special communion with us; Sarah Anders for the chicken soup with matzo balls; Tina Lincoln for a delicious meal upon our return from Chicago; flowers from the Deacons and a multitude of cards and messages from so many of you. CCC is truly a caring community. Thanks to all with Love, *Jack and Iona Hiland*

Many thanks to all who have inquired about my health and that of my family. My back is much better and I am mobile again, allowing me to resume some of my normal activities. If there is a blessing in all of this, it is the many kindnesses that have been extended to me and my family from the CCC community. We are blessed indeed. *Natalie Foster and family*

Ooops!!! Black Coat

I mistakenly picked up a black coat with a hood on Sunday, October 29th that looked just like mine. Because it was a nice day outside, I didn't put it on until later in the week. Ooops!! Not mine. That coat is now in the closet opposite the office. So if you find mine in your closet, just return it to the church. Sorry



Mix up

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Love

Gifts of Abundance at the Holidays ~~

Joy

Abundance is the Stewardship theme for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons. We as a congregation have plenty to be thankful for. It is easy to get swept away by the overflowing commercial aspect of the holidays and to forget the true meaning of the Season. However, we are blessed with God's gift of Jesus during Christmas and the joy it brings to us. The Board of Stewardship encourages everyone to share their gifts of love in abundance, as there is a scarcity in the world with people struggling to find a hot meal or roof over their head. As suggested by CCC's Stewards of the Earth, during the holiday season you may choose to give of your time, skill or experience; make a donation to a group in need on behalf of someone special; or make a gift with your own hands. The quantity or amount of the gift is irrelevant, but the simple act of giving provides an abundance of love. On behalf of the Board of Stewardship, we wish you a Merry Christmas, and may this Season be filled with an abundance of peace, love and joy. *Gregg Brown for the Board of Stewardship*



~~ May I Inspire Your Story of Belonging & Connection



What makes you feel connected to CCC? The Stewardship theme for January and February is "Belonging." The Stewardship Board invites volunteers to write an article for *NewsNotes* or to speak at a worship service to share what makes you 'feel connected' to Christ Congregational Church. Many of us give our time and talents to the church community and its missions, and we want to share your story about what you enjoy doing and feel is rewarding to you at CCC. Whether you belong to a small group, help at Shepherd's Table, serve on a board or committee, sang in *Godspell* or sing in a choir, lead or participate in a class or program -- we would love to hear from you! We are interested in stories from all ages about what you love doing at CCC. If you can contribute, please contact either Alison Petersen (301-593-1597 or alpeters@allegisgroup.com) or Aldene Ault (medault@comcast.net or 301-593-2438).

Alison Petersen for the Board of Stewardship

Christ Congregational Church
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Mailed December 12, 2006

HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER)

Sat., Dec. 16 – Little People Visit Springvale Terrace Contact: Sandy Dodson

Sat., Dec. 16 -- Sisters for Sisters will meet at 1:30 p.m. for a Christmas Party at the home of Sarah Anders, 6 Rock Falls Ct. Rockville, MD. Last names from A to L, RSVP to Nancy Kosinski, and last names from L to Z, RSVP to June Leonard. Bring a "White Elephant" gift to exchange. We will car-pool from the Church.

Sun., Dec. 17 – Identical Services at 9 & 11 a.m.
All-Church Christmas Caroling – 5:45 p.m. (following 5 p.m. worship – meet at the Church for music & directions; return for hot chocolate!)

Tues., Dec. 19 – Contemplative Prayer – *Praying with Movement* -- 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve
9 a.m. – Service of Community & Sacrament – Meeting Room
10:30 a.m. – Worship – Rev. James A. Todhunter in the pulpit
5 p.m. – Multi-ages service – “The Spontaneous Christmas Pageant”
9 pm. – Service of Lessons & Carols – Reception following

Mon., Dec. 25 – Christmas Day ~~ Merry Christmas!

Tues., Dec. 26 – Church office is closed.

Sun., Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve
9 a.m. – Service of Community & Sacrament – Meeting Room
10:30 a.m. – Worship – Rev. Sandy Dodson in the pulpit (NO church school)
NO 5 p.m. service this evening – **Happy New Year!**

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UCC**

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Rev. James A. Todhunter,
Senior Minister; Rev. Sandra
K. Dodson, Associate Minister;
Nae Pearson, Director of
Music; Sarah Anders, Director
of Senior Adult Programming;
Vicki Kemper, Parish Intern

At CCC, we honor and celebrate
people of all races, cultures,
ages, abilities and sexual
orientation.

www.christ-ucc.org