

ANNUAL REPORT

2008 - 2009



The 143rd Annual Meeting of the
Community Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Benicia, California

Community Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Benicia, California

ANNUAL REPORT
2008 – 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2008-2009	1
Pastor's Report	3
Music Ministry	5
Youth and Children's Music Program	7
Director of Youth Ministries	8
Minister in Training	9
Moderator	11
Vice Moderator	12
Clerk	13
Financial Secretary	15
Treasurer	16
Building & Grounds	19
Christian Education	21
Congregational Care	22
Fellowship	23
Social Outreach	25
Stewardship	26
Welcome	27
Worship	28
Historical Archives	30
Holiday House	31
Music Committee	32
Nominating Committee Slate 2009/2010	33
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee	34
Weekend in the Trees	35
LEADERSHIP TEAM 2009-2010	37

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2008-2009

STAFF

Pastor
Minister of Music
Director of Youth Ministries
Minister in Training
Church Secretary

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Dr. Barbara Hamm
Jon Dodson
Jon Dodson
Maggie Hart

OFFICERS

Moderator
Vice-Moderator
Church Clerk
Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Larry Schaffer
Carl Mason
Mickey Scott
Eileen Eubank
Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry
Christian Education Ministry
Congregational Care
Fellowship
Social Outreach Ministry
Stewardship Ministry
Welcome and Growth
Worship Ministry

Greg Cox
Leslie Lessenger
Shelby Riddle
Allison Stamm-Kirk
Sarah Thompson
Kathleen Kravets & Shelby Riddle
Karen Hanna
Priscilla Lane & Gail Mason

Member-At-Large
Member-At-Large

Debbie Conway
Tim Mautz



Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

It's never too late to have a happy church experience. Come Share Our Joy!

Community Congregational has a contagious joy about it these days. It has been another "joy" filled year! Some might choose the word "spirit-filled" or perhaps "abundant". In July we started our year off with another fabulous Fourth of July celebration. In August we, as community, witnessed and blessed and legally married Janet & Penny. Also in August we had a Hymn Sing with the



Presbyterians. Then we started September with "Weekend In The Trees", what a fabulous retreat for our church. This was followed by "Home Coming" Sunday which was September 14th, a glorious day with our choir back in their seats, their voices filling our church, the children back in school, friends from all over returning home to celebrate and share our joy. On that "Home Coming" Sunday we entered into a covenant with our Minister in Training, Jonathan Dodson, a blessing to us all. In October we revisited a long-standing tradition in this faith community - a Harvest Festival - that was lively and joy filled. The weeks that followed included a lively Celtic concert, a Thanksgiving feast, and an Advent that was full of drama with the arrival of not one, but two, baby Jesus's. Generous giving was evident with backpacks, treats for troops, CAC present-giving, bunnies everywhere for Foster a

on, the giving each of you do day in and day out. We have a freshly painted Fellowship Hall, a lively Holiday House that celebrated its 50th Anniversary at a luncheon, and not one, but two service auctions.



CCCUCC Benicia is full of life that is vibrant and giving. We started 2009 by celebrating & honoring Arloine Stoner who chose to move closer to her daughters. She received a life time achievement award from a grateful congregation.

In January I went into the hospital for a simple outpatient procedure; all did not go as expected. I was unable to return to you for over three months. As your pastor, this was a trying time for me and my family. I know it was trying for the congregation as well, but all pulled together and did amazing work without me. I am eternally grateful for Larry Schaffer's leadership during this difficult time. I am also grateful to the other fine leaders in our Church Council and for the many who pitched in and took care of all the big and little things it takes to be church. I am also grateful for the pastoral leadership you received from our Minister in Training, Jon Dodson, Marian Conning, Rev. Faune Towery, and Rev. Wr'neer Wilcox who took on the role of "replacement pastor" while I recovered.

On May 10th I was blessed to return part-time to the church and be back among my church folk. In my message on that day I told the congregation that I believe that Community Congregational "prayed me home." I will be forever grateful. We have so much ahead of us; so much more God has called us to do together. We have once again been reminded of the strength, passion, faithfulness, and joy that permeate the DNA of this congregation and staff. The future looks hopeful and engaging.



We have also witnessed with interest — okay, with some panic — an economic hurricane that has stormed across the entire globe. What a privilege it has been to process this strangeness together in our sanctuary, our faith studies and our fellowship time.



This last year has been a wonder-filled time. The diversity, imagination, sense of humor, and intellectual range of this congregation becomes so obvious and is such a wonderful source of strength and comfort. Amidst all the economic upheaval of 2008-2009, Community Congregational members remained faithful and generous, ensuring that the ministries of the church will continue uninterrupted.

Not long ago I was visiting with some of my dear clergy colleagues. We talked about how often, as clergy, we find ourselves caught up in trying to articulate reasons people should make church a priority. There are churches in which clergy feel their number one job is to convince folks to come. I gratefully acknowledged that this is not necessary at CCCUCC. Our focus here is not on convincing people why they should come, but on being a church to which people want to come, inviting people to “Come Share Our Joy” and reminding them “It’s Never Too Late to have a Happy Church Experience.”

Be the Church was a consistent theme this past year. As you thumb through this 2008-2009 annual report, you will see on every page reasons to believe, reasons to hope, reasons to serve, reasons to sing, and reasons to love.

We are moving into 2009-2010 in strength. We are an engaged, faithful people with many gifts and graces, but much more importantly, we are claimed, called, and sent by a Still-Speaking God who wants us to share God’s abundant love for all.

With Many Blessings and Much Gratitude,
Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Renie Stamm-Kirk, Pastor



Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm

THE CITY OF GOD

The Sanctuary Choir sang Dan Schutte's "City of God" on Homecoming Sunday last fall. Taken from the theme of Weekend in the Trees, it became CCC's theme for the entire fall. What does it mean to be THE CITY OF GOD? Workshop participants at WITT suggested a number of answers to that question, among them unity, joy, caring, peace, community, utopia. We are all a part of God's kingdom, and where two or three of us are gathered together in God's name, God dwells among us. While we can't claim to be a utopia here at CCC, we are genuinely striving to be a community in which people care for each other and in which joy abounds.



I think it's also reasonable as well as biblical to say that the City of God is filled with music. Luke tells us that the birth of Jesus was accompanied by heavenly hosts singing "Glory to God"; John in Revelation depicts the elders gathered around the throne of God, joining with all the creatures of earth singing "Holy, Holy, Holy"; the Psalmist exhorts us many times to "sing a new song," an injunction we take seriously here at CCC! Our Sanctuary Choir rehearsed and presented a number of new anthems this year, as did the Celebration Singers and the Cherubs. Our instrumental ensemble played a mix of familiar songs, Taizé pieces, and newer, contemporary selections for gathering music before worship.

And we didn't neglect the old favorites: the Christmas Orchestra played the familiar and well-loved carols; the Blackie duo performed those wonderfully haunting Appalachian tunes and pieces of Americana on the hammered dulcimer and fiddle; the jazz combo played a mix of spirituals, praise songs, and lively jazz pieces. Last July when Chris Francis led a drum circle, we also sang songs of Latin and African provenance, which lend themselves to some serious drumming! We heard a mix of the old and the new from both vocal and instrumental soloists, with some instruments—trumpet, clarinet, hammered dulcimer, bass, guitar, and even handbells—at times accompanying either the Sanctuary Choir or the Celebration Singers.

Some of our instrumentalists participated in the Celtic Concert held as part of our Concert Series (the fifth year of our series), while just about everybody in the church who sings or plays anything had a role in last December's Christmas Concert! Our jazz combo presented a varied repertoire at several concerts at both Merrill Gardens in Vallejo. And our handbell choir and newest group, The Rolling Tones, has played several times for worship and accompanied the Sanctuary Choir twice. I want to express my deep gratitude to all the people represented above who have given of their talents to making all the music here at CCC. And I want to mention in particular Leslie Blackie for her work with the youth and children, and Leslie Lessenger for starting and directing the handbell group.



Lastly, I want to mention congregational singing and hymns. We sing a wide range of music here—hymns from the church's heritage of two millennia, old gospel hymns, global songs, and contemporary hymns and choruses. This past year we have introduced a number of the shorter pieces in gathering music as preparation for singing them in worship. One of the new hymns we sang was my "Awake! Awake, O People!" which grew out of that WITT workshop and which includes a number of the qualities defined by participants as belonging to the City of God. That Pastor Renie chose to use this hymn on her first Sunday back in the pulpit this spring was very moving to me. It was also sung at the UCC Annual Meeting at Asilomar in May. It is copied at the end of this report, and you can also listen to it on the CCC website.

Your Minister of Music has been working diligently to create new hymns and songs for the church to sing. Five of my pieces have been included in the new UCC praise hymnal, *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, which was introduced at Synod in Grand Rapids this June; one of them, "Wherever You Go," was sung the opening night of Synod. I am blessed beyond measure as my work begins to make its way into the hymnody of the church both here at CCC and farther afield. I pray that the church's song will continue to thrive and that my work will bless the church of our time as well as that of the future.

Awake! Awake, O People!

♩ = 60
Unison Fm Bb Ab/C Db Eb Fm

A - wake! A-wake, O People! The day is now at hand when

Fm Bb Ab/C Db Eb Fm *Fine*

we will build the Cit - y of God and peace will bless the land.

1. God
 2. God
 3. God

Ab Eb C/E Fm C

calls us to build the cit - y, a ref - uge for the poor, a
 calls us to build the cit - y, where love and care are shown, where
 calls us to build the cit - y, where two or three are there, who

Db Eb/G Ab Fm Db Bbm C *D.C.*

cit - y of peace and jus - tice, where want is felt no more.
 deeds fol - low words of kind - ness and make God's pres - ence known.
 come, seek - ing grace and mer - cy, who go, God's love to share.

CITY OF GOD

8.6.8.6. Ref.

WORDS and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm © 2008

This hymn grew out of a workshop I did in September 2008 at my church's annual retreat. Based on Saint Augustine's *The City of God*, the workshop elicited from participants a list of qualities, many of them appearing in my text, that they thought would necessarily be contained in such a city, one which is not just a future construct but a present and continually emerging reality. The City of God was our church's theme during the fall of 2008. Isaiah 60-62, 65:17-25; Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 11:10; Revelation 21:9-22:5

Youth and Children's Music Program

Leslie M. Blackie



The Cherub Choir (children's choir) and Celebration Singers (Youth Choir) rehearsed every other Sunday throughout the fall and during early spring. Celebration Singers rehearsed the 1st and 3rd Sundays for 45 minutes to 1 hour, and the Cherubs rehearsed the 2nd and 4th Sundays for 20- 30 minutes. This year we rehearsed in the sanctuary to help the Cherubs be more comfortable singing in the space that they would sing in during worship service. The youth really liked rehearsing in the choir loft and singing in the sanctuary too – it made them feel a bit more official than sitting in chairs around the piano in the Christian Education building.

The Cherub Choir sang in worship service in November and December, and on Mother's Day. The Celebration Singers sang in worship service in September, October, November, twice in December, January, Palm Sunday and Easter in April and in May. In addition the combined choirs sang in the church Christmas Concert on December 13 and at the Mormon Church (in front of a packed house) as part of a three-church celebration of music. At both of the December performances they sang three numbers. Both of the choirs were also involved with the family Christmas Eve service and sang a finale number ("This Night We Pray") that Stuart and Lindsay found and we taught to the children/youth the Sunday before the Christmas pageant. All together the Celebration Singers performed 12 different anthems during the year and worked on four more and the Cherubs sang four different anthems.

We had several singers sing in multiple choirs. Katie Stamm-Kirk and Audrey Benton sang with both the Cherub Choir and Celebration Singers and Lindsay Blackie, who was assistant director for the Cherub Choir, sang with the Celebration Singers and also sang with the Sanctuary Choir. This illustrates the "pipeline" effect that can occur with having choirs for different age groups but allowing the flexibility of differing abilities as well. We had some new members join the choirs – Asha and Kieran Cooper sang with us starting in December, and there was some discussion of the older youth joining the Sanctuary choir, but it didn't work out due to the complexity of the youths' schedules. Lydia Benton sang with the Cherubs and occasionally joined in with the Celebration Singers. Jennifer Diethelm and Natalie Parson helped out with the Cherub choir and also sang with the Celebration singers and a couple of "women and girls choir" numbers too.

I hope that next year we can see the addition of the Boys and Men Ensemble in the worship services since we have Kieran Cooper and Stuart Blackie as altos/high tenors; Christopher Hanna, Matthew Hanna, Adam Olm, Sam Olm, as tenors, could join Dean Gilman (tenor) and Larry Schaffer (bass), now that the boys' voices have changed and will continue to develop. Another hope is that we will be able to combine efforts with the youth drama group to work on special events, like selections from the rock musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" or the rock opera "Rock Creation". Work on such an ambitious project would need to be started in the fall for a spring performance, as well as some additional recruiting – but it could be done, and, in my mind, is a logical extension of the youth music program.

Director of Youth Ministries

Jonathan Dodson

This has been an active year for the Youth Group at CCC. In the fall, the youth were split into the High School and Middle School youth groups. The Middle School youth group met every Sunday and the High School youth met every 2nd and 4th Sunday as a drama group.



On the third Sunday of the month, both groups came together for Wii Game Night, where they were encouraged to invite friends, play Wii games, and enjoy hanging out with adults from the congregation. The youth also participated in a lock-in at Santa Rosa UCC in October.



In late October the youth helped with the Harvest Festival and put on a pirate-themed haunted house. Then in November they took a trip to the Santa Rosa area to collect apples and then made Thanksgiving apple pies as a fundraiser for their snowboard trip in January. Over 12 youth participated in the snowboard trip. Thank



you to all the adults who helped drive and provide food!

The youth put on an Advent drama and an Easter drama series which was enjoyed greatly by the congregation.



For service, the youth continued to participate in church fellowship days, they presented our Tent of Hope for Darfur on the steps of the capitol in Sacramento in November, and helped make Easter bunny gifts for Foster-a-Dream.

I submitted my notification to vacate this position at CCCUCC in May so that I may

return to school full time and complete my studies at seminary.



In closing I want to lift up this church, all the volunteers who have spent their time and talents for the youth (especially Dale Olm, Leslie Blackie, Greg Cox, Debi Stanley,



John Hanna, and Karen Hanna!), and finally the youth themselves. This church is truly a community that knows children and youth are important!



Submitted in gratitude and with the peace of Christ.

Minister in Training

Jonathan Dodson

As the Minister-In-Training at CCC, I was welcomed in the fall by experiencing Weekend in the Trees. It was a time when all of us got to know each other better. I was immersed from that point on in all aspects of ministry. It was a joy to spend time hiking, singing, and relaxing with many of the members here, and in the process, to learn that church is family, something that has become evident throughout my time here at CCC!



I preached in worship once a month throughout the year, and helped prepare the bulletin by submitting gathering prayers, calls to worship, and many other elements. On Communion Sundays I assisted Rev. Renie in preparing the table and serving the elements. This year I experienced the joy of worship, which is so central to our congregation's life, along with the overflowing generosity shared at our fellowship hour.



I worked with many of the committees here at CCCUCC, learning about Budget and Finance, the Music Ministry, leading and participating in faith studies, teaching our confirmation students, and working with our Sunday School program. We did so many things together, from putting on the Harvest Festival to being involved with all the services during Holy week and Easter!

One of my work areas included the Social Outreach and Mission Committee. We worked with many non-profit agencies, such as Foster-a-Dream and their Easter Bunny project. We also took our "Tent of Hope" to the capitol steps in Sacramento and sent it on to the refugees in Darfur to be used as a schoolhouse. What we did this year not only transformed the lives of others around our community and the world, but it also made us thankful for what we have and humble to share that with others.

While working with the Congregational Care Committee and visiting members of our congregation, I fully witnessed the compassion of our congregation. Being asked to lead Marcia Stewart's memorial service was a humbling experience, and the outpouring of support this congregation showed was comforting to Marcia's family and friends. This congregation pulled together when Pastor Renie became ill, and supported each other as we continued to be a church of great compassion and welcome!

I want to thank everyone in the congregation for welcoming me as a part of our church family, and for providing nurturing support that has allowed me to see the potential in myself. Thank you especially to my MIT Committee: Susan Stofan, Rob Kravets, Graham Benton, and Pricilla Lane. This church and our experience together will always hold a dear and special place in my heart!



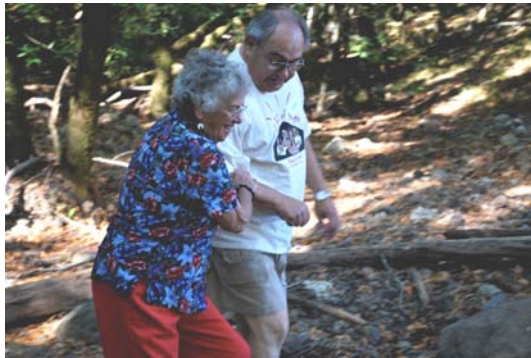
Moderator

Larry Schaffer

What a Church year.

We are alive. We started with a full Council. We had Co-Chairs. We continued our shift from being a few individuals or family-run church to a Council and a Committee-run church. Some in leadership have gone on vacation for a week to ten days, did not feel guilty, did not fret, and returned to learn we kept moving forward.

Yes, Rev. Renie became unexpectedly ill in late January, but each member stepped up until she returned full-time in June. Sunday church services continued as did other services this church provides to the congregation and community. Throughout the year average attendance increased, and even in this economy, average giving grew. Total membership also expanded our flock through two new member classes. We held on by holding each other in faith. Everyone stepped forward: congregants, Committees and Council alike. I would be remiss by not singling out the Worship Committee. They held our Sunday Services together and worked under weekly deadlines for the bulletin, pulpit supply, music program, service volunteers, AND sanctuary décor.



More members are signing up earlier to provide flowers, host or sponsor fellowship, and be ushers. Their service makes each Sunday morning welcoming and refreshing.

And fresh this year were Taizé services provided by Barbara Hamm, Dean Gilman and Shelby Riddle. Leslie Lessenger organized, procured, directed and led The Rolling Tones bell choir as part of Sunday services. Greg Cox, Saturday work parties, and individual volunteers have the church grounds alive with plantings in an array of shapes and colors, and Rev. Renie's "garden" completely

redone. The names I could mention are endless. Commitment is not. Thank you.

During the church year I willingly represented CCCUCC at every Bay Association (BA) Meeting and BA Ecclesiastical Council, and attended the NCV Conference at Asilomar as a delegate. At the 2009 Annual Gathering we received a 5 of 5 Award for meeting or exceeding giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, Neighbors in Need, Strengthening the Church, and UCC Share.

Our website and our monthly newsletter (*The Bridge*) are purported to be the best in the Bay Association, and perhaps in the Northern California-Nevada Conference!

On a personal note, my weekly meetings with Rev. Renie were the highlight of the past year. We shared and taught and guided each other in the service of this church. Next to choir rehearsals and Sunday anthems, I relished our time together, and will miss our special time together. Rev. Renie, thank you for the countless number of times that you made me look good, and also the Council. I love you.

Lamentations 3:23 "They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." And so it is ... a new church year ... new leadership in some positions ... but the constant is you and your faithfulness.

God loves you. And so do I.

Vice Moderator

Carl Mason

This year was dominated by Pastor Renie's illness. This required all members of the church to pull together both in prayer and deeds to ensure the church continued its operations, its spiritual life, and its caring for the congregational. As Vice Moderator my functions were limited to chairing the PPRC and participating as a member of the Budget Committee and Council.



I was amazed at our church's leadership, strength, and commitment. We provided for and cared for the needs of all members of the congregation, handling the daily needs of the operations of the church effectively.

The economic downturn experienced this year has resulted in several of our members losing their employment. We continue to hold these and other members in our prayers and hope for a recovery in the coming year.

Despite the setbacks of Renie's absence and the economic downturn, church vitality remains amazingly healthy. We have excelled in the care of our members in need, in outreach to the community, and in creating a

strong sense of community among our members. Even with the economic downturn, pledges from our stewardship campaign amazingly showed a slight increase over last year, and our financial stability continues to be sound.

Next year as Moderator, I hope, with God's help, to concentrate on our strengths and continue to grow a church that feeds our members' needs for a strong, caring community, for spiritual growth, and for social outreach.



Clerk

Mickey Scott

BIRTHS

None

DECEASED (Members)

Inga Childs	December 4, 2008
Marcia Stewart	February 8, 2009

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Inga Childs	February 7, 2009
Marcia Stewart	February 14, 2009

BAPTISMS

Stephanie Hayes	December 21, 2008
-----------------	-------------------

NEW MEMBERS**December 21, 2008**

Annette Cook,
Stephanie Hayes,
Cheryl Patterson,
Jane Robinson,
Nancy Schaffer
Kay Sirota

June 14, 2009

Brent Cooper
Reiko McDonald

BY CONFIRMATION**May 17, 2009**

Christopher Hanna
Matthew Hanna

WEDDINGS IN THE CHURCH

Penny Taylor & Janet Murrell	August 9, 2008 (Rev. Renie officiated)
------------------------------	--

Joanna Leslie Scrutchins & Kevin Allen Peter Altman, (nonmembers) (Pastor Ken Jensen officiating)	April 19, 2009
--	----------------

WEDDINGS REVEREND RENIE OFFICIATED ELSEWHERE

Peter Cataldo & Carlos Martinez (nonmembers)	September 20, 2008
--	--------------------

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS	113
New Members	10
Deceased Members	2
Baptisms	1

Member Join Date

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>DATE JOINED</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>DATE JOINED</u>
Osborn	Jean	1927	Read	Kristen	05/12/2002
Stoner	Arloine	1941	Smith	Jay	06/30/2002
Nelson	Helen	04/06/1950	Hamm	Barbara	06/30/2002
McGuirk	Cecilia	03/22/1951	Gilman	Nancy	07/20/2003
Mortensen	Eleanor	11/21/1954	Watson	Jim	07/20/2003
Burns	Karen	08/16/1955	Benton	Graham	01/25/2004
Estey	Frances & Vernon	03/25/1956	Thompson	Sarah	01/25/2004
Updyke	Karen	03/25/1958	Hicks	Rhonda	03/28/2004
Stone	Peg	10/25/1959	Terry	Paul	12/12/2004
Stephens	Carol	11/04/1964	Gilman	Dean	12/12/2004
Stofan	Susan	1974	Olm	Sam	05/15/2005
Hammonds	Maryo & Sam	09/15/1974	Blackie	Lindsay	05/15/2005
Atkins	Stephen & Nancy	03/28/1976	Terry	Samuel	05/15/2005
Martin	Pam	10/22/1978	Terry	Porter	05/15/2005
Osada	Carolyn	06/08/1980	Mautz	Tim	06/26/2005
Wingert	Hope	02/08/1981	Sindt	Sheryl & Curt	06/26/2005
Scrutchins	Marilyn	06/07/1981	Schaffer	Larry	05/07/2006
Lane	Priscilla	12/05/1982	Stamm-Kirk	Rev. Renie	06/03/2007
Cox	Kathy	06/05/1983	Riddle	Shelby	06/03/2007
Cox	Bob	06/05/1983	Olm	Adam	06/03/2007
Hutchins	Patricia	10/16/1983	Majors	Samantha	06/03/2007
Forcier	Gerry	1984	Parsons	Natalie	06/03/2007
Read	Keith & Laurie	02/17/1985	Diethelm	Jennifer	06/03/2007
Wong	Jan	11/10/1985	Diethelm	Janelle	06/03/2007
Cox	Betty	03/23/1986	Sass	Kelsey	06/03/2007
Sayles	Jackie	04/05/1987	Stamm-Kirk	Allison	12/02/2007
Oraboni	Larry	10/10/1993	Eubank	Eileen	12/02/2007
Hull	Chuck	03/03/1994	Hanna	Karen	12/02/2007
Huebner	John & Vreni	03/13/1994	Hanna	John	12/02/2007
Kravets	Rob & Kathleen	04/12/1998	Garrigues	Jeff	12/02/2007
Read	Robyn	05/31/1998	Munnely	Elizabeth	12/02/2007
Cox	Nolan	05/31/1998	Patterson	Mike	12/02/2007
Olm	Dale	09/27/1998	Lawrence	Jackie	12/02/2007
Francis	Chris	02/14/1999	Lawrence	Lynn	12/02/2007
Beeson	Rick	02/14/1999	McCown*	Larry	12/02/2007
Martinez	Lynn	04/25/1999	Stanley	Debi	06/01/2008
Conway	Debbie	04/25/1999	Stanley	Dale	06/01/2008
Mason	Carl & Gail	11/14/1999	Lessenger	Jim	06/01/2008
Murrell	Janet	11/14/1999	Lessenger	Leslie	06/01/2008
Taylor	Penny	11/14/1999	Scott	Mickey	06/01/2008
Thomas	Jett & Milly	01/16/2000	Cook	Annette	12/21/2008
Bunch	Rufus & Marcia	01/16/2000	Hayes	Stephanie	12/21/2008
Blackie	Jonathan & Leslie	07/30/2000	Paterson	Cheryl	12/21/2008
Tyree	Louise	11/05/2000	Robinson	Jane	12/21/2008
Betz	Stephan & Katherine	11/05/2000	Schaffer	Nancy	12/21/2008
McGraw	Cholé	02/25/2001	Sirota	Kay	12/21/2008
Cox	Greg	02/25/2001	Hanna	Christopher	05/17/2009
Cox	Daniel	05/12/2002	Hanna	Matthew	05/17/2009
Sindt	Cassidy	05/12/2002	Cooper	Brent	06/14/2009
Cox	Regina	05/12/2002	McDonald	Reiko	06/14/2009

* Associate Member

Financial Secretary

Eileen Eubank

Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ - Benicia, CA 94510
Contribution Analysis Report

	Account	Pledge for Period	Amount Pledged	Given for Period	Given YTD	Amount Prepaid	Given YTD + Prepaid
Summary	Pledges - Current Year	\$107,983.80	\$107,983.80	\$97,664.56	\$97,664.56	\$4,000.00	\$101,664.56
	Mission Pool	\$8,107.24	\$8,107.24	\$7,365.39	\$7,365.39	\$200.00	\$7,565.39
	Capital Imp / Bldg Fund	\$10,023.52	\$10,023.52	\$8,630.74	\$8,630.74	\$800.00	\$9,430.74
	2008 Annual Pledge Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$115.00
	Tents of Hope	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$396.89	\$396.89	\$0.00	\$396.89
	China Earthquake Relief	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.32	\$50.32	\$0.00	\$50.32
	Fisher House	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$212.00	\$212.00	\$0.00	\$212.00
	Southern Poverty Law Center	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$344.00	\$344.00	\$0.00	\$344.00
	Strengthen the Church (UCC)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$213.00	\$213.00	\$0.00	\$213.00
	One Great Hour of Sharing(UCC)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$185.00
	Puente de la Costa Sur	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$240.00
	Food Bank CC / Solano Counties	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$0.00	\$266.00
	CAC Xmas Families	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,008.00	\$1,008.00	\$0.00	\$1,008.00
	Xmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$475.00	\$475.00	\$0.00	\$475.00
	Neighbors in Need (UCC)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$328.00	\$328.00	\$0.00	\$328.00
	Planned Parenthood	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$204.00	\$204.00	\$0.00	\$204.00
	Heifer Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$642.00	\$642.00	\$0.00	\$642.00
	Foster a Dream	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$426.00	\$426.00	\$0.00	\$426.00
	Nature Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$126.00	\$126.00	\$0.00	\$126.00
	New Sound System	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
	Concert Series (Music Series)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,627.33	\$1,627.33	\$0.00	\$1,627.33
	Music Program Fund (Barbara's)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
	Christian Ed / Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$302.14	\$302.14	\$0.00	\$302.14
	Youth Ministry / Youth Group	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$981.63	\$981.63	\$0.00	\$981.63
	Memorial Funds -Council Discre	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$424.99	\$424.99	\$0.00	\$424.99
	Minister Disc Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,125.00	\$2,125.00	\$0.00	\$2,125.00
	Weekend in the Trees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,851.48	\$3,851.48	\$0.00	\$3,851.48
	Fellowship Ministry Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$137.00	\$137.00	\$0.00	\$137.00
	Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$578.00	\$578.00	\$0.00	\$578.00
	Pledges - Paid Advance Next FY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
	Parishioner Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,153.16	\$20,153.16	\$0.00	\$20,153.16
	Building Use - Preschool (HH)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,725.00	\$24,725.00	\$0.00	\$24,725.00
	Building Use - Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,658.60	\$3,658.60	\$0.00	\$3,658.60
	Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,861.78	\$7,861.78	\$0.00	\$7,861.78
	Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,945.81	\$1,945.81	\$0.00	\$1,945.81
	Handbells	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,221.00	\$1,221.00	\$0.00	\$1,221.00
	Harvest Festival	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$709.50	\$709.50	\$0.00	\$709.50
	One Brick At A Time	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
	CCC TShirts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$830.00	\$830.00	\$0.00	\$830.00
	Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,785.78	\$3,785.78	\$0.00	\$3,785.78
	Vanco Website Hosting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
	Donation In Kind	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,693.74	\$1,693.74	\$0.00	\$1,693.74
	Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,070.00	\$1,070.00	\$0.00	\$1,070.00
	Mission Pool -Pd Adv Next FY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
	Cap Imp - Pd Adv Next FY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$0.00	\$640.00
	Peace Jam	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$217.00	\$217.00	\$0.00	\$217.00
		\$126,114.56	\$126,114.56	\$205,100.84	\$205,100.84	\$5,000.00	\$210,100.84

Amount given: 0 thru 9999999.99

Pledge amount: 0 thru 9999999.99

Date range: 07/01/2008 thru 06/30/2009

Count: 203

Treasurer

Dale Olm

Our financial strength and stability has continued to grow this year. Despite a major downturn in the economy and the need for some parishioners to reduce their pledged giving, others increased their giving, and we had an unexpected increase in non-pledged giving (loose offerings) and fundraisers. This, coupled with significantly reduced expenses in some areas resulted in a net increase in our savings (reserves). Since we do not have an endowment, this increase in savings (reserves) is an important safety net for the church.

We were able to pay off the balance of the Cornerstone Loan which was taken out years ago to replace the heating system in the CE Building. This saved us about a thousand dollars in interest and principal payments this year (and in future years). We also discovered that we were entitled to a religious exemption on property taxes that reduced our future taxes as well as generating a refund for several past years. Expenses were down in some areas and up in others, with the net amount being positive.

We continued to provide increased flexibility in giving this year. In addition to our traditional offering plate giving of cash and checks, we added stock transfers a few years ago, and this year we enabled electronic giving through direct checking/savings account debit (EFT) and credit card payments as methods for donors to contribute to the church. About 14 percent of our pledge units have now elected to give through automatic, regular electronic giving. One time donations can also now be made by anyone via a link from our church website (www.cccucc.org).

The church management computer program, Church Windows, was installed and set up this year. This church financial and membership management computer program has allowed accurate tracking of membership, visitor and attendance data. It has also standardized record keeping of pledges and other financial contributions, allowing accurate and timely quarterly statements. This has eased the job of accurately assessing our financial stability thorough out the year and has allowed better historical financial accounting and reporting.

We changed banking institutions from Bank of America to US Bank allowing easier financial tracking through Quickbooks and easier transfer of signatories on the checking account at year end when there is a change of financial officers.

Through this often difficult, but also uplifting church year, it has been my privilege and honor to serve as treasurer and to work with all the many dedicated people on our financial team and church Council.

Community Congregational Church, UCC of Benicia - Simplified Balance Sheet (Summary of Financial Status)
CURRENT FINANCIAL DASHBOARD (Cash Basis) Revised June 2009

	End of Last Fiscal Year	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	End of this Fiscal Year	Change in Value from 2008 to 2009
Assets (Cash on Hand)	06/30/08	09/30/08	12/31/08	03/31/09	06/30/09	
Bank of America (Checking)	27,658	15,172	12,935	3,436	0	-27,658
US Bank (Checking)	0	0	21,665	9,332	20,422	20,422
Vanguard (Savings)	47,479	50,748	51,074	51,243	51,301	3,822
Petty Cash	317	151	84	142	80	-237
TOTAL	75,454	66,072	85,758	64,152	71,804	-3,650
Liabilities, Restricted and Reserves (Owed or not-available)						
Cornerstone Loan	12,630	12,354	12,072	0	0	-12,630
Outreach & Missions	7,070	3,155	7,040	4,453	6,082	-989
Capital Improvement Fund	8,134	7,163	8,381	10,820	12,280	4,147
One Brick at a Time	0	0	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
New sound system	9,572	10,072	10,122	-20	0	-9,572
Sabbatical Leave Set aside	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,500	6,000	2,000
Payroll Liabilities	1,292	1,226	-2,016	1,053	680	-613
Prepaid Pledges	10,460	0	0	0	5,000	-5,460
Other Restricted Accounts	6,045	6,954	9,905	14,622	13,212	7,167
TOTAL	59,203	45,425	52,705	38,627	45,454	-13,749
NET ASSETS	16,251	20,647	33,054	25,525	26,350	10,099
<div> <div>Total Cash on Hand</div> <div>Loan for furnace in CE Building, paid off in 3rd quarter</div> <div>Mission pool & missions waiting for disbursement</div> <div>Parking lot, major building improvements</div> <div>One Brick at a Time Fund</div> <div>For new sanctuary sound system</div> <div>For substitute minister during future sabbatical</div> <div>Payroll taxes waiting to be paid</div> <div>Pledges paid in advance</div> <div>Other ministries & directed contributions</div> <div>Total Restricted Cash</div> <div>Unrestricted Net Cash reserves</div> </div>						

Dale Olm, Treasurer

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC of BENICIA						
2008-2009 Actual vs. Budget Income & Expense						
prepared by Dale Olm, Treasurer						
			Original 2008-2009 Budget	Mid-Year Revised 2008-2009 Budget	Actual Funding & Expense 2008-2009	Difference from original 2008-2009 Budget
Income						
	Donations in Kind (Non-Cash)				4,953	4,953
	Loose Offering (Non-pledged Donation)		8,728	16,722	19,728	11,000
	Pledges		111,131	104,249	102,205	-8,926
	Use of Building		23,446	24,281	24,884	1,438
	Fundraisers		4,778	7,201	7,862	3,084
	Transfer from Reserves/Net Assets		2,000	2,000	2,000	0
	Other sources of funding		2,119	1,230	968	-1,151
	Total Income		152,202	155,683	162,599	10,397
Expense						
	In Kind Donations Used by Committees				1,721	1,721
	Building & Grounds					
	Custodial services		3,600	3,675	3,975	375
	Property Tax		2,083	946	-2,631	-4,714
	Cornerstone Loan		2,123	2,123	1,113	-1,010
	Maintenance, Landscaping		5,595	5,595	5,448	-147
	Utilities		7,062	7,062	7,888	826
	Total Building & Grounds		20,463	19,401	15,793	-4,670
	Insurance - Property		5,264	5,264	4,960	-304
	Christian Education / Youth		1,188	1,188	941	-247
	Congregational Care (Diakone)		67	0	0	-67
	Fellowship		187	556	941	754
	Music, Adult & Youth Choirs		2,185	2,185	1,176	-1,009
	Stewardship		65	0	0	-65
	UCC Support		3,650	3,620	3,620	-30
	Welcome (Growth)		211	1,011	869	658
	Worship		1,310	1,310	2,514	1,204
	Other Committes & Ministries		645	645	783	138
	Council & Discretionary Funds		1,169	1,169	910	-259
	Other Expenses		868	809	1,726	858
	Office/Computer/Copier Supplies		4,968	5,591	5,601	633
	Office Equipment - New purchase		0	623	0	0
	Sabbatical budgeted set aside		2,000	2,000	2,000	0
	Staff & benefits		107,962	110,311	112,968	5,006
	Total Expense		152,202	155,683	156,523	4,321
Net Income			0	0	6,077	6,077

Building & Grounds

Greg Cox

Fellow Members of the Community Congregational Church of Benicia,

It has been a challenge the past year to keep the grounds in the same condition as years past. Not having a full-time team (Donald and Arloine Stoner) coming by daily to take care of the little things has made the upkeep somewhat difficult to manage. I believe we have been doing a pretty good job with many members pitching in without being asked to fill this need. Just the little things, like picking up trash in the parking area on your way to church activities, really make a difference. Happy Hearts has also stepped up and their staff are monitoring the parking area weekly. Other members are taking recycling home when they see the bins full, fixing things in Fellowship Hall and supporting the Building and Grounds fellowship days. I want to thank everyone who sees a need and just takes care of it. I want to say a special thanks to our youth members (Katie, Adam, Sam, Christopher and Matthew) who show up almost every work day and for many other special projects through out the year. These are our future leaders. I encourage all of our youth to get involved in community assistance no matter what it is.

I wouldn't be able to accomplish everything that's required without the help of my extended team whom I call upon regularly. John Hanna has overseen numerous projects this year including remodeling Fellowship Hall. Bob Cox has responded to emergency situations (flooding, overflowing toilets and heavy pruning with the chain saw to name a few). Jerry Martin has become the resident plumber and has saved us hundreds of dollars by replacing the



faucets and repairing the toilets. Nancy Gilman has kept us supplied with those necessary bathroom items that you wouldn't want to get stranded without. Jan Wong is keeping the first aid supplies stocked. Rob Kravets has become the master pruner, keeping overgrowth at bay. Dale Olm, our resident electrician, (one of his many talents) has kept the lights burning bright. Jim Lessenger oversaw the re-assembly of the gazebo. Our fellowship team Allison and Karen (also other members who prefer to remain

anonymous) make the work days a pleasure to attend. I know our friends from Genesis House in Vallejo look forward to these home-cooked meals at our work days. Many other members have stepped up to the plate in the past year to help out and I want to thank everyone.

Our Chapel Update – Here's a partial list in no particular order of the past years accomplishments. There's not enough room to list them all.

- Fellowship Hall make-over (phase one) was completed and looks marvelous.
- New paper towel and soap dispensers and accessibility rails were installed.
- The gazebo that Karen Burns so graciously donated was assembled and is in the meadow.
- A new lizard garden was built and planted, and drip irrigation was installed.
- An automatic sprinkler system was completed.
- Entrance lighting was added in front of Fellowship Hall.



- A new freezer was donated by the Stanley's.
- The locks in Fellowship Hall were re-keyed after the Samoan church left.
- All rails in the parking lot were repaired or replaced, and a new railing was added to assist those walking from the parking area.
- The property was "winterized"; pine needles were removed from the roof, batteries were replaced in smoke detectors and thermostats, furnace filters were cleaned, and fire extinguishers were serviced.
- We arranged for several loads of mulch to be delivered and spread around the grounds to keep the weeds down and reduce watering needs. We picked up trash and made several dump runs to haul away broken chairs, palm trimmings, etc.
- We repaired a broken lock and a cracked window along with dangerous electrical outlets in the C.E. building.
- Implemented the Council's decision to discontinue smoking on church property and removed ashtrays.
- All windows in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were cleaned, and the walks were power washed.
- General clean-up included removing cobwebs, cleaning the stove and refrigerator, to name a few.
- We installed new banners on the front of the church.
- We enjoyed numerous hours of fellowship getting to know each other!

Building use – Our facility continues to serve the community as a whole by providing a safe space where everyone is welcome no matter who you are. As part of our social outreach to the community we continue to support the following groups by extending the use of our facilities. All building use fees were adjusted for inflation and increased costs of utilities and services.

- Happy Hearts – Owner Jackie Terri is now in the fifth year offering year-round classes. We have ongoing communication and yearly reviews of agreements.
- New Covenant CC Church (Samoan) church left in August.
- AA\NA\ALANON –We now host the only Women's AA group in the area on Wednesdays. Weekly meetings are posted on the church calendar at (<http://www.cccucc.org/>) or in the monthly *Bridge*.
- This year we have also hosted several memorials, a wedding, recitals, and a few concerts.

Growing our Chapel – Again I want to thank everyone who donated to the future by pledging to the Capital Improvement Fund. I was happy to see an increase in pledges over last year even in our down turned economy. GOD IS STILL SPEAKING.

Below are some of the possible projects I'd like to accomplish next year.

- Complete the conversion to drip irrigation and add additional drought tolerant landscaping.
- Replace sanctuary lighting.
- New carpeting for the sanctuary and choir room
- Fellowship Hall flooring and kitchen remodeling.
- Lighting for the front garden.
- Install a new alarm system.
- Paint CE rooms.

Building and Grounds fellowship will continue to be held on the 4th Saturday of each month through October 2009. They will resume again in January 2010. Please mark your calendars with these important fellowship events before your schedule gets busy. It takes everyone's help no matter what they can do to continue our growth. Donations are always welcome and can really help to hire labor, rent equipment, or purchase plants, trees, benches, etc. Please contact me if you can assist in this way. I look forward to serving another year as the Building and Grounds steward. Please let me know your ideas for our continued growth in the community.

Christian Education

Leslie Lessenger

Two Sunday School classes ran throughout the school year. The multi-age class consisted of Kindergarten through 5th graders, while the youth class welcomed 6th graders through high school. Teachers for the 2008-2009 year were Susan Stofan, Hope Wingert, Leslie Lessenger, Dale Olm, and John Hanna. Assisting in the classrooms were Mickey Scott and Greg Cox. *Gather Round* curriculum was used, involving Bible stories with drama, music, arts and crafts, games, reflection, and worship. Three students were presented with a NIV Adventure Bible at the end of the year: Keiran Cooper, Asha Cooper, and Audrey Benton. Two special events during the year were intergenerational Christmas caroling and a multi-age class end-of-the-year breakfast.



A driving force behind CE this year was MIT and youth director Jon Dodson. Jon led the junior high school youth group and provided organization and guidance to the Sunday School. Youth group activities included Tents of Hope for Darfur, assisting with the Harvest Festival, packing chocolate bunnies for Foster a Dream, baking pies, snowboarding, concerts and bowling. A new popular activity was the monthly Wii game night.

Jon also taught a Confirmation Class weekly. Three students completed the



class: Matthew Hanna, Christopher Hanna, and Stewart Blackie. Each student had a mentor from the church membership. The mentors were Carl Mason, Rob Kravets and Dale Stanley. The class visited Martinez UCC and City of Refuge UCC. Matthew and Christopher were welcomed into CCC membership on June 14, 2009.



A high-school drama group coordinated by Rev. Renie contributed to the Advent season and Christmas

program, as well as an Easter drama.

Adult education included three classes: Rev. Renie led a discussion of *Saving Jesus*, a DVD-based small group exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. Tim Mautz led a Bible study overview. Jon Dodson facilitated a discussion of *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* by Rob Bell.

Congregational Care

Shelby Riddle

Our Care Team had a very productive and useful year, thanks to all of the help from our committee members and the whole congregation! We started out strongly, visiting folks, sending cards, and meeting regularly. When Pastor Renie became ill, we asked for and received extra help from the congregation and the Conference. So, thanks to Drew Nettinga, our conference minister, and to those of you who stepped up to help when asked.

Jon Dodson, our Minister in Training, and Wr'near Wilcox, our replacement minister for a few months, were both of tremendous help as well, providing visits to those in need, and support to those of us in the congregation who needed it. A big thank you to Jon and Wr'near for their help this year!!



As our year has come to an end we have a vital and strong care committee dedicated to ensuring that our members have rides to church, to the hospital, and to anywhere else they might need to go, visits, cards and whatever help that we are able to provide. With the help of our Stephen's Ministry new graduate Jackie Lawrence, Pastor Renie, and our other fantastic members we are all grateful and feel blessed to be able to serve in this much needed ministry.

Fellowship

Allison Stamm-Kirk

fel·low·ship: (1) companionship, company; (2) community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience; (3) a company of equals or friends; (4) the quality or state of being comradely

This time last year, we moved to Benicia and I was elected Fellowship Chair. I was excited about the move and about my new role at CCC. This has been a rich and rewarding year of experiences for me. As a newcomer to CCC, being Fellowship Chair has offered me the opportunity to work with many of you and to know you all a bit better. In 2008, CCC became my new *church* home. Now I just call it *home*.



As members of CCC, we have all decided to take a journey of faith together. The more we come together, the more we realize that we are more similar than we are different. As we turn outward, and invite others to share in our faith, our love, our acceptance and our community, we change the world. Church is community, and fostering that in any way touches everyone; extending ourselves to invite those around us strengthens us individually and communally.



The Fellowship Committee has tried to bring this spirit into CCC activities, providing opportunities for us as individuals and as a community to reach out and invite our friends, family, neighbors and colleagues into our community by hosting non-religious events, like Friday Fun Night, the Fourth of July BBQ, and the Harvest Festival. We have also partnered with and provided support for other groups within the church to deepen our community and fellowship together with events such as the Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social, the Service Auction, and the Elementary Sunday School Breakfast. We have also tried to enhance “work” days (Building & Grounds, Greening the Sanctuary, etc.) with fellowship. Fostering fellowship transforms these events into personally meaningful, fulfilling, and rejuvenating experiences.



My deepest thanks to Karen Hanna and Debi Stanley, who tirelessly help host our many events and dedicate their unique creativity and energy to our church. And I am also so

very grateful for the support each one of you in the CCC community has give the fellowship team: hosting Sunday fellowship, helping set up, break down, cook, clean up, and even just attending and participating in the many activities in the life of our church. I am blessed to be part of such a fabulous team, together we have accomplished more than we ever would or could individually.



fellowship: (1) companionship, company; (2) community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience; (3) a company of equals or friends; (4) the quality or state of being comradely

2008-09 Events

Date	Event	Date	Event
07/04	BBQ, Blue Grass & Fireworks	01/10	Degreening the Sanctuary & Pancake Breakfast
07/06	Sunday Fellowship	01/11	Arloine Stoner Day
07/13	Sunday Fellowship	01/11	Sunday Fellowship
07/20	Sunday Fellowship	01/18	Sunday Fellowship
07/27	Annual Meeting Potluck	01/24	Building & Grounds Fellowship
08/01	Friday Fun Night	01/25	Sunday Fellowship
08/03	Sunday Fellowship	02/01	Sunday Fellowship
08/10	Sunday Fellowship	02/06	Friday Fun Night
08/17	Sunday Fellowship	02/08	Sunday Fellowship
08/24	Sunday Fellowship	02/15	Sunday Fellowship
08/31	Sunday Fellowship	02/22	Sunday Fellowship
09/07	Sunday Fellowship	02/28	Building & Grounds Fellowship
09/14	Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social	03/01	Sunday Fellowship
09/14	Sunday Fellowship	03/08	Sunday Fellowship
09/21	Sunday Fellowship	03/15	Sunday Fellowship
09/27	Building & Grounds Fellowship	03/22	Sunday Fellowship
09/28	Sunday Fellowship	03/28	Building & Grounds Fellowship
10/03	Friday Fun Night	03/29	Sunday Fellowship
10/05	Sunday Fellowship	04/03	Friday Fun Night
10/12	Sunday Fellowship	04/05	Sunday Fellowship
10/19	Sunday Fellowship	04/12	Sunday Fellowship
10/25	Harvest Festival	04/19	Sunday Fellowship
10/26	Sunday Fellowship	04/25	Building & Grounds Fellowship
11/01	Building & Grounds Fellowship	04/26	Sunday Fellowship
11/02	Sunday Fellowship	05/03	Service Auction
11/08	SF Scottish Fiddlers Concert	05/03	Sunday Fellowship
11/09	Service Auction	05/10	Sunday Fellowship
11/09	Sunday Fellowship	05/17	Sunday Fellowship
11/16	Sunday Fellowship	05/24	Sunday Fellowship
11/19	Annual Thanksgiving Feast	05/30	Building & Grounds Fellowship
11/23	Sunday Fellowship	05/31	Sunday Fellowship
11/29	Greening of the Sanctuary	06/05	Friday Fun Night
11/30	Sunday Fellowship	06/07	Elementary Sunday School Breakfast
12/06	One Me One for CCC - Christmas Crafts	06/07	Sunday Fellowship
12/07	Sunday Fellowship	06/10	Dinner with the Vicar
12/13	Christmas Concert	06/14	Sunday Fellowship
12/14	Sunday Fellowship	06/17	Dinner with the Vicar
12/20	Christmas Caroling	06/21	Sunday Fellowship
12/21	Sunday Fellowship	06/24	Dinner with the Vicar
12/24	Christmas Pageant	06/27	Building & Grounds Fellowship
12/28	Sunday Fellowship	06/28	Congregational Meeting
01/04	Sunday Fellowship		

Social Outreach

Sarah Thompson

Our projects this year fall into three categories: 1) the Social Outreach Mission Program, in which we financially support 13 specific charities; 2) the Social Outreach Action Program, in which we combine our fundraising with a public action; and 3) the Social Outreach Learning Program, in which we provide education about specific issues facing our national and global neighbors.

The Social Outreach Mission Program:

The goals for giving for 2008-2009 were met with a combination of Social Outreach Mission Pool pledges and loose offerings. (As you can see, we exceeded our planned donations to Planned Parenthood through loose offerings alone!) The following charities were given the following donations in 1/09:

Fisher House (July 08 Mission)	\$800
Planned Parenthood (August 08 Mission)	\$800
Foster a Dream (September 08 Mission)	\$800
Neighbors in Need (UCC – October 08 Mission)	\$800
Heifer Project (November 08 Mission)	\$800
CAC Christmas Giving Food Gifts (December 08 Mission)	\$800
Christmas Fund (UCC – December 08 Mission)	\$800

In addition, this church saw an outpouring of generosity with the extravagant giving of gifts for our CAC families, many of whom we left in a state of shock at the sight of all of our presents. The cash value of these donations is difficult to pinpoint, as many fulfilled Christmas wishes and Christmas hopes that have no price tag.

At our August 2009 meeting, we hope to send checks to the following charities:

Southern Poverty Law Center (January 09 Mission)	\$800
Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano Counties (February 09 Mission)	\$800
One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC – March 09 Mission)	\$800
Nature Conservancy (April 09 Mission)	\$800
Peace Jam (May 09 Mission)	\$800
Strengthen the Church (June 09 Mission)	\$800

The Social Outreach Action Program:

The goals for giving for 2008-2009 were exceeded by donations which allowed us to create the Social Outreach Action Program. This program targeted using our surplus funds to do hands on mission work accompanied by special fund-raisers. In November the Youth Group brought our tent from Tents of Hope to Sacramento and then sent it on to Chad (and hopefully it is now being used as a school). The youth also began a fund raiser (to be continued into 2009-2010) for the displaced in Darfur. These funds will buy efficient wood burning stoves so those living in refugee camps in the Sudan and in Chad will be able to stay closer to their tents, therefore lessening the risk of rape and murder by outlaws. In the spring of 2009 we coordinated with Foster a Dream to bring 875 local foster children a bunny and chocolate Easter surprise.



The Social Outreach Education Program:

We had one program in the spring of 2009: 1) a showing of *The Sand and the Sorrow* a documentary on the crisis in Darfur.

Stewardship

Kathleen Kravets & Shelby Riddle

This has been a very productive year for our Stewardship Committee, with two service/goods auctions and our large yard sale. Our second service auction this spring set a record for the amount of money raised in any auction. All of our fund raising is occurring, of course, in one of the worst economic environments since the Great Depression. So, I am very pleased to be able to report that our total fund raising efforts brought in about \$6,750 to our operating budget.

The Budget and Finance Committee (the “numbers group”), chaired by the Stewardship Chair, had a good year as well. We saw our pledging drop at the mid-term adjustment, but our loose offering contribution and giving was higher than expected, so we were able to have a stable year and stay within our proposed budget guidelines. This occurred despite having a fill-in pastor for several months and the stress and angst that was present for many of us during the time of Pastor Renie’s illness and recuperation.

We have started looking ahead to the 2009-2010 year already and had our first meeting for the “new year” in June. At that meeting we looked at additional fund raising options and new ideas which are guaranteed to be fun, while raising new sources of revenue from both within our church, and from without (more about them in next year’s annual report!).

Thank you all for supporting our fantastic church with your time, gifts, talents and money. It is never too late to have a great church experience!!



Welcome

Karen Hanna

The Welcome and Growth committee is about just that – welcoming new people and growing our church. It's about getting the word out into the community about who we are, what we are doing and that all are welcome here. Once we get people here, it is also about making the church a welcoming place to be. Can they find us? Does our signage reflect what is going on? Are people being greeted at the door?

This year the Welcome and Growth committee spent time looking at how welcoming we are and what we can do to become more welcoming at CCC. We started the 2008/2009 year off, along with Fellowship, with a BBQ and Bluegrass concert in our parking lot to celebrate the Fourth of July. Making children feel welcome is as important as making adults feel welcome. So we have made sure to keep welcome bags with crayons and coloring books for the children.

In the fall we took on the task of giving Fellowship Hall a bit of a makeover. It's amazing what a few coats of paint and some new window coverings will do to liven up a room! Really what was most amazing about this project though was how the congregation rolled up their sleeves and all pitched in to help with the remodeling job.



Again in October the Fellowship committee and Welcome committee joined forces to host a Harvest Festival. Advertising went in the About Town magazine and The Benicia Herald.

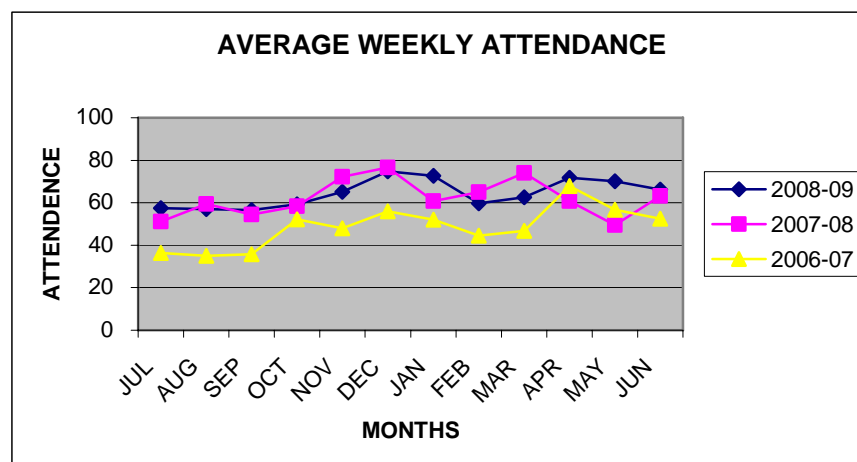


"It's never too late to have a happy church experience. Come share our joy," became our new tagline. In November we started selling t-shirts with this message. New banners for the front of the church were also ordered in June to reflect this joyful message.

In 2008/2009 CCC had two New Members classes and a Confirmation class. In December we welcomed six new members; Annette Cook, Cheryl Paterson, Nancy Schaffer, Kay Sirota, Stephanie Hayes, and Jane Robinson. In May, two of our youth, Christopher and Matthew Hanna were



confirmed. And in June we welcomed Brent Cooper and Rieko McDonald as new members.



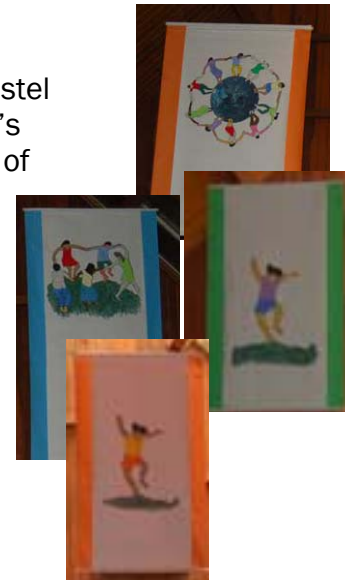
Worship

Priscilla Lane & Gail Mason

Before the 2008-2009 Worship Committee ever met, good things started happening. Annette Cook, *artiste extraordinaire*, donated the paper & pastel banners she made for use at the 2008 Asilomar conference. The church's sacred space has been enriched several times through the year because of her wonderful gift.

Many thanks to the talented and dedicated persons who volunteered time and talents as members of the 2008-2009 Worship Ministry:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| • Annette Cook | • Gail Mason |
| • Jon Dodson | • Tim Mautz |
| • Nancy Gilman | • Pastor Renie |
| • Barbara Hamm | • Debi Stanley |
| • Priscilla Lane | • Peg Stone |
| • Jackie Lawrence | • Hope Wingert |



Thank you, also, to those who provided flowers for the altar and who served as greeters, acolytes, ushers, and communion servers each week.

Two “firsts” should be noted for 2008-2009:

- August 3 marked the first offering - *Hello God* - from the high school youth drama group. As a result, drama has become an important element in CCCUCC's worship experience.
- Thanks to Leslie Lessenger's vision and hard work, handbells rang for the first time on Easter Sunday. Next year, we hope to report that CCCUCC purchased its own set of handbells for its permanent handbell choir, The Rolling Tones.

Liturgists received special training in September, which included valuable tips about speaking in front of a large group so as to be heard and understood, and some hands-on practice with a microphone.

Hampton Deck, minister at First Presbyterian Church in Vallejo, asked the CCCUCC Worship Committee to assist him with his doctoral project on elements of worship. We were one of four worship committees from different churches and denominations who agreed to work with him. The discussions informed Rev. Deck's project work, but they also enriched the committee's efforts to provide meaningful worship experiences at CCCUCC.



CCCUCC's Advent season welcomed in new banners, wreaths, and swags created by Debi Stanley. Larry and Nancy Schaffer provided electric pillar candles that will be appreciated for many years to come.

Advent worship focused on themes traditionally related to each of the Advent candles: Faith, Hope, Joy, Promise, and Love. The Christmas Eve Pageant was the culmination of drama segments offered through Advent. “A Tale of Two Christmases” starred Lindsay Blackie and Adam Olm as sparring directors that resulted in TWO precious baby Jesus's – Alena Aranda (the Hanna's granddaughter) and Briana Osborn (Jean Osborn's granddaughter).

In January, long-time member Arloine Stoner was honored as part of the worship service. For those who knew and loved Arloine Stoner, it was an opportunity to express thanks and wish her well as she moved to a new home away from Benicia. For those who were not acquainted with Arloine, it was a chance to witness a congregation's nurture and celebration of one another.



In late January, Pastor Renie began a four-month medical leave-of-absence due to post-operation complications. Her leadership and spirit were greatly missed. But we are grateful ...

- for the guest preachers who assisted us during the first few Sundays of her absence - Marian Conning, Faune Towery, Jon Dodson, and Tim Mautz;
- for Minister-In-Training Jon Dodson, who provided courageous pastoral leadership; and
- for Rev. Wr'near Wilcox who served as temporary minister from mid-March until Pastor Renie's full-time return in June.



The liturgical season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday (February 25) with a service of meditation and anointing with oil and ashes. The children and youth opened Palm Sunday (April 5) with the traditional procession of palms. Maundy Thursday (April 9) was marked with a simple supper of soup and bread, followed by communion and scripture readings. On Good Friday (April 10) the sanctuary was open from



noon until 3:00pm for individual prayer.

Easter Sunday (April 12) opened with a sunrise service at 6:15am. Then, at the 10:00am service, the banners of Lent - three rugged, bare branches suggesting Calvary's ominous three crosses - broke forth into the glorious bloom of Easter hope.



With Pastor Renie's return to the pulpit full-time in June, and with Pentecost's fire and spirit, we end 2008-2009 with the faith that God is with us always - in our comings and in our goings, in our waking and in our sleeping, in our grief and in our joy, in our illness and in our health, in our moments of fear and in our moments of strength.

The Worship Committee will continue to seek to provide ways for people to recognize and praise the God who is already with us.



Historical Archives

Jim Lessenger

While reorganizing the archives of the church, the first thing that struck me was the loving care that previous historians and archivists had given to the church documents. It then became a challenge to bring the archive project to completion in a way that would do justice to those who had gone before me. The process I used is as follows:

First, I took an internet course in archiving.

Second, I secured the use of half of the Christian Education closet. It has adequate shelving, has a steady temperature, and can be locked.

Third, I purchased archival quality, acid-free, buffered paper files and file boxes.

Fourth, with the help of Leslie Lessenger, and Millie and Jett Thomas, we did an initial sort of the materials chronologically and by specific subjects such as legal documents, real estate sales, and baptisms. A finding guide and inventory was started.

Finally, we did a second sort of the materials to make sure all the documents and photographs were appropriately filed and archived, including the removal of paper clips and staples that can rust and cause damage. The finding guide was refined.

There have been some interesting discoveries, including the damage caused to the church building and the "Jesus Window" by the 1944 Port Chicago explosion that took the lives of 320 service men and injured several members of the congregation, including the minister. We also found materials concerning the church campaign to close the bars and houses that populated the foot of First Street and the 1984 AIDS epidemic.



More needs to be done. We need to collect all the remaining documents scattered around the church and archive them.

Most importantly, we invite members of the church and their families to donate materials. Instead of breaking up a family or personal collection and filing the documents and photos in chronological files, we can place the collection in individual storage boxes and enter an inventory of the materials into the finding guide. That way, the collection stays intact as the family or individual collected it, yet it can be accessed by

historians.

The ongoing task is to maintain the archives and to contribute the day to day documents and other materials that maintain a history of the church. Our eventual goal is to scan key documents into a computer system and initiate a history in preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the church.

Holiday House



Holiday House celebrated its 50th anniversary this past year. Since 1958 women of the Community Congregational Church have been meeting throughout the year on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays. The leader of the “pack”, Jean Osborn creates most of the wonderful critters that you see in the annual bazaar; bears, dolls, snakes, cats, dogs, angels, turtles and many more. She also sews incredible doll clothes, people clothes and even ties. The rest of the crew stuff, stitch, and hem to complete the items. We chat and eat the always scrumptious lunch that Susan Stofan makes

for us – what a day.

The first Sunday in November was the big sale. Everything done throughout the year was displayed in the C.E. building to be sold. There we also find pillows, dish towels, pot holders to name a few of the other items done outside of the regular Thursdays. Donald Stoner also had his wonderful plants for sale in another room and in Fellowship Hall a fabulous luncheon of soups, salad, dessert, and drinks was offered for \$5.00 hosted by Pam and Jerry Martin. The entire luncheon was provided by you, the congregation, and as always it was quite a feast. If you missed out on the big day, another chance is offered in December, where a “mini-bazaar” is set up on the first Sunday in December.



Every year’s Holiday House’s luncheon and bazaar proceeds goes to a good cause, some improvement at the church. Some of the funds have gone to making the bathroom handicap accessible, the new floor in the C.E. building, a new stove, and choir chairs to name a few.

Holiday House is a wonderful group and would welcome more members. We are working hard in our 51st year, and look forward to many more.



Music Committee

Shelby Riddle

This year our Music Committee, which consists of representatives from the choir and instrumental groups, added our newest member from the hand bell choir. As always, the music program is an integral part of our church life, and our Music Committee was able to donate \$400 from concert monies to the Handbell Fund. We also donated \$2,000 towards our new sound system.

Our concert series this year covered several different genres of music. We were happy to have a blue grass band for the July 4th BBQ as well as the San Francisco



Scottish Fiddlers perform in the Fall. We also had our home-grown Christmas concert. We are looking forward to expanding our concert series this year as the energy and vitality of our church body continues to grow. Stay tuned!

Nominating Committee Slate 2009/2010

Carl Mason

The Nominating Committee included John Hanna, Jan Wong, and Carl Mason.

We all owe a great deal of gratitude to all members who have given their time and talents to the church this past year.

We are also very grateful to the individuals below for agreeing to serve next year as Council Officers or Standing Committee Chairs. This year we have five positions that are shared by more than one person/co-chair. This means that we have 20 members of the Church Council. For a church with membership of about 110, this testifies to the vitality of our church and the commitment of our members.

Council Nominations For Fiscal Year 2009/2010:

Position	Name	Term completion date
Council Officers		
Moderator	Carl Mason	June 30, 2010
Vice Moderator	Dale Stanley (Moves to Moderator 2010 - 2011)	June 30, 2010
Clerk	Mickey Scott Leslie Lessenger*	June 30, 2010
Financial Secretary	Larry Schaffer	June 30, 2010
Treasurer	Dale Olm	June 30, 2011
Council Standing Committee Chairs		
Building & Grounds	Greg Cox	June 30, 2010
Christian Education	Rob Kravets & John Hanna	June 30, 2011
Congregational Care	Penny Taylor & Janet Murrell	June 30, 2011
Fellowship	Allison Stamm-Kirk	June 30, 2010
Social Outreach	Sarah Thompson & Jan Wong	June 30, 2010
Stewardship	Shelby Riddle	June 30, 2011
Welcome	Karen Hanna	June 30, 2011
Worship	Priscilla Lane & Gail Mason	June 30, 2010
Member-At-Large	Brent Cooper	June 30, 2011
Member-At-large	Tim Mautz	June 30, 2010

* Will act as fill-in until current Clerk leaves later in the year.

I am looking forward to working with such a talented and dedicated group next year.

I believe we will accomplish great things.

THANK YOU!!!!

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Carl Mason

The PPRC was active during the first part of the year prior to Pastor Renie's illness. Committee members included Dale Stanley, Jan Wong, Shelby Riddle, Priscilla Lane, and Carl Mason.

We served several roles including acting as a conduit for communication from the congregation, sharing concerns and "rumblings" to make sure the pastor was aware of things potential issues. In addition, the committee tried to "take the temperature" of the pastor to allow a forum for open communication and caring feedback. Any subjects discussed in committee are considered confidential are not disclosed outside of the committee.

The committee members were open in providing feedback to the pastor and always caring and understanding in its support of the pastor.

I would like to thank all members for their dedication and effort this year.

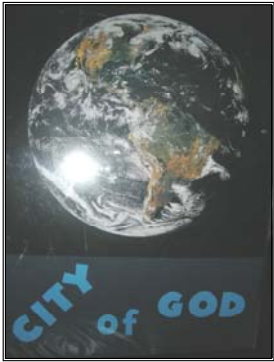
With Gratitude.



Carl Mason, Dale Stanley, Priscilla Lane, Jan Wong, Shelby Riddle

Weekend in the Trees

Keith Read



The weekend of September 5-7, 2008, our church held its annual retreat, *Weekend in the Trees* (aka WITT XXVI), with 50 campers attending Valley of the Moon Camp in Glen Ellen. For 26 years our church has gathered at this beautiful camp for a weekend filled with fun in the sun (and sometimes fog), tasty food, relaxation, worship and fellowship. Our theme for 2008 was “The City of God” based on Hymn 181: “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”.

The weekend began with a wonderful meal of BBQ beef ribs with Turtle Bread prepared by the camp staff and served family style. Dinner was followed by a City Of God “Ice Breaker” led by Mr. Moderator Schaffer helping us discover all the various cities of birth of the campers. Friday night also included B-I-N-G-O called by Arloine “B-25” Stoner. Winners of each game chose from some truly unbelievable White Elephant prizes. There are too many other events and activities to detail in this limited space, so here are some of the other highlights of WITT XXVI:

Board games were played into the wee hours of both nights in the Dining Hall with toe-tapping background music provided by the WITT Valley of the Moon Minstrels. The Keynote Speaker for the Saturday morning *Workshop in the Trees* was our very own Dr. Barbara Hamm helping us explore the music and theology of Hymn 181. The traditional Saturday morning Guided Nature *Walk in the Trees* was led by “The Stoner Girls” (Carol Stephens and Gayle Botic, WITT Naturalists). The hike was preceded by a tribute to Donald Stoner. While Don’s hiking boots can never be filled, his adventurous spirit will always be with us. *Crafts on the Deck* were provided by some very WITT-y and Crafty Crafters (Laurie Read, Allison Stamm-Kirk, Karen Hanna and Chole McGraw). The Eleventh Annual Jimmie Sayles Memorial Horseshoe Tournament was held Saturday afternoon. Two-person teams competed for the coveted WITT medals retained by the defending champions: “The Food Doc” and “Tonto”. Swimming was once again a challenging endeavor as Global Warming is non-existent at this pool. Saturday evening skits at the Amphitheater were a true ½-WITT Production directed by Jon Dodson and Debi Stanley.



On Sunday morning, Pastor Renie and Carol Stephens led us in *Worship in the Trees* with communion on the Redwood Trees Trail. The food at WITT is always outstanding made more so since we do not have to prepare it! This year meals included blueberry pancakes, a sandwich and salad bar, VOM’S World Famous burrito bar, scrambled eggs and coffeecake, and our traditional TURKEY DINNER with all the fixin’s and ice cream pie

for dessert on Saturday night...yum, yum, yum!!!

And lastly, this year a number of campers arrived early on Thursday and stayed later on Sunday to extend their WITT experience. The extra time was truly special. It is always an honor to help with this retreat and I hope to see everyone at WITT XXVII over Labor Day weekend 2009.

Keith “Tonto” Read
WITT Leader/Director



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2009-2010

STAFF

Pastor
Minister of Music
Director of Youth Ministries
Church Secretary

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Dr. Barbara Hamm
- Open Position -
Maggie Hart

OFFICERS

Moderator
Vice-Moderator
Church Clerk
Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Carl Mason
Dale Stanley
Mickey Scott & Leslie Lessenger
Larry Schaffer
Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry
Christian Education Ministry
Congregational Care
Fellowship
Social Outreach Ministry
Stewardship Ministry
Welcome and Growth
Worship Ministry

Greg Cox
John Hanna & Rob Kravets
Penny Taylor & Janet Murrell
Allison Stamm-Kirk
Sarah Thompson & Jan Wong
Shelby Riddle
Karen Hanna
Gail Mason & Priscilla Lane

Member-At-Large
Member-At-Large

Brent Cooper
Tim Mautz