

ANNUAL REPORT

2009 - 2010



The 144th Annual Meeting of the
Community Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Benicia, California

**Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Benicia, California**

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LEADERSHIP TEAM 2009-2010

STAFF

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm
Director of Youth Ministries	Howard Gill
Church Secretary	Maggie Hart

OFFICERS

Moderator	Carl Mason
Vice-Moderator	Dale Stanley
Church Clerk	Mickey Scott & Leslie Lessenger
Financial Secretary	Larry Schaffer
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry	Greg Cox
Christian Education Ministry	John Hanna & Rob Kravets
Congregational Care	Penny Taylor, Janet Murrell & Jackie Lawrence
Fellowship	Allison Stamm-Kirk
Social Outreach Ministry	Sarah Thompson
Stewardship Ministry	Shelby Riddle
Welcome and Growth	Karen Hanna
Worship Ministry	Priscilla Lane & Gail Mason
Member-At-Large	Tim Mautz
Member-At-Large	Brent Cooper

Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

As you glance through this year's annual report you will see page after page of this lively and inviting place. You will see pictures from many of our activities in the past year, financial and statistical reports, as well as reports from each of our committees. You will see very clearly that Community Congregational is a welcoming, strong, stable and active place where we are engaged in the work of the church: welcoming the stranger, caring for all our neighbors, and following the gospel in word and in deed. Our future is bright and I am very grateful to all of you who make Community Congregational a wonderful family of faith. None of this happens by chance. It takes each of us stepping out in faith, putting our whole selves in. It takes strong and reliable leadership, and we have that in this church—20 members willing to dedicate their time and talents to hold a seat on council, countless volunteers and active committee members that bring it all together; exciting and innovating youth and young adults, teachers, preachers, sewers, bakers, prayers, musicians, financial givers, weed pullers, singers, wall painters, sowers and risk takers. We are a place of radical hospitality.



As Pastor to this church I am so grateful for the privilege to journey with each of you. I am grateful to share leadership with Barbara Hamm, Howard Gill, and the Rev. Annette Cook. I am also grateful for the administrative support of Maggie Hart who brings administrative skills as well as her heart to the matters of the church. I am grateful for our moderator, Carl Mason, and for all the council members always willing to step out in faith.

This past year we held four faith studies and had more Sunday School teachers than ever before. Our Sunday School enrollment has increased and our kids are excited about growing in their faith. Our new youth leader, Howard Gill, brings a strong sense of a loving God to our kids as well as a deep respect for and knowledge of our sacred scripture.



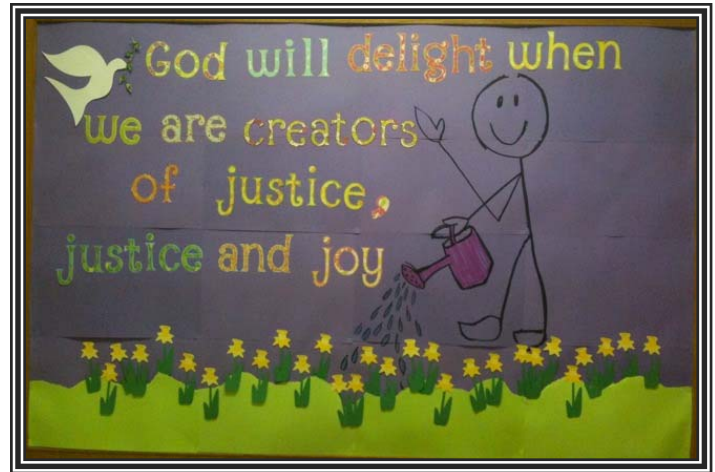
This church is a place of growth in both body and faith. Our church is alive with the power of song and I am continually inspired by Barbara Hamm's hymnology, her ability to put prayer to music and to give voice to the sorrow as well as the joy of life. This year our worship took on new themes throughout the season. We started the year with *Imagine* and moved onto *Light of the World*, *Miracles*, *Growing in Faith* and we ended with the summer of *Justice and Joy*. Our sacred space is transformed throughout the year and our worship committee makes it all happen each and every week.

When you enter the church you are greeted by Chuck Hull who offers a warm hello and makes you feel instantly at home; and if the crowd at the door is too large, Eleanor Mortensen greets you with a badge and an equally warm hello. These two people shape the first impressions our many visitors and I can't think of two individuals better suited for this task. If the warm welcome doesn't get them the smiles of our countless ushers will. Or, perhaps it is worship that is alive with the power of the Holy Spirit, or maybe our mission and outreach speaks to them, or maybe the welcome of the crowd after worship, or



the amazing fellowship table or the glance back in time set out on the history table by our resident historian, Jim Lessenger. Our visitors walk away with a sense of who we really are: a church of much Justice and Joy.

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy! (by Shirley Murray)*



Thank you for all you do to make Community Congregational a congregation of faith and love. You and your families are in my prayers. I rely on your prayers as well.

Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm

"Tell Me the Old, Old Story," says the gospel hymn. Everyone loves a good story. Our stories tell us who we are, where we came from, and what we're about in this world. The church tells the story of how God comes to meet us in the person of Jesus Christ. Every time we meet we tell the story of what God has done for us, enlarging the story and making it fresh and new in our generation.



Here at CCC, we tell the story in many different ways, one of them through music. A number of vocal groups at CCC relate the story through singing: the Sanctuary Choir sings in

worship every Sunday September through June and usually in July for the annual meeting of the congregation. The Choir is open to any youth or adult who wishes to sing; this past year several new members joined the choir, including one youth, Adam Olm. The Women and Girls' Chorus and the Children's Choir both sing periodically. Women and girls of any age are invited to sing in the Women and Girls' Chorus, and all children are welcome to sing in the Children's Choir. Vocal solos and duets by both adults and youth add to the variety of the music experienced in the worship service.



We have quite a few instrumentalists in the congregation, both youth and adults, who offer their talents at CCC.

We have a Sunday morning instrumental group consisting at various times of flute, clarinet, violin, trumpet, guitar, bass, and keyboard that frequently plays



for gathering music. Jazz Gorilla, comprised of Shelby Riddle on clarinet, Dean Gilman on bass, and Barbara Hamm on keyboard, offers its lively sound of African-American spirituals for gathering music and also accompanies the monthly CCC Taizé service. It played in November for the Bay Association meeting held at CCC. Stuart



Blackie played the trumpet on Easter Sunday, and Lindsay Blackie played a major clarinet concerto on Mother's Day. The youth led the service on Pentecost, choreographed and orchestrated by Youth Director Howard Gill, which featured youth musicians on



drums and saxophones for gathering music, and a youth choir and a combination youth-adult choir directed by Leslie Blackie. In September, Chris Francis led a drum circle before worship. Our annual Christmas Orchestra again provided the opportunity for an intergenerational mix of musicians to play carols at Christmas. The word is spreading—Shelby reported that people from other churches in a workshop at the UCC Annual Meeting at Asilomar inquired about our Christmas Orchestra, interested in learning how to create their own.



The Rolling Tones, our new handbell choir directed by Leslie Lessenger, had a major fundraiser last fall and raised the money to buy two octaves of handbells. How grateful I am to Leslie for pursuing her dream of bringing the beauty of handbells into the worship of this church, along with several new musicians into the music program at CCC!

Several musicians from this congregation performed in other music groups and venues beyond CCC: Nancy and Dean Gilman in the Vallejo Choral Society; Gail Mason in Cantare Con Vivo; Shelby Riddle, Adam Olm, Dean Gilman, and Barbara Hamm with the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers; Kathleen Kravets in Festival Opera; The Rolling Tones as the opener for the Vallejo Choral Society concert at CCC and also out in the community. Shelby, Dean, Nancy, and Barbara all helped provide music for the UCC Annual Meeting at Asilomar; Barbara also accompanied the DOC Annual Meeting at Asilomar and led the music for the UCC-DOC Women's Retreat in January. Jazz Gorilla performed several times this last year at Merrill Gardens and at the CCC crab feed in March, and Barbara played several times at Max's



Opera Café in the city. While not all of these are directly related church activities or venues, it does mean that our musicians are out and about, adding their dollop of joy to the world around them and making CCC just a little bit more visible. Several of my hymns appeared in the new UCC praise hymnal, *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, released at Synod last June; I was thrilled to have one of mine used in worship on the opening night. I have also completed several new hymn texts and tunes this year, including my second commissioned hymn.

And so we tell our story, through the medium of music, giving form and life to words and notes in order to praise the God who creates and cares for us. The church is grateful to all of you who give so generously of yourselves to comfort, heal, bless, and challenge; who gather with a sense of common purpose to create beauty, to share community, and to enact on a weekly basis the theology of welcome and inclusivity which we practice in this sacred space. May we continue to work as agents of God's grace, to sing of God's goodness, and to tell the old, old story, one that becomes fresh and new for each generation as it adds its own chapter to the ongoing story of God's creative, saving work among, for, and through us. Amen.



Director of Youth Ministries

Howard Gill

Since my arrival at Community Congregational Church UCC, I have witnessed spiritual growth from every youth as well as myself. Their excitement toward their youth department has become contagious. Our youth are inviting family members and their personal friends to Sunday worship, Sunday school, and youth group; this is truly ministry at work.



What a blessing to us all as our youth continue to inspire us by being faithful to the work of ministry. It is through our continued support that our youth will become our church for today - prepare to be amazed!



My first Sunday began on December 13th, 2009. I was welcomed with the

joyous sound from the Christmas orchestra as they prepared us for worship service. Our first Sunday school lesson was filled with wonderful discussion as we began getting to know each other. We welcomed in our New Year's theme, "Expecting Great Things" as we began our journey together as a youth department.

The youth department worked on their Christmas 2009 theme, "The Advent Conspiracy." This concept of worshiping fully,



spending less, giving more and loving all was a wonderful demonstration how to put Christ back into Christmas. The youth continued their hard work as they rehearsed for their Christmas pageant, side show presentation, and Christmas card presentation. On Sunday, December 20th, the youth presented a great Christmas pageant performance during Sunday service. The youth also

presented beautiful handmade Christmas cards to each member during the Christmas Eve service on Thursday December 24th. Thank you to all the youth, each leader and parents who made this a joyous celebration!

In January, the middle school youth group met regularly on each Sunday evening. We began this month discussing and creating welcoming standards as we prepared ourselves for new youth attending Sunday service and youth group. We also worked on our youth group resolutions, while transforming each one into reachable goals. The outcome for this month was becoming accountable for what you want; this was the beginning of youth ministry working together, achieving together and believing together. The high school and young adults had their first meeting on January 17th. The conversation invited different options for worship, outreach, and dramatic productions.



On Sunday, February 7th, the high school/young adult group presented a powerful liturgical dance. As Regina Cox and Lindsay Blackie performed, they were accompanied by our Minister of music. Sam and Adam Olm provided support to their youth group members during rehearsals with their vocal accompaniment, great teamwork! The youth department also worked on handmade Valentine

cards and distributed them on February 14th at Merrill Gardens. Thank you to Jessica Watson for putting this Valentines event together and for the many youth and congregation members that attended.

March was a great time as we continued connecting as a youth department. We rehearsed for the upcoming Easter presentation, had fun during Wii night at middle school youth group, lunch at Nation's Hamburger's with the high school youth, and bowling night with the entire youth department.



During the month of April, the middle school youth participated in a Good Friday reader's theater play at First Presbyterian Church-Vallejo. Outstanding jobs were done by the youth that participated: Christopher and Matthew Hanna, Liberty Herr, Keiran Cooper and Stuart Blackie. Also, during our Easter morning service at CCCUCC, the high school youth presented, "The Easter story according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John." Great job to Lindsay Blackie, Sam and Adam Olm, and James Eubank for an excellent production!

On May 2nd, the Christian Education committee hosted the Sunday school's second annual spring breakfast for students, their families and teachers. Thank you to the fellowship committee for providing the breakfast, it was absolutely delicious. Sunday, May 23rd was Pentecost Sunday, "Youth Sunday." The youth wrote the entire script for Pentecost Sunday. As the youth presented the service, the Holy Spirit began to flow through each of them, touching the hearts of each person present during that powerful worship experience. The service began with a musical selection from the youth band, continuing with a liturgical dance and musical processional of Joyful-Joyful. Streamers and flags with bright colors of red, yellow and orange waved throughout the sanctuary. Through this experience, the youth department worked together, while supporting each other. What a blessing it was as we witnessed the power of our living God through the eyes of our youth.



During June, some of our youth were presented with Bibles, and our youth graduating from one level of school to another were acknowledged. In addition, we recognized our youth and young adult music directors, youth group co-chair (Lynette Toney) and "second adults" present during youth group; CE chairpersons (Rob Kravets and John Hanna) were all acknowledged for an outstanding job during the 2009-2010 school year. June also began our Sunday school summer session.

July 4th, the youth department presented a fabulous fellowship. Each youth showed up at 9am ready to work, to serve, and to give back. The youth department returned that evening at 5pm once again, ready to work and set-up for the annual CCCUCC BBQ. What a delight as we played games, ate great food and had fellowship together.

Thank you youth department, parents and the CCCUCC family for your wonderful support during my time with you. As we all continue to hear God's still-speaking voice, may God's grace be with us and guide us as we continue to do his work.

With Many Blessings and Much Gratitude,
Respectfully Submitted,

Howard Gill
Director of Youth Ministries

Moderator

Carl Mason

This was an amazing year. Reverend Renie was fully recovered from her illness of last year and returned with her infectious energy. We have continued to grow, increasing our membership to 130. Our attendance in worship has steadily grown to an average between 70 and 80.



Some of the new members were attracted by our Open and Affirming policy, and many families with children have joined or are attending regularly. Our youth program has blossomed with 15 to 20 children participating in the Children's Time during our worship service each Sunday. In addition, our exceptional youth minister has expanded the youth activities and Sunday School attendance for all ages.

This year we have also noted a welcomed shift in demographics, which is more reflective of the Benicia and Vallejo communities. This has added a new perspective to the congregation and, in my opinion, increased the vitality of the church.

Our website and our newsletter, The Bridge, continue to be the envy of other larger churches. The website has been the first stop for many of our visitors, providing a good description of our active church.



The Church Council this year had 20 members; many were "co-chairs" which appears to be a way to allow members to commit to Council membership knowing that they will have someone to share the increasing work created by a growing and vibrant church. It is amazing that in a church this size, nearly one in six members are in a leadership role. Considering we actually had vacant positions on the Council several years ago, this is a testimony to the new energy of our church.



Despite the fact that we are in the middle of one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, we are one of only a few churches that had an increase (though slight) in our members' pledges. This will allow us to continue to provide strong ministry in the coming year.

Our immediate future issues are to deal with what I call "problems of success." Our Easter and Christmas services actually exceeded our Sanctuary's capacity, requiring people to sit or stand in the Social Hall during the service. Even our regular services are reaching our Sanctuary's capacity. The

most logical solution would be to add a second service; however, this is not possible with current staffing and the current budget is not sufficient to provide additional staff. However, I believe this is a challenge that will be met in the coming year.

Finally, it has been a privilege to serve as moderator in the past year. This is an amazing growing congregation with talented leadership, a great tradition, and an important future.

God Bless You All,

Carl Mason

Vice Moderator

Dale Stanley

The Vice Moderator position, I have been told, is designed to “...do nothing and be available to fill-in for the Moderator as needed and to watch attentively and learn from others.” While I’m not so sure about the “do nothing” bit, I have had much opportunity to watch and learn.

What I have seen is a church that is very much alive and growing. And we are growing not just in numbers, but also in our ability to explore how “God is Still Speaking” to us and how we might put that into action.

I’ve watched, and been amazed by, the amount of good work done by so many of you. I’ve also noticed the motivation. It’s obvious that you are not doing the work for your own glory or praise. Rather, I see your actions as a response and as a form of praise to our God and to our fellowship.



I have learned that it takes strength and commitment to effectively put motivation into action. We, as a congregation, have demonstrated that. Look no further than the rest of this Annual Report for evidence. Our many committees and dedicated members are putting into action God’s still-speaking voice. It also happens daily when individuals quietly step-up and just do what needs to be done. From pulling weeds, to visitations, fixing broken windows, to preparing even more food; the list could be a very long one.

As Vice Moderator and a member of our church, I am grateful for the commitment, energy and talent of this community. I am thankful for the leadership of Pastor Renie, for our Council, and each of you who have stepped up and have done what was needed. Thank you.

As your in-coming Moderator, I am at once humbled by the presence of such talent and excited about the year ahead. I am also extremely grateful for the commitment from our in-coming Council. So I am confident – confident in the limitless possibilities that lie ahead and in our congregation’s ability to pursue and respond. I have no doubt that we will thrive in 2010/2011.

And we will do more than thrive. We will pursue a vision that responds to God’s voice and the calls of our community. A vision that respects our past and traditions while focusing on our changing future. I can’t wait to get started!

Clerk

Leslie Lessenger

BIRTHS

None

DECEASED (Members)

Vernon Estey

January 9, 2010

Cecelia McGuirk

March 6, 2010

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

BAPTISMS

Gina Esparza

June 27, 2010

NEW MEMBERS**October 4, 2009**

Veronica Ensminger

Mary Ewart

Christina Harrison

Jessica Sullivan

Lynette Toney

Lance Watson

January 24, 2010

Stuart Blackie

Eleanor (Nora) Gauger

Hal Gauger*

Valerie Hartzell

Patricia Hartzell

June 27, 2010

Gina Esparza

Jill Esparza

*Associate Member

Reinstated at member's request

Patricia Estment Wyatt

WEDDINGS IN THE CHURCH

Eileen Eubank and Gregory Ruel

September 26, 2009

Officiated by Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

WEDDINGS REVEREND RENIE OFFICIATED ELSEWHERE

Nancy Aldritt & Carla Goad (non members)

May 1, 2010

Officiated by Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Active Members at 6/30/2009

112

+ New Members

13

- Deceased Members

(2)

+ Reinstated Members

1

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS at 6/30/2010**124**

Member Join Date

Member Name	Join Date
Osborn, Jean	1/1/1937
Stoner, Arloine	1/1/1941
Nelson, Helen	4/6/1950
Mortensen, Eleanor	11/21/1954
Burns, Karen	8/16/1955
Estey, Frances	3/25/1956
Updyke, Karen	3/25/1958
Estment (Wyatt), Patricia	10/9/1959
Stone, Peg	10/25/1959
Stephens, Carol	11/4/1964
Stofan, Susan	2/24/1974
Hammonds, Maryo	9/15/1974
Hammonds, Sam	9/15/1974
Atkins, Nancy	3/28/1976
Atkins, Stephen	3/28/1976
Martin, Pam	10/22/1978
Osada, Carolyn	6/8/1980
Wingert, Hope	2/8/1981
Scrutchins, Marilyn	6/7/1981
Lane, Priscilla	12/5/1982
Cox, Kathy	6/5/1983
Cox, Bob	6/5/1983
Hutchins, Patricia	10/16/1983
Forcier, Gerry	6/10/1984
Read, Laurie	2/17/1985
Read, Keith	2/17/1985
Wong, Jan	11/10/1985
Cox, Betty	3/23/1986
Sayles, Jackie	4/5/1987
Oraboni, Larry	10/10/1993
Hull, Chuck	3/3/1994
Huebner, John	3/13/1994
Huebner, Vreni	3/13/1994
Kravets, Kathleen	4/12/1998
Kravets, Rob	4/12/1998
Read, Robyn	5/31/1998
Cox, Nolan	5/31/1998
Olm, Dale	9/27/1998
Francis, Chris	2/14/1999
Beeson, Rick	2/14/1999
Martinez, Lynn	4/25/1999
Conway, Debbie	4/25/1999

Member Name	Join Date
Mason, Carl	11/14/1999
Mason, Gail	11/14/1999
Murrell, Janet	11/14/1999
Taylor, Penny	11/14/1999
Thomas, Jett	1/16/2000
Thomas, Milly	1/16/2000
Bunch, Marcia	1/16/2000
Bunch, Rufus	1/16/2000
Blackie, Leslie	7/30/2000
Blackie, Jonathan	7/30/2000
Tyree, Louise	11/5/2000
Betz, Katherine	11/5/2000
Betz, Stephan	11/5/2000
McGraw, Chol��	2/25/2001
Cox, Greg	2/25/2001
Cox, Daniel	5/12/2002
Sindt, Cassidy	5/12/2002
Cox, Regina	5/12/2002
Read, Kristen	5/12/2002
Smith, Jay	6/30/2002
Hamm, Barbara	6/30/2002
Gilman, Nancy	7/20/2003
Watson, Jim	7/20/2003
Benton, Graham	1/25/2004
Thompson, Sarah	1/25/2004
Hicks, Rhonda	3/28/2004
Terry, Paul	12/12/2004
Gilman, Dean	12/12/2004
Olm, Sam	5/15/2005
Blackie, Lindsay	5/15/2005
Terry, Samuel	5/15/2005
Terry, Porter	5/15/2005
Mautz, Tim	6/26/2005
Sindt, Sheryl	6/26/2005
Sindt, Curt	6/26/2005
Schaffer, Larry	5/7/2006
Stamm-Kirk, Rev. Renie	6/3/2007
Riddle, Shelby	6/3/2007
Olm, Adam	6/3/2007
Majors, Samantha	6/3/2007
Parsons, Natalie	6/3/2007
Diethelm, Jennifer	6/3/2007

Member Name	Join Date
Diethelm, Janelle	6/3/2007
Sass, Kelsey	6/3/2007
Stamm-Kirk, Allison	12/2/2007
Eubank, Eileen	12/2/2007
Hanna, Karen	12/2/2007
Hanna, John	12/2/2007
Garrigues, Jeff	12/2/2007
Munnely, Elizabeth	12/2/2007
Patterson, Mike	12/2/2007
Lawrence, Jackie	12/2/2007
Lawrence, Lynn	12/2/2007
McCown, Larry	12/2/2007
Stanley, Debi	6/1/2008
Stanley, Dale	6/1/2008
Lessenger, Jim	6/1/2008
Lessenger, Leslie	6/1/2008
Scott, Mickey	6/1/2008
Cook, Annette	12/21/2008
Hayes, Stephanie	12/21/2008
Paterson, Cheryl	12/21/2008
Robinson, Jane	12/21/2008
Schaffer, Nancy	12/21/2008
Sirota, Kay	12/21/2008
Hanna, Christopher	5/17/2009
Hanna, Mathew	5/17/2009
Cooper, Brent	6/14/2009
McDonald, Reiko	6/14/2009
Ensminger, Veronica	10/4/2009
Ewart, Mary	10/4/2009
Sullivan, Jessica	10/4/2009
Watson, Lance	10/4/2009
Harrison, Christina	10/4/2009
Toney, Lynette	10/4/2009
Hartzell, Valerie	1/24/2010
Hartzell, Patricia	1/24/2010
Blackie, Stuart	1/24/2010
Gauger, Eleanor (Nora)	1/24/2010
Gauger, Hal	1/24/2010
Esparza, Gina	6/27/2010
Esparza, Jill	6/27/2010

Financial Secretary

Larry Schaffer



Thank you for your most generous giving throughout the church year. The economy affects us all, but your giving has allowed us to continue making positive contributions to the lives of others.

Thank you also to the Council-approved assistance that helped me during the church year while I was away. Jane Robinson helped count, post transactions and make bank deposits. Jett Thomas, when not on the seas, was a dependable counter Sunday after Sunday. And Eileen Ruel, immediate Past Financial

Secretary, also helped count on Sundays, and is returning to Council for the new church year as a Member-At-Large.

And thank you Nancy Gilman for volunteering to take over the Financial Secretary duties for the new church year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011. As you may know, Nancy is the Church Wedding Coordinator, and some of you have seen the weddings we have had! She also does the bookkeeping for the Vallejo Choral Society. There is no doubt in my mind that the Financial Secretary duties are being left in good hands.

Serving you, the Council, and the church has been a blessing for me.

God loves you. And so do I.

Larry Schaffer



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
Pledges - Current Year	\$ 114,436.16	\$ 114,436.16 a	\$ 104,682.83	\$ 104,682.83	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 109,282.83
Mission Pool - Pledge Amount	\$ 5,603.96	\$ 5,603.96 a	\$ 5,390.14	\$ 5,390.14	\$ 200.00	\$ 5,590.14
Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	\$ 12,023.96	\$ 12,023.96 a	\$ 11,147.77	\$ 11,147.77	\$ 800.00	\$ 11,947.77
Mothers' Day Baskets	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ 15.00
Fisher House	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 220.00	\$ 220.00	\$ -	\$ 220.00
Southern Poverty Law Center	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00	\$ -	\$ 145.00
Strengthen the Church (UCC)	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 168.00	\$ 168.00	\$ -	\$ 168.00
One Great Hour of Sharing(UCC)	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 419.00	\$ 419.00	\$ -	\$ 419.00
Puente de la Costa Sur	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 742.00	\$ 742.00	\$ -	\$ 742.00
Food Bank CC / Solano Counties	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 246.50	\$ 246.50	\$ -	\$ 246.50
CAC Xmas Families	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 1,237.00	\$ 1,237.00	\$ -	\$ 1,237.00
Xmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 1,222.00	\$ 1,222.00	\$ -	\$ 1,222.00
Neighbors in Need (UCC)	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ -	\$ 19.50
Planned Parenthood	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 246.00	\$ 246.00	\$ -	\$ 246.00
Heifer Project	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 248.00	\$ 248.00	\$ -	\$ 248.00
Foster a Dream	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 243.00	\$ 243.00	\$ -	\$ 243.00
Nature Conservancy	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 184.00	\$ 184.00	\$ -	\$ 184.00
New Sound System	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Concert Series (Music Series)	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 1,656.98	\$ 1,656.98	\$ -	\$ 1,656.98
Music Program Fund (Barbara's)	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 669.00	\$ 669.00	\$ -	\$ 669.00
Christian Ed / Sunday School	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 612.00	\$ 612.00	\$ -	\$ 612.00
Youth Ministry / Yough Group	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00
Pastor Restricted Fund	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 2,655.00	\$ 2,655.00	\$ -	\$ 2,655.00
Weekend in the Trees	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 5,511.00	\$ 5,511.00	\$ -	\$ 5,511.00
Fellowship Frewill Off - Budget	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 943.00	\$ 943.00	\$ -	\$ 943.00
Worship Ministry Committee	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ 35.00
Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 580.00	\$ 580.00	\$ -	\$ 580.00
Pledges - Paid Advance Next FY	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ -	\$ 3,800.00
Parishioner Contributions	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 13,237.35	\$ 13,237.35	\$ -	\$ 13,237.35
Building Use - Preschool (HH)	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 23,575.00	\$ 23,575.00	\$ -	\$ 23,575.00
Building Use - Other	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 3,835.00	\$ 3,835.00	\$ -	\$ 3,835.00
Fundraiser - Stewardship	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 4,619.00	\$ 4,619.00	\$ -	\$ 4,619.00
Handbells	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 5,605.00	\$ 5,605.00	\$ -	\$ 5,605.00
Special Fellowship Events	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 809.00	\$ 809.00	\$ -	\$ 809.00
One Brick At A Time	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
CCC Tshirts	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 40.00
Misc Inc - To Be Determined	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Donation In Kind	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 1,235.04	\$ 1,235.04	\$ -	\$ 1,235.04
Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 410.00	\$ 410.00	\$ -	\$ 410.00
Mission Pool-Pd Adv Next FY	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Cap Imp - Pd Adv Next FY	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Peace Jam	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 354.83	\$ 354.83	\$ -	\$ 354.83
Refunds & Misc Deposits	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 93.07	\$ 93.07	\$ -	\$ 93.07
Fundraiser - Misc	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ -	\$ 16.00
Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 916.00	\$ 916.00	\$ -	\$ 916.00
Fundraiser - Crab Feed	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 4,386.20	\$ 4,386.20	\$ -	\$ 4,386.20
Music Program Exp Reim-budget	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00
Easter Bunnies	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 403.00	\$ 403.00	\$ -	\$ 403.00
Copier Use - Other	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	\$ 2.00
Holiday House - Misc Receipts	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 43.00	\$ 43.00	\$ -	\$ 43.00
Paster Exp - contributions	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ 325.00
Special Renovation Projects	\$ -	\$ - a	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
	\$ 132,064.08	\$ 132,064.08	\$ 208,602.21	\$ 208,602.21	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 214,202.21

Church Year 07/01/09 - 06/30/10

Treasurer

Dale Olm

In the worst economy since the Great Depression, our church has remained fiscally stable. Although revenues were lower than anticipated, expenses were also lower than anticipated, resulting in a slightly positive cash flow. Our unrestricted net assets remain at about \$ 28,000. Since we do not have an endowment, this serves as a reserve and buffer for unexpected expenses.

The Council approved placing a portion of our net assets in CD's held by the UCC Cornerstone Fund to obtain a higher interest rate than available through commercial banking and investment firms. This also benefits the UCC through support of the Cornerstone Fund which makes low cost loans to churches. Our own church has benefitted from this program when we had to replace the heating system in the CE Building a few years ago.

The Council has also elected to continue the electronic fund transfer services offered by Vanco. About 31% of all non-rent contributions to the church were made this year through EFT and credit cards. Parishioners have also continued to take advantage of our appreciated stock donation brokerage services, which can have significant tax benefits for the donor.

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. Many thanks to all.



Community Congregational Church, UCC of Benicia - Simplified Balance Sheet (Summary of Financial Status)

Revised 06/30/10

	End of last Fiscal Year	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	To Date		Change in Value from 6/30/09 to Current
					Fourth Quarter	06/30/10	
Assets (Cash on Hand)	06/30/09	09/30/09	12/31/09	03/31/10	06/30/10	Current	
US Bank (Checking)	20,422	22,741	32,432	23,952	29,943	9,521	
Cornerstone 6 mo CD	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	matures 8/5/10; 1.375% (interest accrues)
Cornerstone 12 mo CD	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	matures 2/5/11; 1.750% (interest accrues)
Vanguard (Savings)	51,301	51,330	51,346	24,316	24,319	-26,983	money market; 0.01% (payable monthly)
Petty Cash	80	72	71	28	114	34	
TOTAL	71,804	74,143	83,849	78,297	84,376	12,572	Total Cash on Hand
Liabilities, Restricted and Reserves (Owed or not-available)							
Outreach & Missions	6,082	3,141	5,898	4,494	6,241	160	Mission pool & missions waiting for disbursement
Capital Improvement Fund	12,280	14,343	13,242	14,714	13,978	1,698	Major building & grounds capital improvements
One Brick at a Time	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	100	One Brick at a Time Fund (Parking Lot Renovation)
New sound system	0	50	50	50	50	50	For new sanctuary sound system
Sabbatical Leave Set aside	6,000	6,500	7,000	7,500	8,000	2,000	For substitute minister during future sabbatical
Payroll Liabilities	680	761	364	658	1,130	450	Payroll taxes waiting to be paid
Prepaid Pledges	5,000	3,750	2,500	1,250	5,200	200	Pledges paid in advance, not yet allocated
Accrued expenses set aside	0	3,021	1,871	637	1,655	1,655	WC, Insurance & Prop Taxes set aside
All Other Restricted Accounts	13,212	15,202	20,668	17,586	17,302	4,089	Other ministries & account adjustments
TOTAL	45,454	49,068	53,893	49,189	55,856	10,402	Total Restricted Cash
NET ASSETS	26,350	25,074	29,956	29,108	28,520	2,170	Unrestricted Net Cash reserves
(NET ASSETS 2008-2009)	16,246	20,238	32,870	24,817	26,347	10,101	Net assets last fiscal year for comparison

Dale Olm, Treasurer

Community Congregational Church UCC of Benicia

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW - Funding & Expense by Quarter 2009-2010 (7/1/09 - 6/30/10)

prepared by Dale Olm, Treasurer

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2009 - 2010	2009-2010 Budget	Difference from Budget
Funding							
Refunds & misc. deposits	93	0	0	0	93	0	93
Donations In Kind (Non-Cash)	149	443	156	487	1,235		
Loose Offering	2,791	2,171	3,398	4,878	13,237	15,208	-1971
Pledges (Includes pre-paid fraction)	26,262	30,334	26,811	25,476	108,883	112,100	-3217
Use of Building	6,260	6,473	6,438	6,423	25,593	24,403	1190
Fundraisers	10	4,584	1,860	-12	6,442	6,655	-213
Other sources of funding	29	16	3	3	50	432	-382
Total Revenues	35,594	44,020	38,665	37,253	155,532	158,798	-4,501
Expense							
Donations In Kind Used (non-cash)	149	443	156	487	1,235		
B & G - Utilities	1,541	2,546	2,116	2,087	8,289	7,647	642
B & G - Custodial (contract)	975	975	1,025	1,150	4,125	3,900	225
B & G - Maint. & Housekeeping	790	1,028	945	1,111	3,874	5,595	-1721
B & G - Taxes & Loan (amort)	250	250	250	250	1,000	1,000	0
Insurance- Property (amort)	1,316	1,316	1,316	1,316	5,264	5,264	0
Christian Education / Youth	180	19	234	659	1,092	1,472	-380
Congregational Care	0	0	0	0	0	125	-125
Fellowship	112	206	1	679	998	1,556	-558
Music, Adult & Youth Choirs	518	430	553	69	1,571	1,337	234
Stewardship	0	0	0	0	0	100	-100
UCC Support (amortized)	923	923	923	923	3,690	3,690	0
Welcome	0	192	798	200	1,190	1,126	64
Worship	332	421	727	355	1,836	1,960	-124
Other committees & Ministries	0	0	0	0	0	400	-400
Council & Discretionary Funds	0	0	922	906	1,828	1,828	0
Other Expenses - Finance & Admin	557	811	789	711	2,868	1,488	1380
Office/Computer/Copier Supplies	1,174	1,558	1,000	1,168	4,900	5,785	-885
Sabbatical budgeted set aside	500	500	500	500	2,000	2,000	0
Staff	27,550	27,521	27,197	25,588	107,855	112,525	-4670
Total Expense	36,867	39,138	39,451	38,159	153,615	158,798	-6,418
Net Revenues	-1,272	4,882	-787	-905	1,917	0	

Notes: **RED is bad: Revenue is under budget or expense is over budget**
GREEN is good: revenue is over budget & expense is under budget

Community Congregational Church UCC of Benicia
Selected Restricted Account Disbursements 2009-2010 (7/1/09 to 6/30/10)

Capital Improvement Funds - including One Brick, Sound System, Renovations 2009-2010

	Donations	Disbursed	Balance
Starting Balance July 1, 2009	\$14,480		\$14,480
Pledges received	\$11,298		\$25,778
Other Donations	\$4,000		\$29,778
Disbursements			
Skylight repair		\$4,949	
Stone pine removal		\$1,670	
Parking Lot Light		\$2,821	
Roadside tree maintenance		\$650	
Kitchen Renovation (in progress)		\$1,192	
Total Disbursements		\$11,282	
Ending Balance June 30, 2010			\$18,495

Mission and Outreach Committee - Mission Pool, Monthly Missions, Special Missions 2009-2010

	Donations	Disbursed	Balance
Starting Balance July 1, 2009	\$6,082		\$6,082
Pledges & donations received	\$12,418		\$18,500
Disbursements & Expenses			
Haiti Earthquake 2010		\$889	
Darfur Stoves Project		\$115	
Peace Jam 2008-2009		\$800	
Easter Bunnies		\$417	
Puente De La Costa Sur Backpacks		\$791	
Fisher House		\$800	
Southern Poverty Law Center 2008-2009		\$800	
Strengthen the Church 2008-2009		\$800	
One Great Hour of Sharing 2008-2009		\$800	
CoCo/Solano Food Bank 2008-2009		\$800	
CAC Xmas Families (cash expense)		\$1,407	
Neighbors in Need		\$800	
Planned Parenthood		\$800	
Heiffer Project		\$800	
Foster a Dream		\$800	
Nature Conservancy 2008-2009		\$800	
Total Disbursements & Expenses		\$12,419	
Ending Balance June 30, 2010			\$6,081

Handbells Fund 2009-2010

	Donations	Disbursed	Balance
Starting Balance July 1, 2009	\$1,031		\$1,031
Pledges & donations received	\$5,605		\$6,636
Disbursements & Expenses			
Fund raiser expense		\$111	
Bell purchase		\$5,572	
Accessories		\$328	
Total Disbursements & Expenses		\$6,011	
Ending Balance June 30, 2010			\$625

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC of BENICIA - APPROVED BUDGET for 2010-2011

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Approved 2010-2011	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Notes for 2010-2011 (7/1/10 to 6/30/11)
Income					
Loose Offering (non-pledged donation)	13,825	19,928	13,237	13,000	Anticipated changes due to change in pledge status, moving, etc.
Pledges	103,218	102,005	108,883	113,184	94% of anticipated pledges 06/02/10 (\$120,408.00)
Use of Building	29,133	24,884	25,593	25,694	Happy Hearts, 12 step groups, others
Fundraisers	4,778	7,862	6,442	8,500	Auctions, crab feed, other fund raisers
Transfer from Reserves/Net Assets	0	2,000	0	2,000	Layaway for Pastor's sabbatical allocated from reserves
Other sources of funding	1,835	968	143	516	Vanguard & Cornerstone CD
Total Income	152,789	157,647	154,297	162,894	
Expense					
Building & Grounds					
B&G Utilities	7,381	7,200	8,289	8,573	Anticipated inflationary increases & Rat control
B&G Custodial services	3,600	3,600	4,125	4,800	Increase in new custodial contract
B&G Maintenance, Landscaping	5,837	5,745	3,874	5,600	
B&G Property Tax	2,043	-2,631	1,000	640	Savings from religious exemption in place
Cornerstone Loan	2,123	1,113	0	0	Cornerstone loan for CE heating system paid off
Total Building & Grounds	20,984	15,027	17,289	19,613	
Insurance - Property					
Christian Education / Youth	4,961	4,960	5,264	5,264	No anticipated change
Congregational Care	751	849	1,092	1,924	Expansion of Sunday school, summer school & VBS, adult CE
Fellowship	32	0	0	0	Formerly Diakone
Music, Bells, Adult & Youth Choirs	-25	941	998	2,551	Fellowship; service for other committees; anticipates \$1,800 in freewill donations
Stewardship	1,454	1,176	1,571	1,398	Substitute musician expense moved to Worship in 2009-2010
UCC Support (OCWM)	65	65	0	0	Printing and stationary costs donated for 2010-2011
Welcome (Growth)	3,530	3,620	3,690	3,690	No increase in budget
Worship	311	869	1,190	990	Mostly publicity & advertising
Other Committees & Ministries	883	2,514	1,836	1,600	Supplies; decrease in paid substitute musicians & pulpit supply
Council & Discretionary Funds	836	783	0	0	Balance of WITT expenses (now self supporting)
Other Expenses: Business	916	910	1,828	950	Asilomar Lay Delegates; other discretionary expense (computer upgrade in 2009-2010)
Office/Computer/Copier Supplies	1,468	2,345	2,868	2,605	Banking & Finance; Personnel & HR; Safe Sanctuary, IT, Clerk & Treasurer expenses
Professional Expenses	4,650	4,979	4,900	4,586	Bulletin printing; postage; stationary & supplies
Sabbatical budgeted set aside	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,664	New category, formerly included in staff: books, mileage, conference activity, seminars
Staff, benefits	95,805	112,968	106,191	2,000	Layaway for Pastor's future sabbatical replacement minister
Total Expense	138,621	154,006	152,380	114,059	Salary increases, adjustments in secretary & youth minister time
Net Income	14,168	3,641	1,917	0	

Building & Grounds

Greg Cox

Fellow Members of the Community Congregational Church of Benicia

First I want to thank everyone who helped this past year. Your generous donations to the capital improvement fund, assisting with projects and coming to the work days help keep the property in order. I wouldn't be able to keep the property up if not for everyone's help.

I want to say a special thanks to our youth members (Katie, Adam, Sam, Christopher and Matthew) who show up almost every work day throughout the year. I encourage all of our youth to get involved. 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 again I want to thank everyone.



Thanks to our reserve funds several major projects were able to get completed this year. We repaired the leaky skylight, removed the large tree in front of the CE building (which was causing major foundation damage) and replaced the light in the parking lot. We also attended



to several smaller items like replacing the sink in the C.E. bath and installing new paper towel holders and soap dispensers in the CE building. Also we had several dead trees removed and trimmed near the street at the city's request. New hand rails in the sanctuary were added to the stairs leading into the choir area.

A new janitorial service was hired and started in May. They came highly recommended and everyone should see the improvement in the cleanliness of the buildings.



To keep the weeds at bay several loads of mulch were donated by a couple of local tree services. We are still working on the last two piles trying to spread them around the property.



The council approved several "GREEN" initiatives this year.

We started a recycling program and joined with Happy Hearts to pay for a recycling container. Now members no longer have to take the recycling home. A battery charger and rechargeable batteries were purchased for use in the hand-held microphone and head sets. All light bulbs are florescent and are recycled when changed.

Holiday House continues to support various projects each year. This year they donated a bench for the gazebo and also made a very generous donation toward the kitchen makeover. The fellowship committee wasted no time and started the project by purchasing a convection range for the kitchen. We also had a new microwave donated to replace the 20-plus year old one we were using.

Christian Education

John Hanna & Rob Kravets

Two Sunday School classes ran throughout the school year. The Multi-age class was for grades Kindergarten through 5th, and the Youth class was for 6th grade through high school. For the 2009-2010 school year, we were blessed with a great collection of 15 (Yes! 15!) teachers: Greg Cox, Veronica Ensminger, Howard Gill, John Hanna, Christina Harrison, Rob Kravets, Jim Lessenger, Leslie Lessenger, Janet Murrell, Dale Olm, Mickey Scott, Dale Stanley, Debi Stanley, Susan Stofan, and Lynette Toney. We also were blessed to have Meaghan Ring, a Pediatric Nursing student, join us as a new nursery school teacher. As last year, the Gather Round curriculum was used. Eight students were presented with Bibles: Audrey Benton, Liberty and Victorria Herr, Autumn Thomas, Johnny and John Roper Jr., and Isabel and Sophia Briseno.



The addition of Howard Gill in December, 2009 as our Director of Youth Ministries was truly a blessing to us all. Aside from taking over responsibility for Sunday School, Howard's energy and drive have taken our youth program to a new level. His passion and compassion have engaged not just the youth but the entire congregation. Several great events that were put on by our youth are

described in Howard's Director of Youth Ministries report.

Adult education included 4 studies: "This I Believe" led by Rev. Annette Cook, "The Uncluttered Heart" led by Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk, "The Language of God" led by Rob Kravets, and "Genesis of Grace" led by Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk.



Congregational Care

Penny Taylor & Janet Murrell



Congregational Care at our church is a joy in which all of us participate. We try to make sure that all the folks who are wanting to attend services on Sunday, or any other event, are able to do so. No member should miss out because they are without transportation. When we become aware of a need someone will volunteer to bring them. We provide rides to doctor's appointments, medical treatments and visit our members when they are sick. We try very hard to make folks feel that they are part of a community of God's love.

Sometimes this is done with a card or an e-mail. Sometimes just a phone call can help make a connection that reminds a member that (s)he is missed and wished well.

We have a small group of folks on the actual committee but we have a community that is always willing to help out in any way they can. We have a generous congregation which steps up when we let them know what is needed. This is my vision of a church - a place where you feel safe and you know that your children are safe; a place where, if something happens to you, your family, or your friends, people are around to pray with you; folks who don't judge you, but support you on your journey; a place for spiritual growth and human connection.

Pastor Renie tells us every Sunday that if we are out there doing God's work and it is easy we are not working hard enough. Congregational care can be hard work but it is also a joy. Let's continue to work hard to make sure that our community is being taken care of and receiving the care it needs. We will continue to provide the rides, cards, and visits. We are always exploring new ways to reach out to our members. The committee hopes to continue to work to meet the needs of our church community and of course, experience the joy this community gives to us. Thank all of you for your help this last year.



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

What a packed year this has been! As many of you know, I had several job interviews during the spring, and was frequently asked what I had been doing since leaving my previous job. I was proud to present my work as CCC fellowship chair, working side-by-side with so many of you to produce so many events. In total, we hosted and/or assisted with 85 events in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

The Fellowship Committee continues to provide opportunities for us to be in community with friends, family, neighbors and colleagues by hosting events like the 4th of July BBQ, the Harvest Festival, Thanksgiving Potluck and Friday Fun Night. We also continue to partner with other groups to present events such as the Crab Feed and Service Auction with Stewardship, the Sunday School Breakfast with Christian Education, the Scottish Fiddlers Concert with the Music Committee and Work Days each month with Building and Grounds. A special note of gratitude to Milly Thomas for preparing so many of the meals for Building and Grounds Fellowship!

Thanks to the generosity of Holiday House this year we were able to purchase a new stove for the CCC kitchen, allowing us more flexibility to provide food for events. We will continue to make additional improvements in our kitchen in the coming year with the remaining monies from their donation.

At the end of 2009, we tried a new format for Sunday fellowship, forming teams of three hosts. Everyone seems to prefer this new format, and it even provides an opportunity for a bit of fellowship in the hosting!

You – each one of you at CCC – are the fellowship team. None of our events would be possible without you hosting, helping set up, break down, cook, clean, and participate in the many activities in the life of our church. I am grateful for your support and look forward to serving again (with the help of my new co-chair, Debi Stanley!) in our next year together.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOSTS – THANK YOU!!!

JUL	5 Fellowship Committee 12 Fellowship Committee 19 Potluck – Congregational Meeting 26 Janet Murrel, Tricia Hartzell	DEC	6 Jessica & Lance Watson 13 V.Ensminger, J.Lawrence, S.Thompson, L.Toney 20 B& Swinder Cooper, M.Ewart, B.Hamm, A.Stamm-Kirk 27 CHRISTMAS COOKIE SUNDAY	MAR	7 V.Ensminger, Jim & Leslie Lessenger, J.Murrell 14 Greg Cox, Rob Kravets, Dale Olm 21 T.Hartzell, V.Hartzell, D.Stanley 28 N.Gauger, P.Lane, L.Lawrence
AUG	2 Larry & Nancy Schaffer 9 Jett & Milly Thomas 16 Dale & Debi Stanley 23 Dale Olm & Shelby Riddle 30 Karen Hanna	JAN	3 Allison Stamm-Kirk 10 Pam Martin, Hope Wingert, Jan Wong 17 Greg Cox, Rob Kravets, Dale Olm 24 Potluck – Congregational Meeting 31 N.Baldwin, Jett & Milly Thomas, J.Watson	APR	4 M.Ewart, N.Gilman, K.Hanna, A.Stamm-Kirk 11 Pam Martin, Hope Wingert, Jan Wong 18 B.Hamm, C.Harrison, Jessica & Lance Watson 25 Mary Ewart, Gail Mason, Debi Stanley
SEP	6 Hope Wingert 13 Alice Burgess & Fellowship Cmmte 20 The Choir 27 Debbie Conway & Marilyn Scrutchins	FEB	7 Brent & Swinder Cooper, C.Harrison, Carl & Gail Mason 14 L.Blackie, D.Stanley, S.Stofan 21 T.Hartzell, V.Hartzell, A.Stamm-Kirk 28 J.Lawrence, M.Scrutchins, A.Stamm-Kirk	MAY	2 M.Cavagnuolo, L.Pyles, M.Ewart 9 M.Carey, K.Hanna, A.Stamm-Kirk 16 Asha Cooper, Marilyn Scrutchins 23 J.Lawrence, Carl & Gail Mason, J.Murrell 30 Dean & Nancy Gillman, Kim Webb
OCT	4 Greg Cox & Chole McGraw 11 Carl & Gail Mason 18 Eileen & Greg Ruel 25 PPRC Committee			JUN	6 G.Benton, S.Thompson, Carl & Gail Mason 13 G.Cox, L.Schaffer, Linda & Ron Smith 20 Gina & Jill Esparza, Debi Stanley 27 CHURCH COUNCIL (New Members)
NOV	1 Michelle Cavagnuolo & Laura Pyles 8 Holiday House (Christmas Bazaar) 15 Potluck (Stewardship Auction) 22 Dale & Debi Stanley 29 P.Lane, L.Lawrence, M.Scrutchins				

Fellowship Events 2009-10

Date	Event	Date	Event
07/04	4th of July BBQ	01/09	DeGreening the Sanctuary & Pancake Breakfast
07/19	Annual Meeting - Potluck	01/23	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day
07/29	Dinner with the Vicar	02/12	Friday Fun Night!
08/12	Dinner with the Vicar	02/21	Lenten Faith Study
09/19	Pasta with the Bells	02/27	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day
10/02	Friday Fun Night!	02/28	Lenten Faith Study
10/03	Harvest Festival Work Day	03/07	Lenten Faith Study
10/04	New member Sunday	03/13	Crab Frenzy
10/24	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	03/14	Lenten Faith Study
10/24	Scottish Fiddlers Concert	03/21	Lenten Faith Study
10/31	Harvest Festival	03/27	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day
11/08	Bay Association Fall Meeting	03/28	Lenten Faith Study
11/15	Stewardship Auction & Potluck	04/01	Maundy Thursday Simple Supper & Service
11/18	Thanksgiving Potluck	04/09	Friday Fun Night!
11/28	Greening the Sanctuary & Cookie Decorating	04/24	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day
12/05	Vallejo Choral Society & Rolling Tones Concert	05/02	Sunday School Spring Breakfast
12/24	Christmas Eve Service	05/22	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day
		06/04	Friday Fun Night!
		06/26	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day



Mission and Outreach

Sarah Thompson

Our projects this year fall into two categories: 1) the Social Outreach Mission Program, in which we financially support 13 specific charities; and 2) the Social Outreach Action Program, in which we combine our fundraising with a public action.

The Social Outreach Mission Program:

The goals for giving for 2009-2010 were not met this year for the first time in four years.



The fall contributions were the same as past years, so the July-December charities were unaffected. The following charities were given these donations in January 2010:

Fisher House (July '09 Mission)	\$800
Planned Parenthood (August '09 Mission)	\$800
Foster a Dream (September '09 Mission)	\$800
Neighbors in Need (UCC – October '09 Mission)	\$800
Heifer Project (November '09 Mission)	\$800
CAC Christmas Giving Food Gifts (December '09 Mission)	\$1100
Christmas Fund (UCC – December '09 Mission)	\$1200

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 have no price tag.

The spring donations were down (although not significantly). We met our charitable targets for all but two of our charities:

Southern Poverty Law Center (January '10 Mission)	\$700**
Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano Counties (February '10 Mission)	\$800
One Great Hour of Sharing – Haiti Outreach (March '10 Mission)	\$800
Nature Conservancy (April '10 Mission)	\$800
Peace Jam (May '10 Mission)	\$800
Strengthen the Church (June '10 Mission)	\$700**

** did not meet goals

The Social Outreach Action Program:



We engaged in special fundraisers to support these projects as there was little surplus this year in the Social Outreach Mission Pool. In the spring of 2010 we coordinated with Foster

a Dream to bring 800 local foster children chocolate bunnies.

This summer we are currently putting together backpacks for the incoming first graders of the Puente de la Costa Sur Mission. Our goal is to deliver 27 backpacks filled with school supplies and clothing on August 8.



Stewardship

Shelby Riddle

This year was an exciting year for the Stewardship Committee. We started the year with a new style of fundraiser, a silent auction added to our live auction, and raised the most auction money to date \$4,619.

We added to our fundraising efforts this year with a well-attended Crab Feed. Jazz Gorilla played live music and we all loved the food and experience. That fundraiser helped us to raise \$1,807, which brought the Stewardship total raised in 2009-2010 to \$6,442 less expenses. We were budgeted to raise \$6,655 so we were just slightly short of our budgeted goal and chose to not have another fund raiser this year.

Our committee also presented three articles in the Bridge about tithing. This helped us to get this conversation started for many, who had questions about the “whats and whys” of tithing. The bottom line in the series was that tithing is about giving back the fruits of one’s “first labors” to God, from our abundance, as stewards of our planet and as recipients of Gods many gifts to us.

We have quite a few of our pledgers now giving electronically, which has ensured more continuity of giving when people are on vacation or miss church for a week or two. We also have electronic donations via our website.

Our stewardship campaign went very well this year, especially in light of our overall economic picture. We had \$120,408 pledged to our operations for the coming fiscal year. With this amount we were able to extend our youth minister to a part time full year position. We were forced, however, to reduce the hours of our secretary by 25% in order to balance our budget and keep the ministries operating and funded. We were finally able to give Pastor Renie a salary that is at the lowest level of the Conference guidelines, rather than below Conference guidelines. That is a start.

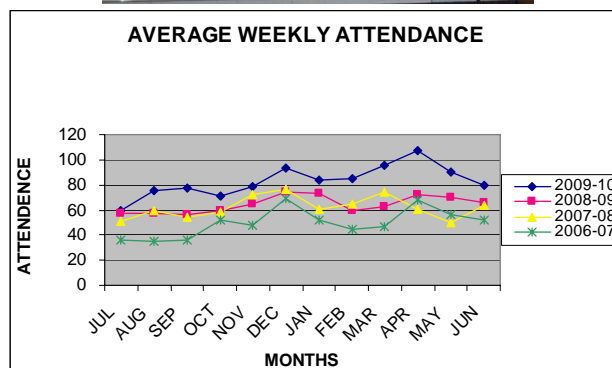
Thank you for all of your generous giving to our church this year. We have many ministries and exciting programs to fund and support, to help our church be a spiritually satisfying and uplifting place for our members, and to help our members carry the Word out to our community.



Welcome

Karen Hanna

Radical Hospitality begins with a Radical Welcome and Community Congregational is great at the welcome. From our church's signs, to our "no matter who you are..." shout out in worship we are a place of radical welcome. Again in October the Fellowship committee and Welcome committee joined forces to host a Harvest Festival. "It's never too late to have a happy church experience. Come share our joy," continues to be our tagline and it brings smiles to many. This year we held three new members gather and brought in a total of 13 new members! Our attendance is and our welcome is radical, come share our joy!



Worship

Priscilla Lane & Gail Mason

In July 2009, Rob Kravets led Children's Time with a discussion about dog joy - that amazing, wriggling, smiling, tongue-hanging-out excitement that cannot be contained. That was a fitting image, because worship opened the 2009-2010 program year focused on images of joy and dancing. Through the summer, members and friends of CCCUCC gathered in strong numbers to be together in worship. In gathering together, in singing and praying and sharing joys and expressing sorrows, and in calling to the Giver of all joy, we searched for the dog joy and the dance that is meant to be for each of our lives.

The theme for Weekend-in-the-Trees also served as the focus for worship in the fall 2009. Moderator Carl Mason was the guest preacher for those who did not attend Weekend-in-the-Trees. Homecoming Sunday (the return from summer vacations and activities, and the beginning of the fall program) was celebrated on September 13, and on September 27 we celebrated New Members Sunday.

In October, Pastor Renie and Annette Cook attended a four-day worship planning workshop in South Lake Tahoe. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Marcia McFee, a nationally-renowned educator and expert in Christian worship.

They came away with planning ideas and enthusiasm and excitement that transformed the Worship Committee.

With the help of their leadership, the committee has since assisted with worship planning based on the seasons of the liturgical year, developing themes that inform the preaching, music, visual arts, and congregational involvement.

Worship is both a ritual of community and a time of personal exploration. It is a time of praise and joy; it is a time of learning and reflecting, seeing and participating. As a result of the workshop, the Worship Committee has been encouraged to keep in mind the various ways worship can be alive and engaging for everyone.

The season of Advent had Christ as the Light of the World as its theme. As we progressed through Advent, we moved out of darkness into light.



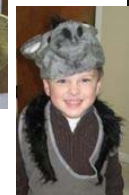
Thanksgiving Sunday
November 22, 2009

Through each Sunday's themes - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love - the sanctuary changed from dim light to blazing light. The Banners made by Debi Stanley provided the visual anchor for the theme.

The annual pageant presented by the children and youth was filled with the mystery of Christmas.

The season of Epiphany was a time of looking at the miracles of Jesus, beginning with Jesus' baptism. As we remembered Jesus' baptism,

we renewed our own baptisms with the help of the young men of the congregation who moved through the congregation sprinkling water from small branches.



Visual arts made the sanctuary come alive with the miracles – a waterfall, a fish mobile, nets, and baskets of loaves. Each Sunday brought a new visual image to help focus our worship experiences.

The liturgical season of Lent began February 17, Ash Wednesday, with a service of prayer and penitence.

Lent at CCCUCC was a time of preparing our garden – gathering the dirt, preparing the soil, removing the rocks, scattering the seed, appreciating the sun and rain, watering the soil, and watching the sprouts become plants.

The Maundy Thursday service was a meaningful remembrance of Christ's last supper with his disciples, and Palm Sunday began with the joyous procession of palms, but ended with the sobering anticipation of Christ's passion.



On Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010, the Lenten garden came to full fruition. Joy and abundance and praise were everywhere.

In May, Pentecost Sunday was Youth Sunday. What an amazing Pentecost! The

sanctuary came alive with Pentecostal fire and wind. The paraments made by Annette Cook were an inspiration.

The messages offered by three youth – Stuart Blackie, Adam Olm, and Katie Stamm-Kirk – were thoughtful, careful, personal, and very touching. The congregation



could not have been more proud of the young leaders of the church.

Over the past year, we have gathered as the faithful community. We have shared joy, expressed concerns, sung praises, prayed from the heart, and joined hands in common acknowledgement of the God who created us and is with us throughout life. We strive to be honest witnesses to the still-speaking God.



Historical Archives

James E. Lessenger, MD, Archivist/Historian

Our church has a long and rich history that has been carefully preserved by historians and secretaries through the 144 years of its existence. The Congregational Church and the Church of Christ, two traditions of which we are a part, also have a long and important history. Many of the traditions of our church and of our country are intertwined with the histories of these churches. The Congregational Church has been an important force in the history of Benicia and California.

Two important issues were brought to my attention by Pastor Stamm-Kirk when I joined the church two years ago. Important histories were produced for the 50th and 100th anniversaries of our church and the congregation wants to produce one for the 150th anniversary in six years. Secondly, while the archives and church records were preserved in a series of cardboard boxes carefully stacked in a cabinet, they were not easily accessible.

At the request of Pastor Stamm-Kirk I created an archive by:

- Purchasing acid-free, buffered, archival quality boxes and files.
- Making an inventory and finding guide using MS Word so it can be added to and modified with relative ease.
- Modifying half of the Christian Education storage closet by coating the shelves with acrylic varnish so that paper items could be safely stored on them (and made safe from tannic acid).
- With the help of Leslie Lessenger and Jett and Milly Thomas, sorting through the half ton pile of papers.

The files are arranged them in nine categories, each with subsections to make it easier to locate items:

- Chronological by year.
- Special records groups, such as deeds and bylaws.
- Special collections, such as Arloine Stoner's files.
- Artifacts, such as silver collection trays.
- Books, such as the Pilgrim Hymnal.
- Scrapbooks, including the 100th anniversary book.
- Architectural drawings.
- Photographs.
- Videos.

Once the archives were organized and sorted, three programs were initiated:

- A system to collect more documents on an ongoing basis.
- An educational and outreach program.
- The creation of a history project.

The system to collect more documents includes a collection box in the church office and conversations with church members about how they can deposit their own church records in the archives. The educational and outreach program includes a history display in the foyer of the sanctuary, making various documents available to share with youth as part of the confirmation program, and a PowerPoint presentation on the project.

Our next big step will be creation of a 150th history project. While there are a lot of good ideas floating around, we have not as yet settled on a specific program. By the end of the year I will call a meeting of interested persons and begin planning. I also want to initiate a program of scanning documents to be used for backup, transcription, and inclusion in the project.

If any one wants to be part of the history project, please let me know. If anyone wants to view the archives, do historical researches, or look through any files, please let me know and I'll make them available to you. The archives are intended as a tool to be used to benefit the congregation and not just a pile of dusty files.

If anyone has materials to donate to the archives, contact me and we can discuss it. There are two caveats you need to know:

- Once donated, materials become the property of the church in perpetuity.
- It is important to write in pencil on the back of each photograph the name of the subjects in the photo and the date it was taken.

Holiday House

Susan Stofan

In November we held our annual bazaar. We missed a few of our faithful members. Our soup and salad luncheon was a big hit and we sold all sorts of items from stuffed animals to aprons.

This year our proceeds went to the purchase of a new and much needed stove for our kitchen. Everyone who has used it says it's really great.



There are five or six of us – depending on who is in town – working on our 52nd year. Who knows what creative projects will appear next?

Don't miss our luncheon and bazaar this November and our mini-bazaar in December.



Nominating Committee

Dale Stanley

Council Nominations for Fiscal Year 2010/2011:

Position	Name	Term completion date
Council Officers		
Moderator	Dale Stanley	June 30, 2011
Vice Moderator	Shelby Riddle	June 30, 2011
	(Moves to Moderator 2011 - 2012)	
Clerk	Lynn Lawrence	June 30, 2012
Financial Secretary	Nancy Gilman	June 30, 2012
Treasurer	Dale Olm	June 30, 2011
Council Standing Committee Chairs		
Building & Grounds	Greg Cox & Jillian Esparza	June 30, 2011
Christian Education	Leslie Lessenger	June 30, 2012
Congregational Care	Penny Taylor & Jackie Lawrence	June 30, 2012
Fellowship	Allison Stamm-Kirk & Debi Stanley	June 30, 2011
Mission & Outreach	Sarah Thompson & Nora Gauger	June 30, 2011
Stewardship	Carl Mason	June 30, 2012
Welcome	Jessica Watson	June 30, 2011
Worship	Annette Cook	June 30, 2012
Member-At-Large	Tricia Hartzell	June 30, 2011
Member-At-large	Eileen Ruel	June 30, 2012

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Dale Stanley

The PPRC was active throughout the year, meeting monthly with Pastor Renie. Committee members included Priscilla Lane, Shelby Riddle, Larry Schaffer, Susan Stofan, and Dale Stanley.

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

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

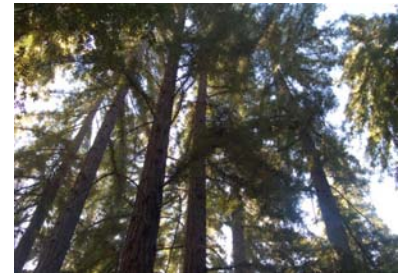


Weekend in the Trees

Keith Read



WITT XXVII was held over the Labor Day weekend 2009 at Valley of the Moon (VOM) Camp near Glen Ellen. Our theme for 2009 was “IMAGINE” based on John Lennon’s song, and as we did last year, our church used this theme throughout the year. Forty-nine campers convened at VOM this year with 15 of them WITT Rookies! We were blessed with great weather and witnessed a full moon rising over the VOM on Friday night – a rare WITT treat. Naturally, the food was fabulous (e.g., lasagna, ice cream pie, blueberry pancakes, a burrito bar, and of course our traditional full turkey dinner on Saturday night!), but it was the fun and fellowship where our imaginations really ran wild this year!



Some of the amazing activities included:

B-I-N-G-O with white elephant “gifts” Friday night; late night board and card games and mellow music by the VOM Minstrels; evening vespers and a hike to Vesper Point on Saturday night; the guided nature Walk In The Trees; swimming, swimming, and more swimming; the now-traditional WITT group photo; the kickball game of “THE APOSTLES” vs. “THE GOOD SAMARITANS” (always ending in a tie because everyone is a winner!); and of course: The Skits! Oh my, the Skits! Truly one of the great highlights every year.



There were also some NEW and NOTEWORTHY ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR, such as: A treasure hunt with a cool craft surprise at the end led by John Hanna. An Amazing Grace on Friday night sung by The Amazing Duo of Dean & Nancy Gilman. An imaginative ICE BREAKER by Mr. Vice-Moderator Dale Stanley.

The Saturday morning Workshop

In The Trees (with almost half the camp in attendance!) led by Debi Stanley inspired all those who attended. There were once again some very WITT-y crafts on the deck created by Laurie Read, Allison Stamm-Kirk, and Karen Hanna. There was a special Sunday night “Movie & Popcorn With



The Minister” showing of “Oh, God!” On Sunday morning we all gathered to Worship In The Trees (with communion) religiously led by Pastor Renie, Jon Dodson, Carol Stephens, Debbie Conway, Shelby Riddle and Barbara Hamm. The new “Ropes Course” was a surprise hit on Sunday as campers mastered “Nitro” and the “Pit of Doom” in preparation for the “Spider Web” and the “Mule” next year! Pastor Renie was everywhere this year visiting and meeting all the campers. We hope she was not too tired after such a busy weekend of “R&R”! And last, but not least, the



Twelfth Annual Jimmie Sayles Memorial Horseshoe Tournament on Saturday afternoon saw six two-person teams throwing the 'shoes with the "Double D's" team of Dale Stanley and Dale Olm besting all ringers for the coveted title of WITT 2009 Champs! Congratulations "Double D's"!!

I also want to personally thank all the people who helped plan WITT many months in advance. Unlike most years, all of our planning meetings were well attended and it made the planning not only easier, but fun as well. WITT is always enjoyable for a variety of reasons, but it is especially nice because so



many people step forward to help with the wide range of activities and events for all those who come so that they may have a unique experience. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

And finally, we cannot conclude this review without mentioning how much everyone truly missed Arloine Stoner as this was only the second time in 27 years that Arloine was not with us at WITT. A special thank you goes to Debi Stanley for not only making the wonderful "IMAGINE"

banners, but also creating a beautiful hand-painted card at the retreat for everyone to sign for Arloine! See you next year Arloine!!

Happy Trails To You...Until We Meet Again At WITT XXVIII Over Labor Day Weekend In 2010!

Keith Read, WITT Director

IMAGINE



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2010-2011

STAFF

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm
Director of Youth Ministries	Howard Gill
Church Secretary	Maggie Hart

OFFICERS

Moderator	Dale Stanley
Vice-Moderator	Shelby Riddle
Church Clerk	Lynn Lawrence
Financial Secretary	Nancy Gilman
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Stewardship Ministry	Shelby Riddle
Welcome and Growth	Jessica Watson
Worship Ministry	Annette Cook
Member-At-Large	Tricia Hartzell
Member-At-Large	Eileen Ruel