



# NewsNotes

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

Volume 63 – Number 11

October 16, 2007

## Reverend Susan A. Henderson Begins Her Interim Pastorate

Rev. Susan A. Henderson wanted our first moment in community to be one of shared worship, and she achieved her goal in her first service at CCC on October 7. Starting her interim pastorate on October 1, Susan spent her first week meeting people and acquainting herself with the ministry and mission of our church, but her goal was for us to begin as a worshipping community. Coincidentally, the lectionary text, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, was Susan's ordination text. She spoke

about what it means to pass faith from one generation to the next. The fourth graders' receiving their Bibles is one way of preparing children to learn about their faith, and, in a telephone interview, Susan remarked that it is important to continue a vibrant program for children in which they can learn and grow in faith. Susan's main goal for the interim period is to maintain a strong ministry while we do what is necessary to prepare ourselves for the next called senior minister.

## September 23<sup>rd</sup> Town Hall Meeting Looks to Future

Looking positively at the challenges the near future holds for CCC was the theme of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Town Hall meeting. Trustee Martha Krieger told the gripping story of the September 14 auction of the Virgil Williams painting. Rick Sniffin, chair of the Retreat House Task Force, reported that the unexpected result of the painting's sale ensures a solid basis for doing the work the house needs the right way. Trustees have approved hiring a local West Virginia architect familiar with local code requirements to conduct a feasibility study for the current house.

Gregg Brown, co-chair of the Board for Stewardship, reviewed this year's stewardship campaign. Sensing donor fatigue after several capital campaigns as well as uncertainty entering a time of transition, the Board focused on the themes of abundance, gratitude and belonging and set a goal of 100% participation for time, talent and treasure. Although the campaign fell short by \$34,000 and an unspecified percentage of time and talent pledging, the Board concluded that the amount pledged for 2007-08 reflects what people believe they can do and decided not to conduct a follow-up campaign.

Given that information, the Board of Trustees asked staff and boards and committees to work within reduced budgets for the upcoming year. Trustee chair Tim White reviewed those new figures. Staff compensation (*Cont. on p. 3*)

## Archie's Gift

Many of us fondly remember our long-time custodian, Archie Freeman, who passed away in July 2006. Archie's love for CCC manifested itself in many gifts to us over his life-time: vacuuming and mopping floors, cleaning up spills, dusting the pews, ushering with dignity and greeting each of us with his most engaging smile. Archie's gifts are still coming. Recently CCC received a bequest from his estate, a check of \$7,308.60, which has been credited to the CCC Endowment Fund. The Planned Giving Committee gratefully acknowledges the gift, and has directed Treasurer Dan Pence to invest it in the United Church Foundation (UCF) Balanced Fund so it can continue growing. Thank you, Archie from all of us!

*Planned Giving Committee*

Deadline for the next *News Notes* is Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 5:00 PM.

Send copy to Jackie Walters at [jjwalters.SilverSpring@verizon.net](mailto:jjwalters.SilverSpring@verizon.net) or place in *News Notes* box in the office.



**Spotlight On ~  
Volunteers Who Make CCC  
Work ~~ Flowers**

Every week, volunteers prepare the sanctuary for Sunday worship. Jane Martin fills the candles with oil and ensures every pew is clean and neat. CCC is fortunate in that most Sundays, the altar flowers are donated by members and friends. When there is no donation, the Sanctuary Committee uses one of the silk flower arrangements it has purchased.

Committee members make arrangements for the lobby and the office, care for the objects that beautify our worship space, and make bouquets from the altar flowers for the Deacons to deliver to CCC members who are ill, bereaved, or shut-in. At Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, committee members arrange seasonal displays of harvest fruits, poinsettias, and lilies on the chancel table. For special, all-church occasions, members do the floral arrangements and table decorations.

Flowers add texture and visual beauty to Sunday's worship. It's easy to make your donation of flowers by signing up on the flower calendar outside the lobby kitchenette. A member of the Sanctuary Committee reminds you of your donation, and you order from the florist of your choice.



If you are seeking a creative outlet, the Sanctuary Committee provides opportunities to serve in worship and to bring beauty to others through short-term time commitments of one's choosing. It meets 2-3 times a year to plan and to decorate for the season. Call Joanne Hollcroft or talk with someone carrying flowers on a Sunday to find out more.

*Editor's Note:* This is the first in a series celebrating the behind-the-scenes volunteers that make CCC work. When you come for worship or a special event – wedding, memorial service, concert, etc. – your church is clean, beautiful, hospitable, and in good working order because of the unseen and unsung volunteers like you who make CCC work.

### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities Kicked Off October 14

Under the leadership of Jim Conklin and Terry Strand, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders kicked off their program year with pizza and bowling at White Oak Lanes. Future plans include baking cookies for shut-ins and CCC deployed military in November and learning about Chanukah and Ramadan in December. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month.

In 2008, the group will explore several "life issues" with age-appropriate activities. January's program on communication and making difficult decisions dovetails with the church school curriculum and features games, role-playing and discussion. On Feb. 10, 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents will be invited to attend a screening of the film, *That's a Family*, to introduce the 2008-09 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade OWL (Our Whole Lives) program. March and April feature programs on anti-racism and respecting those who are different and the environment and Earth Day. The year concludes with another trip to the bowling alley for pizza and bowling on May 11.

A letter was mailed to parents of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in early October. If you did not receive a letter or if you are new to CCC (visitor or member) and would like your child to participate, you may request a copy from the church office. Parents or other CCC members who would like to plan additional events for children in this age group may contact Sandy Dodson. For questions and suggestions, call Jim Conklin at 301-587-6210 or Terry Strand at 301-942-8883.

## **Service and**

It's time to shake the dust off your walking shoes! On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, CCC youth will participate in a mini-walk to benefit the CCC, a charter member of SSIHC, supports Montgomery County one family at a time. If you can, Recreation Center (10200 Sligo Creek Parkway) from 2-4 p.m. board). If you prefer to sponsor a walker, please contact Sallie [salholmes@juno.com](mailto:salholmes@juno.com).



On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, CCC youth will participate in a mini-walk to benefit the Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition. its mission to end homelessness in please join CCC youth at the Sligo-Dennis (registration forms are on the bulletin or Paul Holmes at 301/593-6558 or

Service (Cont. from p. 2) The Referral & Service Committee organizes assistance for church members during times of short-term crisis and need. The committee is compiling a list of men and women to call on periodically. Can you make a casserole? Give someone a ride to a physical therapy appointment? Bring a plate of brownies to a memorial reception? If “yes,” fill out the questionnaire below and return it to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Peterson at (301) 589-1080, [sjgab@starpower.net](mailto:sjgab@starpower.net). You are needed!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to:

- 1) prepare food for a family/individual after an illness or bereavement? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- 2) deliver food to a family/individual? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- 3) prepare food for a memorial service reception? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- 4) assist with organizing, setting up, serving and/or cleaning up at a reception? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- 5) drive CCC members to medical appointments? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes

## Social Witness

Two years ago, the Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition asked CCC to sponsor a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina. We completely furnished an apartment, provided gift cards, and offered other support to Greg Duroncelay, his fiancée, Kian, and his brother, Mike. The family was young and proud, and while appreciative of all we did for them, it was difficult for them to ask for help. After the initial set-up and a few follow-up visits, our contact became less frequent. Through SSIHC, we learned that Mike went to Houston to join his mother, and Greg and Kian returned to New Orleans. Last month, we heard from Greg, who told us that Mike -- who was a terrific student, but really missed his home -- is back and enrolled at Howard University. Greg and Kian also decided to come back and plan to settle a little further out where rents are more affordable. Greg, who is still driving a truck, cited a very high crime rate in saying the New Orleans they returned to was not what they were hoping for. Please keep Greg, Kian, and Mike -- along with all those who continue to rebuild their lives after Katrina -- in your prayers. *Ted and Natalie Foster, Holly Brooks, Co-chairs, Katrina family support team*

Town Hall Meeting (Cont. from p. 1) was unaffected except that the incoming interim senior minister’s salary will be less than Jim’s due to fewer years in the profession and her election to decline health benefits since she is covered by her husband’s plan. Every other aspect of the operating budget – Social Witness, program and facilities – has been reduced to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the year. Because the new budget is significantly changed from what the congregation adopted at the Annual Meeting in June, the congregation will need to vote on the revised budget at a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 21.

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SATURDAY ~~ OCTOBER 27 ~~ ALL AGES

5:30 – Scarecrow Making on the Playground

6:30 – Halloween Party – Social Hall

7:30 – All Hallow’s Eve Organ Concert – Sanctuary



All ages are invited to come in costume! There will be games, crafts, treats, parade, and lots of fun!

To help, contact Stephanie Fitzpatrick, at 301-590-9282 or email [fitzpatrickstephanie@yahoo.com](mailto:fitzpatrickstephanie@yahoo.com).

**Christ Congregational Church  
9525 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20901**

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Mailed October 16, 2007

**HAPPENINGS IN October & November**

**Fri., Oct. 19 – Parents’ Night Out – 6:30 p.m.** ~~ cooperative babysitting program for parents every third Friday. Contact: Glenda Neal. Sign up on Church Life bulletin board.

**Sun., Oct. 21 – Congregational Meeting – Vote on Revised Budget for FY2008-08 – following the 10:30 service of worship**

**Sat., Oct. 27 – 5:30 -- Scarecrow Making; 6:30 – Halloween Party; 7:30 – Halloween Organ Concert.** Games, crafts, costume parade, mummy wrap, refreshments – all ages!

**Sun., Oct. 28 – Red Cross Blood Drive – 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Social Hall** ~~ Our goal is 30 units of blood. Donors provided 27 units in August, our best to date. This is the last drive for the year. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or sign up in the lobby to schedule your donation. Walk-ins welcome. Stay healthy and keep your iron level up. Dick Meyer: 301-445-1866.

**Sun., Oct. 28 – Book Group – 7 p.m.** ~~ *All Aunt Hagar's Children*, 14 stories set in Washington, DC, by Ernest P. Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning African-American author. Home of Marilyn and Dick Meyer. All are welcome.

**Sat., Nov. 3 & Sun., Nov. 4 – Punkin’ Chunkin’ in Delaware** ~~ CCC’s Middle-School Youth have a trebuchet entered in the competition: [www.punkinchunkin.com](http://www.punkinchunkin.com)

**Fri., Nov. 9 – Sun., Nov. 11 – Retreat House Closing Work Retreat** ~~ Sign up in the lobby. All ages and skill levels welcome. Contact: Cory Gray

**Sat., Nov. 10 – 8:30-10 a.m. – CCC Women’s Second Saturday** ~~ Panera (Georgia & Colesville)

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH UCC**

**Phone:  
301-585-8010**

**Event Line:  
301-585-4640, ext. 333**

**Email:  
[cccoffice@christ-ucc.org](mailto:cccoffice@christ-ucc.org)**

Rev. Susan A. Henderson,  
Interim Senior Minister;  
Rev. Sandra K. Dodson,  
Associate Minister; Nae  
Pearson, Director of Music;  
Sarah Anders, Director of  
Senior Adult Programming;  
Dianne Abraham, Church  
Administrator

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

[www.christ-ucc.org](http://www.christ-ucc.org)