

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

2013 – 2014



The 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Community Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Benicia, California

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 – 2014

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM 2013-2014

### STAFF

Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Director of Music Ministries  
Church Secretary

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk  
Dr. Barbara Hamm  
Howard Gill (left Dec. 2013)  
Vacant

### OFFICERS

Moderator  
Vice-Moderator  
Church Clerk  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer

Nancy Gilman  
Keith Read  
Dale Olm  
Karen Hanna  
Shelby Riddle

### Committee Chairs

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

Jim Lessenger/Greg Cox  
Jennifer Otero  
Anna Atuatasu  
Susan Stofan & Laura Pyles  
Sarah Thompson  
Michelle Cavagnuolo  
Debi & Dale Stanley  
Bruce Smith

Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large

Natalie Daffern  
Jackie Lawrence







## Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I think about the opportunity I have to work alongside you at Community Congregational, I am so humbled. Every day, every week, I am blessed by your kindness, your generosity, the way that you care for, pray for, and honor me. I am humbled by this calling we have together.

It is a very exciting time to be part of Community Congregational Church.

As we continue to move toward our 150 Anniversary in 2016 there is much about which to be joyful and hopeful. God has called us to be the church in ways that are both new and old. God has blessed us with strengths for ministry that we are discovering and re-discovering together.

2013-2014 was the year we stepped into our new future together. You have probably heard me speak of this as a crucial time in the history of churches, so many closing or moving to smaller quarters. But not CCCUCC. We are moving forward and we are learning some things about being the church.

This past year we ordained and Installed Rev. Candace Frawley, who is serving Saint Mary Hospital in San Francisco and is a minister in a four way covenant with Community Congregational Church.

There are many activities that are part of a pastor's ministry—administration, boards, baptisms, budgets, classes, committees, counseling, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and the alphabetical list goes on to visitation, worship, and beyond. In the midst of all of these important responsibilities, a pastor must keep three priorities at the forefront—preaching & teaching, casting vision, and training and equipping. I could not do any of those without a strong supportive council.

I want to personally thank my Church Council for sitting thru & participating in, town hall meetings and council meetings where we discussed details of the new parking lot, and conveyed the vision and the need to the congregation for a vote. I'd also like to praise them for their leadership in this last year! I especially want to recognize, Pam Martin, Nora Gauger and Donna Hill who, despite their own schedules, helped fill in the gaps left by having no administration staff. I also would like to recognize Nancy Gilman our Moderator in 2013-2014. Nancy is one of the hardest working people I know. She is so faithful, and she is such a huge blessing to CCCUCC. She consistently goes above and beyond, she stays on top of business, and consistently follows through.



Each year I have the pleasure and privilege to go through our photos and pull out ones for our Annual Report. Now to some this may sound like a chore but not to me, I love looking at photos over the last year of our church in action. And this past year we have been just that, in action. 2012-2013 we ended the year with the Gathering Convention of "Common Ground". "Common Ground" is diverse religious and non-profits organizations in Solano and Napa Counties who formed a broad-based, non-partisan organization, to work together to bring about change. From that convention to the end of our 2013-2014 we've accomplished quite a lot, from have voice in political candidates, to neighborhood walks, from awareness sessions to real action helping to register and get licenses for undocumented individuals with Voces

Unidas. The next year promises even more activities. We as a church have been active even outside of “Common Ground”, Our second Saturdays feeding our friends of the street has been a huge success, with over half the church involved in this mission, and over hundreds fed, clothed and soothed with beautiful music.

The theme this past year in worship and for Weekend In the Trees has been, “Oh the Places, You will God.” And go we did! Throughout the year we traveled through the pages of Dr. Seuss’ books & Gospel readings that correlated with the message. I’m very grateful to my worship team that decorated the sanctuary with the amazing Seussical art by Debi Stanley. It was a new way to look at scripture through a lens we all knew well.

What might our future hold? That’s a question we’ve been asking together for several years. Some things seem obvious. Here’s a few: People are committed to enhancing the look and the visibility of our building and grounds. So we are moving ahead with the Campus Enhancement Project, headed by Jim Lessenger and Greg Cox. New parking lot and new fellowship landing. Also we will continue to provide good spiritual care and companionship for one another along life’s journey. We have an active Congregational Care Team and a beautiful new Labyrinth, created and installed by Penny Taylor, Janet Murrell and Donna Hill, with funds from Holiday House.

Are there things and ways of being church that if we don’t do them no one will? Are there things we can do that no one else can? Does that mean God is calling us to do them? Our future is not settled. It is open. For a living church the future is always open. So we ask, and continue to ask, what God might be calling us to be and to do.

This has been a great year at Community Congregational Church. I wish I could thank each of you personally for investing yourself in helping CCCUCC make a real difference in the world.





## Minister in Covenant Report

The Rev. Candace Frawley



As always, I am surprised at just how fast time moves. It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since I celebrated my service of ordination with each of you and began my work as a Chaplain Resident at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco. It feels so quick and yet when I think about the last five years in which I have been a part of this amazing community, it feels like a lifetime. Each year here has been marked by important milestones in my life and in my ministry and this year has been no exception.

This wonderful opportunity has opened me up in ways I did not know were even possible; growth made possible by your willingness to covenant with me in this ministry for which I am eternally grateful.

My only regret is that I have not been able to be as present in the life and leadership of this community as I would have liked to be over this past year. For that I ask for your forgiveness; but want each of you to know that while I have not been able to be as physically present here this past year, I have held you all in my heart. As your Minister in Covenant I have brought a piece of each of you into the work I have been called to do as a Chaplain. On your behalf I have journeyed with others who were in need of Pastoral Care during times of crisis. Holding your care in my touch, I have reached out and touched many others who were in need of unconditional love. This ministry has extended the reach of CCCUCC beyond the four church walls and out into the world and I have been honored to be your missionary.

These experiences over this past year have also taught me so much, especially about myself. I have learned the importance of embracing all of who you are; including all of what has been poured into your life from your very beginnings that has made you the person you are. I have learned just how precious life is and to take nothing for granted. I have learned that sometimes life isn't fair and sometimes bad things really do happen to good people. I have learned how to let go and then how to fall back into the Holy, deepening my relationship to the Divine in profound and life changing ways.

As I reflect on all of my years at CCCUCC I am awestruck at the blessings that have shown up in my life as a result of our connection. A connection that will remain, even as I prepare to officially take my leave and move more fully into the ministry that God is calling me into. While our relationship may change, the love and care that we have shared will remain as an indelible etching on my heart. My heart that is filled to overflowing with love and gratitude for each and every one of you. My life has been forever changed by your touch and will continue to be extended to others through my ministry. As each new year passes even more quickly than the one before, may you know the fullness of God's love and grace in your lives each and every day.



## Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm



“I Love to Tell the Story”—this is the title of an old gospel hymn and the name of an anthem the Sanctuary Choir is currently working on. It has captured my imagination as summing up what CCC is about: telling the story. This story is exemplified in the life of this church every time we meet, and I tell my part of it from a musical standpoint.

The congregation sings the story every Sunday. The \*Sanctuary Choir [\*all participants in all groups are listed at the end of the report] adds to the story with its special music most Sundays September through June, having met for choir rehearsal on Thursday evenings from the end of August to the end of the church year (June). The \*Women and Girls’ Chorus adds its lovely voices to the song, sometimes singing separately, sometimes with the Sanctuary Choir. The \*Children’s Choir sings occasionally for worship and for the annual Christmas Concert. In addition, several of the \*members from these groups offer vocal solos or duets.

Instrumental music also figures prominently in the worship services and life of CCC. Our handbell choir, \*The Rolling Tones, plays throughout the year in church as well as in the wider community. Director Leslie Lessenger writes the following:

The Rolling Tones handbell choir enjoyed a great year. Increasingly complex music was enjoyed during church services, along with accompaniment to choir anthems and congregational singing. The annual gift of holiday music outside Baskin Robbins was highly appreciated. The group also participated in two concerts: Melody Choral Singers in December and Hope Lutheran Church in El Sobrante in March. Veteran musicians Laurie Read, Keith Read, Chol  McGraw, Kim Webb, and Deborah Shanks were joined by newcomers Pat Obendorf and Marlan Shanks, with Director Leslie Lessenger. Leslie and Chol  attended the 2014 Area 12 conference of the Handbell Musicians of America conference in San Luis Obispo.

Our \*instrumentalists also offer occasional solos or duets or small ensembles. \*Jazz Gorilla plays a majority of Sundays at CCC and is joined by a larger instrumental ensemble on first Sundays and other times. The \*Christmas Orchestra, comprised of all instrumentalists who wish to play, accompanies the carol sing-along at the Christmas Concert and also plays for church on a December Sunday sing-along during the gathering music time. The \*Benicia Celtic Band periodically plays, in various configurations, for our friends on the street in Vallejo and also for gathering music preceding worship services, the music for which is coordinated by Shelby Riddle.

CCC offered two concerts this year in its annual concert series: the Celtic concert and the December Christmas concert. Shelby Riddle, Dean Gilman, and Barbara Hamm joined with a number of other San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers to play in the October Fiddle Rising Celtic Concert directed by Tuula Cotter and Winslow Yerxa—musicians extraordinaire! The annual, homegrown, intergenerational Christmas Concert offered both vocal and instrumental music.

\*Jazz Gorilla played mid-summer in 2013 for the Sunday afternoon worship service of the UCC Synod in Long Beach, before a congregation of 4500 people—an event for which we had practiced long and hard! We also offered a couple of mini-concerts on the exhibit hall stage. Community outreach has included playing on second Saturdays for our friends on the street in Vallejo, for a summer wedding reception, for the fall open house of Southampton Pet Hospital, for the Global Holiday Faire at the Disciples of Christ Christian Church in Vallejo to benefit seventeen nonprofit community organizations, for a Merrill Gardens Christmas concert, and for the Longest Night Service, jointly sponsored and planned by CCC along with the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches. In January we conducted a Taiz  workshop and mini-worship service at the Episcopal Church for its District event. In February we played for an AAUW (American Association of University Women) Fundraiser at Arts Benicia. In April we played for the winter nights program housing homeless people at the Unitarian Church in Walnut Creek, and in June we played for a fundraiser for the Disciples of Christ





Christian Church in Antioch (the church which Barbara served before coming to Benicia CCC) to help raise money for its building repairs.

CCC musicians are also active in community outreach and/or professional groups. Dean and Nancy Gilman and Gail Mason sing with Cantare Con Vivo, which conducts an amazing musical youth outreach program in the Oakland schools, a program which recently garnered the organization a first-place national award for just such outreach programs! (The group's performance of the Mozart *Requiem* this spring was the musical highlight of my year—of musical events in which I myself was not performing.)

Laura Pyles and Kim Webb along with Dean and Nancy Gilman performed with the Vallejo Choral Society, which joined with the Vallejo Symphony for a spring performance of the Brahms' *Requiem*, also another musical highlight for me—and for these singers as well.

Dean Gilman, in addition to playing the bass in \*Jazz Gorilla, plays in the "Just for Fun Band," an organization based in Vallejo which performs regularly at Alto Camino, Oakwood, and Merrill Gardens—six shows a month! Dean is also now the bassist for Astral Kitchen, a rock band based in Napa (some of you may not know that Dean started his professional life right out of college as a rock musician and introduced his wife Nancy to his bass on their first date!). He performed at the annual *Cammie Awards* at the Dan Foley Cultural Center in May, awards presented by Caminar, a community based nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. With all of these projects, Dean still maintains his recording business, recording both solo artists and groups such as Cantare Con Vivo and the Vallejo Choral Society.

Kathleen Kravets deployed both her singing and acting abilities in a number of plays and musicals throughout the year, performing at the Dickens Fair at the Cow Palace, the Fetterly Playhouse in Vallejo, and in a musical theater group in Sacramento, among others. (Kathleen, we wish you Godspeed as you and Rob move to the San Luis Obispo area—you will be missed!)

Cholé McGraw performed with the Melody Choral Singers in their December and spring concerts.

Shelby Riddle traveled with the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers on its spring tour and also attended its June fiddle camp.

Deborah Shanks sang with the Sanctuary Choir, wrote and arranged music for both the choir and \*The Rolling Tones, and performed in several of the quarterly concerts of the Hope Lutheran Church in El Sobrante. She has graciously accompanied the choir and the worship services in Barbara's absence. Her help and her musicianship are both greatly appreciated.

Stuart Blackie, a recent graduate of Benicia High School, performed with the Honor Band and went on a spring break band tour to Chicago, capping seven inclusive years of performances with the Benicia Middle School and High School Bands. Stuart is spending the summer as a counselor at Cazadero Music Camp before heading off to San José State University this fall to major in jazz studies. We expect to see great things in the future from this multi-talented young man.

While it is true that all these "extracurricular" musical activities are not a part of the CCC music program, we unquestionably benefit from the involvement of our musicians in them—both for the increasing levels of skill that they bring back to CCC and for the indirect means of publicity for our church and the quality of our music program.

As your Minister of Music, I have had a busy year coordinating the music at CCC as well as performing as a church musician in a number of events beyond our local church. I accompanied the Disciples of Christ Women's Retreat at Mission Springs in September. I sang in the March concert of Hope Lutheran Church in El Sobrante. I accompanied several of the UCC Annual Gathering worship services in May and also provided early morning Taizé worship opportunities.

I have also had a productive year with my hymn writing and have seen some of my hymns published in the new Presbyterian and Community of Christ hymnals, both of which came out last fall. A new publication from Hope Publishing Company entitled *At Your Altars*, which just came out in June, contains eight of my pieces. I look forward to doing two workshops at the UCC Musicians National Network Conference in Greensboro in July—one on hymn writing, the other on piano improvisation. Directly following that conference, I will also be attending the Hymn Society Conference in Columbus and accompanying a plenary presentation by Marcia McFee. I still play occasionally at Max's Opera Café in San Francisco. My newest musical project is to record, with the assistance of Dean Gilman, some lullabies for my new granddaughter! Thank you, Dean! It has indeed been a rich and fulfilling musical year, and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve here at CCC and elsewhere. I love to tell and sing and play the story: I would not trade being a church musician for anything.

**\*List of Participants in All**

**Groups** (my apologies to anyone whom I may have inadvertently omitted):

**Sanctuary Choir**

Leslie Blackie  
Dean Gilman  
Nancy Gilman  
Heidi Hawthorne [fall season]  
Kathleen Kravets [fall season]  
Priscilla Lane  
Cholé McGraw [spring season]  
Jackie Sayles  
Larry Schaffer [fall season]  
Deborah Shanks  
Marlan Shanks  
Bruce Smith  
Angelo Sphere [spring season]  
Susan Stofan  
Barbara Hamm - Director

**Women and Girls' Chorus**

Ella Beatson  
Audrey Benton  
Lydia Benton  
Katie Stamm-Kirk  
Autumn Thomas  
Meadow Thomas  
Holly Thomas  
Maddie Vlnar  
Leslie Blackie  
Mary Susan Gast [spring season]  
Nancy Gilman  
Priscilla Lane  
Cholé McGraw [spring season]  
Laura Pyles  
Jackie Sayles  
Deborah Shanks  
Susan Stofan  
Barbara Hamm - Director

**Children's Choir**

Sione Fatu Atuatasi  
Toaoali'i Glenn Atuatasi  
Mayleen Carolanne Atuatasi

Ella Beatson  
Jack Beatson  
Audrey Benton  
Lydia Benton  
Colin Cavagnuolo-Pyles  
Katie Stamm-Kirk  
Autumn Thomas  
Meadow Thomas  
Holly Thomas  
Benjamin Thomas  
Maddie Vlnar  
Barbara Hamm - Director

**Vocalists – solos, duets**

Leslie Blackie  
Audrey Benton  
Dean Gilman  
Nancy Gilman  
Larry Schaffer  
Deborah Shanks  
Bruce Smith  
Allison Stamm-Kirk  
Katie Stamm-Kirk  
Barbara Hamm

**The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir**

Cholé McGraw  
Pat Obendorf  
Laurie Read  
Keith Read  
Deborah Shanks  
Marlan Shanks  
Kim Webb  
Leslie Lessenger - Director

**Instrumentalists – solos, duets, ensembles**

Leslie Blackie – violin  
Stuart Blackie – trumpet, drums  
Dean Gilman – electric and acoustic bass  
Leslie Lessenger – flute, drum, tambourine  
Gail Mason – drum  
Adam Olm – violin

Dale Olm – mandolin  
Shelby Riddle – clarinet, violin  
Deborah Shanks – guitar, piano, organ [accompanist]  
Bruce Smith – guitar, piano [accompanist]  
Barbara Hamm – piano, organ [accompanist]

**Christmas Orchestra**

Leslie Blackie – violin  
Stuart Blackie – trumpet  
Ellen DeCarlo – flute  
Lisa Dwiggins - cello  
Dean Gilman – bass  
Leslie Lessenger – flute  
Dale Olm – mandolin  
Shelby Riddle – clarinet  
Deborah Shanks – guitar  
Barbara Hamm – piano

**Benicia Celtic Band**

Leslie Blackie – fiddle  
Dean Gilman – bass  
Adam Olm – fiddle  
Dale Olm – mandolin  
Shelby Riddle – fiddle/clarinet [coordinator]  
Deborah Shanks – guitar  
Barbara Hamm – piano/keyboard

**Jazz Gorilla**

Dean Gilman – bass, vocals  
Shelby Riddle – clarinet  
Barbara Hamm – piano, keyboard, vocals

**Dancers/Liturgical Movement Artists**

Isabelle Briseño  
Sophia Briseño  
Natalie Daffern  
Tricia Hartzell  
Sarah Thompson

## Moderator

Nancy Gilman

I was truly blessed this year as Moderator. We had a council and a congregation that stepped up to every challenge that was put before them. There were so many of you raising your hands to be on subcommittees and to help where needed. It has been an honor to serve you as Moderator.

In August we ordained Candace Frawley. It was a day of celebration, love and blessings.

Our congregation was presented with two major projects this year. The first was the approval of our Campus Enhancement Project. It took over a year of research, meetings and planning by the sub-committee before being presented to the congregation for vote. Thank you for the perseverance and dedication of so many and for the many hours spent on this project. Thank you to the congregation for having faith in our subcommittee. The second was the change in our tenant of the CE Building. During our June Congregational Meeting the council recommended to the Congregation to no longer rent to Happy Hearts and rent to Playing To Learn Childcare, owned and operated by Deanna Mitchell. Playing To Learn Childcare's mission is to provide high-quality, developmentally appropriate, affordable childcare and preschool to the children of this community with an emphasis on outreach to our underserved populations, such as but not limited to, families in transition, single parent households, and the working poor in Solano County. You approved our recommendation and we are looking forward to having a mission based childcare on our campus.

Every week Pastor Renie and I would meet. It was a perk of being Moderator. Many times meeting over lunch and discussing church business or just talking. I am so thankful for her guidance as my first year of being Moderator.

We are a very active church. It seems that every day there is something going on in our buildings and our community. We should all feel blessed to be part of a church that does not just sit dormant.





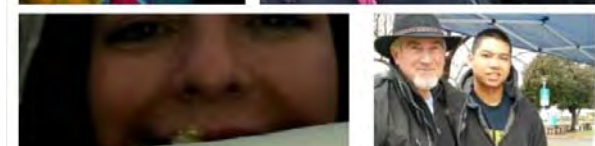
## Vice Moderator

Keith Read



We started the year without a Vice Moderator so I thought I might be able to help out and volunteered beginning in October. The Vice Moderator is very much like being a Vice President – waiting in the wings to help if needed and hoping the President (or Moderator) stays healthy the entire year! One of the main duties of our Vice Moderator is being chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (“PPRC”). It was truly an honor being part of this group comprised of Pastor Renie, Penny Taylor, Susan Stofan, Dale Olm, and Larry Schaffer (through the end of December). The PPRC usually met once a month with Pastor Renie to discuss any congregation- or pastor-related issues, as well as providing support to Pastor Renie. All PPRC conversations are always confidential. Attending the Council meetings was always

informative and thought provoking. We grappled not only with the usual committee and financial issues, but also the “ground-breaking” issues of breaking ground for a new parking lot and related improvements, and borrowing money to pay for it. In the end, the congregation took a leap of faith and voted to make improvements which will benefit our church for years to come, not to mention significantly change the landscape of our facilities. All in all it was a very satisfying and rewarding time and I look forward to everything the future will bring us all in the upcoming year.



**Clerk**

Dale Olm

**Baptisms****Dedications**April 20, 2014

Fatu Atuatasi

Jacob Nemick

**Weddings**

Carla Goad and Nancy Aldritt, Renewal of Vows: October 19, 2013

Jennifer Green and Dylan Otero: November 9, 2013

**New Members**

Carol Brubaker Walton: March 23, 2014

Jerry Alan Walton: March 23, 2014

Anna Atuatasi: March 23, 2014

Sione Atuatasi: March 23, 2014

Tanya Thompson: March 23, 2014

**Dropped Membership****Transferred Membership****Deceased**

Member

Chuck Hull: October 7, 2013

Non-member – services performed by Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

Gretchen McKinsey-Clarke: October 16, 2013

Michelle Gabriel: November 8, 2013

Norma Baldwan: December 21, 2013

**Total Members:** June 30, 2012 125  
June 30, 2013 129





## MEMBER JOIN DATE

Member Name	Join Date
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, Bob .....	6/5/1983
Hutchins, Patricia .....	10/16/1983
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
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
Olm, Dale .....	9/27/1998
Francis, Chris .....	2/14/1999
Beeson, Rick .....	2/14/1999
Conway, Debbie .....	4/25/1999
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
Blackie, Leslie .....	7/30/2000
Blackie, Jonathan .....	7/30/2000
McGraw, Chol� .....	2/25/2001
Cox, Greg .....	2/25/2001
Cox, Daniel .....	5/12/2002
Cox, Regina .....	5/12/2002
Read, Kristen .....	5/12/2002

Member Name	Join Date
Sindt, Cassidy .....	5/12/2002
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
Gilman, Dean .....	12/12/2004
Olm, Sam .....	5/15/2005
Blackie, Lindsay .....	5/15/2005
Mautz, Tim .....	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
Parsons, Natalie .....	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
Lawrence, Jackie .....	12/2/2007
Lawrence, Lynn .....	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
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
Sullivan, Jessica .....	10/4/2009
Watson, Lance .....	10/4/2009
Toney, Lynette .....	10/4/2009
Hartzell, Valerie .....	1/24/2010
Hartzell, Patricia .....	1/24/2010

Member Name	Join Date
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
Frawley, Candace .....	7/20/2010
Bouty, Andree .....	7/20/2010
Aldritt, Nancy .....	3/20/2011
Kidder, Natalie .....	3/20/2011
Stauffer, Cheryle .....	3/20/2011
Goad, Carla .....	3/20/2011
Dolter, Jean .....	3/20/2011
Dolter, Bill .....	3/20/2011
Hawthorne, Heidi .....	3/20/2011
Brisena, Sophia .....	5/15/2011
Brisena, Isabelle .....	5/15/2011
Cooper, Kieran .....	5/15/2011
Herr, Liberty .....	5/15/2011
Stamm-Kirk, Katie .....	5/15/2011
Beatson, Leslie .....	4/8/2012
Cavagnuolo, Michelle .....	4/8/2012
Daffern, Tracy .....	4/8/2012
Green, Jennifer .....	4/8/2012
Hill, Donna .....	4/8/2012
Otero, Dylan .....	4/8/2012
Pyles, Laura .....	4/8/2012
Smith, Roland .....	4/8/2012
Smith, Linda .....	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Eric .....	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Maria .....	4/8/2012
Benton, Audrey .....	6/10/2012
Daffern, Matt .....	6/10/2012
Daffern, Kyle .....	6/10/2012
Daffern, Natalie .....	6/10/2012
Mitchell, Karyna .....	6/10/2012
Carol Brubaker Walton .....	3/23/2014
Jerry Alan Walton .....	3/23/2014
Anna Atuatasi .....	3/23/2014
Sione Atuatasi .....	3/23/2014
Tanya Thompson .....	3/23/2014





## Financial Secretary

Karen Hanna

The Financial Secretary job requires work done behind closed doors. On Sundays, after worship, I make my way into the office along with one of my Council-approved counters – thanks to Jett Thomas. Most Sundays Jett meets me in the office, with money in hand, to do our weekly count. When Jett is not available I can always count others to help out.

I send out quarterly statements to all who make a contribution to our church. These statements should be helpful in keeping track of your giving. If you are in need of a statement at any time you can e-mail, call or talk to me on Sunday.

### Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ - Benicia CA Donations Account Balances (07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014)

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Page 1 of 1

Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<b><i>Giving Accounts</i></b>		
060 - Pledges - Current Year	135,633.05	135,633.05
065 - Parishioner Contributions	6,908.15	6,908.15
067 - Donation In Kind	1,007.12	1,007.12
070 - Building Use - Preschool (HH)	23,127.67	23,127.67
071 - Building Use - Other	3,830.00	3,830.00
085 - Fundraiser - Stewardship	3,085.00	3,085.00
087 - Fundraiser - Crab Feed	4,567.00	4,567.00
110 - Mission Pool - Pledge Amount	57.00	57.00
409 - Puente de la Costa Sur	454.00	454.00
412 - Xmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	604.00	604.00
414 - Planned Parenthood	100.00	100.00
426 - Care to Share, Vallejo Together	70.00	70.00
600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	9,413.99	9,413.99
602 - Parking Lot Renovation Campaign	16,827.00	16,827.00
703 - Concert Series (Music Series)	369.00	369.00
704 - Music Program Fund (Barbara's)	1,775.00	1,775.00
705 - Christian Ed / Sunday School	84.26	84.26
706 - Youth Ministry / Youth Group	1,299.50	1,299.50
708 - Pastor Restricted Fund	2,445.00	2,445.00
710 - Gift Funds	1,010.00	1,010.00
711 - Weekend in the Trees	3,120.00	3,120.00
712 - FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget	288.00	288.00
714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	1,022.00	1,022.00
718 - Handbells	150.00	150.00
720 - Misc Inc - To Be Determined	17.41	17.41
721 - Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	536.00	536.00
726 - Holiday House	1,003.00	1,003.00
801 - Special Fellowship Events	269.00	269.00
<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$219,072.15</b>	<b>\$219,072.15</b>

Count: 28

Period: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014

Year: 2013

## Treasurer

Shelby Riddle

Presented in this report is a balance sheet from our 2013-2014 year which shows that our bank account and holdings are doing well and are up about \$4000 from last year's net assets. Also included is a Revenue and Expense (profit and loss) statement for 2013-2014 which shows an overall decrease in income of \$7,800 and an overall decrease in expenses of \$15,301 (mostly due to not having a Youth Minister and for incorporating a contingency factor into our calculations on pledges (which proved to be not needed). This gives us a Net Revenue of \$7,499. It is good that we have a net revenue in the black, as we needed to present a deficit budget to the Congregation in June. In our budget for 2014-2015 we have a Net Revenue of -\$12,140. It is optimistic, however, in that we have just about funded our parking lot renovation loan payment for the year. We are short in our operational income however, and will review this in our mid-term budget review next January to see how we are doing. When we, as a church, committed to funding our Campus Enhancement project/parking lot, we were aware that it would take a couple of years to get our overall pledging up to speed. We have money in the bank to fund our expenses for a few years until we are able to pledge enough to fund our operations.

Loan signing and thumb prints! Moving forward on parking lot.



## RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY DEPOSIT REPORT (CW) AND TREASURER REVENUE REPORT (QB)

	CHURCH WINDOWS	QUICKBOOKS	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
Budgeted revenue:				
Pledges - current Year	135633	119953	-15680	CW lacks pre-paid pledges; entering error in CW - adj in QB as credit to loose offering
Pre-paid pledges		17718	17718	CW not set up to report pre-paid pledges
Parishioner contributions (loose offering)	6908	11006	4098	entering error in CW; adjusted in QB as debit to pledges
Building Use - preschool + other	28958	27422	464	HH deducted sidewalk repair from check; taken as expense in QB
Fundraiser - stewardship	7652	4793	-2859	CW report does not account for expenses and cost of crab
Capital improvement pledge	9414	9414	0	
Transfers to/from reserves	0	2060	2060	not reported in CW since not deposited by Financial Secretary
Transfers to/from restricted accounts	0	5252	5252	not reported in CW since not deposited by Financial Secretary
other funding (interest)	0	821	821	not reported in CW since not deposited by Financial Secretary
SUB-TOTAL	186565	198439		QB reports higher revenue due to pre-paid pledges and transfers to/from other accounts
Restricted fund donations:				
M&O accounts (not 10% of pledge)	2307			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
Parking lot renovation	16827			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
Committees	3964			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
Gift funds	1010			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
Weekend in the Trees	3120			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
Memorials funds	536			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
Holiday House	1003			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
Pastor restricted funds	2445			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget Report (balance sheet accounts)
SUB-TOTAL	31212			Entered into restricted (equity) accounts in QuickBooks (balance sheet accounts)
Offset to expenses:				
Fellowship Freewill Offerings:	288			taken in R&E report as credit to Fellowship expenses
Non-cash donations (In-Kind)	1007			not reported as Revenue/Income in Budget
TOTAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER REPORTS	219072	198439	-20633	difference between CW "deposits" and funds counted as revenue for church operating expenses in QuickBooks



Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia				2013-2014		
					Mid-year	Difference
	Revenue & Expenses versus 2013-2014 Budget			2013-2014	2013-2014	Between
				Year	Approved	Budget and
				Actual	1/26/2014	Actual
Funding (Operations and Ministries)						
		Refunds & misc. deposits		0	0	0
		Loose Offering		11,006	14,802	-3,796
		Pledges		137,671	138,621	-950
		Capital Improvement Pledges		9,414	9,414	0
		Use of Building		27,422	28,811	-1,389
		Fundraisers		4,793	6,165	-1,372
		Transfer from Reserves		2,060	2,060	0
		Transf Cap Imp Fund for CI & Loan		4,252	4,252	0
		Transfer from Restricted Accounts		1,000	1,000	0
		Other funding (interest +)		821	1,116	-295
		Grants		0	0	0
	Total Revenues			198,439	206,241	-7,802
Expense (Operations and Ministries)						
		B&G - Utilities		8,958	8,613	345
		B&G - Custodial (contract)		5,160	5,160	0
		B&G - Maint. & Housekeep		5,581	4,725	856
		B&G - Property Taxes		676	691	-15
		B&G - Property Insurance		7,103	5,300	1,803
		Cornerstone Loan Payments		0	0	0
		Capital Improvement expenditures		13,666	13,666	0
		Christian Education / Youth		361	1,080	-719
		Congregational Care		0	0	0
		Fellowship		238	1,050	-812
		Music, Adult & Youth Choirs		989	1,253	-264
		Stewardship		95	120	-25
		Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM, IAF)		13,818	13,862	-44
		Welcome		276	250	26
		Worship		414	550	-136
		Other committees & Ministries		0	0	0
		Council & Discretion Funds		0	0	0
		Unexpected expenses/contingency		0	6,931	-6,931
		Other Exp-Finance & Admin		3,139	3,503	-364
		Office/Comp./Copier Supply		3,423	3,872	-449
		Minister in training scholarship		0	0	0
		Professional Expenses		828	450	378
		Sabbatical set aside		2,060	2,060	0
		Camp Scholarships		0	0	0
		Staff		124,153	133,105	-8,952
	Total Expense			190,940	206,241	-15,301
Net Revenues				7,499	0	7,499

## Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia Balance Sheet Summary (Assets vs Restricted Funds)

Cash Basis

As of June 30, 2014

	Jun 30, 14	Jun 30, 13	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
US Bank	24,627.34	16,955.10	7,672.24
Payroll Services Direct Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cornerstone CD#9001 8/5/11	15,742.05	15,663.04	79.01
Cornerstone CD#9002 2/5/12	15,771.35	15,692.25	79.10
Cornerstone CD #9003	30,572.17	30,418.83	153.34
Vanguard Money Market Fund	37,222.55	41,138.03	-3,915.48
Total Checking/Savings	123,935.46	119,867.25	4,068.21
Other Current Assets			
Petty Cash Accounts	170.59	220.59	-50.00
Total Other Current Assets	170.59	220.59	-50.00
Total Current Assets	124,106.05	120,087.84	4,018.21
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>124,106.05</b>	<b>120,087.84</b>	<b>4,018.21</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
Payroll Tax liabilities	325.04	630.50	-305.46
Total Other Current Liabilities	325.04	630.50	-305.46
Total Current Liabilities	325.04	630.50	-305.46
Total Liabilities	325.04	630.50	-305.46
Equity			
Missions & Outreach Restricted	10,981.21	10,055.69	925.52
Capital Improvements Fund	22,340.21	26,592.30	-4,252.09
One Brick at a Time	200.00	200.00	0.00
New Sound System	50.00	50.00	0.00
Special Renovation Projects 725	589.67	589.67	0.00
New Furniture Fund	77.39	77.39	0.00
Parking Lot Renovation Campai...	30,427.00	13,600.00	16,827.00
Sabbatical set aside (accrued)	5,983.08	3,923.04	2,060.04
Pledges Paid in Adv (use sub)	3,630.37	10,266.31	-6,635.94
Set-asides for current yr exp's	209.39	-88.82	298.21
Special Restricted Equity Accts	9,309.64	20,333.21	-11,023.57
Net Assets	31,798.51	34,360.46	-2,561.95
Net Income	8,184.54	-501.91	8,686.45
Total Equity	123,781.01	119,457.34	4,323.67
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>124,106.05</b>	<b>120,087.84</b>	<b>4,018.21</b>

Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia				2013-2014				
	Approved Budget 2014-2015 with revised 2013-2014 EOY					Mid-year	Approved	
			2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2013-2014	Budget for	
			Year	Year	Year	Approved	2014-2015	
			Actual	Actual	Actual	01/26/2014		
Funding (Operations and Ministries)								
	Refunds & misc. deposits		303	125	0	0	0	
	Loose Offering		16,679	20,317	11,006	14,802	11,475	based on actual current fiscal
	Pledges		117,126	129,351	137,671	138,621	120,446	
	Capital Improvement Pledges		12,821	12,283	9,414	9,414	22,302	
	Use of Building		26,521	27,345	27,422	28,811	28,336	Daycare/Preschool + 12 students
	Fundraisers		6,243	4,975	4,793	6,165	6,165	Auctions, Crab feed, etc.
	Transfer from Reserves		0	531	2,060	2,060	2,060	for sabbatical set-aside
	Transf Cap Imp Fund for CI & Loan		-11,491	2,832	4,252	4,252	246	diff betwn pledges & cap in
	Transfer from Restricted Accounts		14,552	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Other funding (interest +)		511	1,863	821	1,116	616	
	Grants		2,250	0	0	0	0	
Total Revenues			185,516	201,622	198,439	206,241	192,646	1st year to show Cap. Impr
Expense (Operations and Ministries)								
	B&G - Utilities		7,918	8,637	8,958	8,613	9,123	
	B&G - Custodial (contract)		4,629	5,160	5,160	5,160	5,160	
	B&G - Maint. & Housekeep		4,951	6,822	5,581	4,725	5,303	
	B&G - Property Taxes		634	288	676	691	638	
	B&G - Property Insurance		5,264	4,896	7,103	5,300	6,668	now includes earthquake in
	Cornerstone Loan Payments		140	0	0	0	22,548	depends on time of loan dis
	Capital Improvement expenditures		1,331	15,115	13,666	13,666		depends on need
	Christian Education / Youth		1,807	273	361	1,080	1,080	
	Congregational Care		140	0	0	0	0	
	Fellowship		1,280	716	238	1,050	1,050	
	Music, Adult & Youth Choirs		1,079	1,515	989	1,253	1,124	
	Stewardship		90	23	95	120	95	
	Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM, IAF)		18,451	12,900	13,818	13,862	12,045	variable: 10% of Pledges re
	Welcome		590	336	276	250	156	
	Worship		1,332	1,070	414	550	564	
	Other committees & Ministries		0	0	0	0	0	
	Council & Discretion Funds		927	499	0	0	0	
	Unexpected expenses/contingency				0	6,931	0	
	Other Exp-Finance & Admin		3,704	4,147	3,139	3,503	3,164	
	Office/Comp./Copier Supply		2,883	3,837	3,423	3,872	3,007	newcopier contract in 2014
	Minister in training scholarship		4,500	0	0	0	0	
	Professional Expenses		1,166	827	828	450	828	
	Sabbatical set aside		2,000	2,000	2,060	2,060	2,060	
	Camp Scholarships		0	531	0	0	0	
	Staff		124,221	132,413	124,153	133,105	130,173	frozen salaries, no YM 6 mo
Total Expense			189,037	202,005	190,940	206,241	204,786	
Net Revenues			-3,521	-383	7,499	0	-12,140	
			Blue boxes indicated proposed changes made in mid-year budget					



## Building and Grounds

Jim Lessenger & Greg Cox

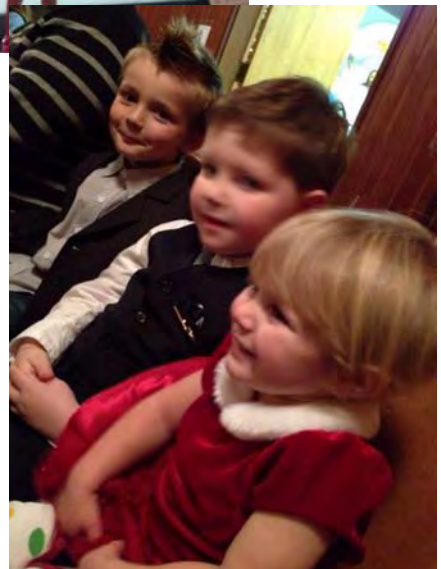
In addition to the usual repairs and maintenance, the committee concentrated on the Campus Enhancement program which is covered in another report.

The big issue was sewers, which are shot and need repair. The project will be wrapped into the parking lot project.

There are some big projects ahead of us in the next year and we will need a lot of "sweat labor" from the congregation. Even an hour of help a month is great.

Greg was dragged back out of retirement when Jim got sick.

Our meetings are short and usually we speak in monosyllables. Occasionally we have field trips to Home Depot to look at the latest tools.



## Christian Education

Jennifer Otero

For 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Committee members Chair Jennifer Otero, Anna Atuatasi, Carol May, Dale Olm, Leslie Lessinger, Dylan Otero, Susan Stofan.

CCC-UCC had a youth pastor for the first six months of the year. Our youth pastor Howard Gill then moved and the position has not yet been filled. A call committee was formed. Members of the committee include Chair Jennifer Otero, Anna Atuatasi, Dale Olm, Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk, Nancy Gilman, Susan Stofan, Tanya Nemcik.

A profile was created and submitted to CCC council. The committee has reviewed several profiles, but to date have not recommended a candidate to call.

In Sunday School The Joyful Path year one and two was used for curriculum. Youth group had no set curriculum.

### Youth Activities:

- Helped with the second Saturday feeding of our friends on the streets.
- Planned and hosted a talent show and spaghetti feed fundraiser to help Jennifer Otero see her kids.
- Planned and hosted a BINGO night fundraiser for youth camp.
- Planned and conducted a youth led service.
- The youth and Sunday School children presented "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with a CCC-UCC twist for the Christmas pageant.
- Youth and children brought in the palm fronds for Palm Sunday.
- Members and youth hosted a fall festival with trick or treating games, costume parade, decorating pumpkins etc.
- Stuffed and hid hundreds of Easter eggs and helped children search for eggs for Easter.
- Confirmation classes will be held next year due to children's age.





## Congregational Care

Anna Atuatasi

Anna Atuatasi became Congregational Car Committee chair March 2014. Congregational Care Committee has met three times since then with Anna A, Carol M, Jennifer O and Pam M in attendance each time. Congregational Care Committee has arranged meals to support two members after injury or surgery. Congregational Care Committee members still send out birthday cards to church members monthly.

Congregational Care Committee welcomed Jennifer Otero as a co-chair June 2014





## Fellowship

Susan Stofan & Laura Pyles

Our Fellowship team is responsible for Feeding the Flock (aptly captured as the title on one of our cookbooks). We make sure that on Sunday after church someone is signed up to host fellowship, so that you experience a wide variety of tastes to sample.

It may be lunch or snacks, but no matter what it gives you time to share with each other – food, stories, joys and sorrows, plans for the future.

Highlights for the year are our 4th of July Barbeque and our Thanksgiving Feast. We host a potluck at each Congregational Meeting, and sometimes we go all out as we did when rejoicing at the party after Candace Frawley's Ordination last August. We observe birthdays and other special occasions, but most importantly we honor and celebrate each other. We cement our community together as we eat and talk.

It always takes a group effort to make sure the chores are done each week. We are grateful to all who have stepped up to host, and to those who without asking step in to wash dishes and to haul our garbage up the hill.



## Mission and Outreach

Sarah Thompson

### Mission and Outreach 2013-14

1. We had several projects in the 2013-14 fiscal year:
  - a. July 2013 - We delivered backpacks for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to Puente de la Costa Sur in Pescadero
    - i. Our backpack mission continues to maintain our wonderful friendship with the community of Puente de la Costa Sur. We show our appreciation for the backbreaking work of grossly underpaid migrant laborers who allow us to have extremely affordable fresh produce and wine.
  - b. July 2013-June 2014 Feeding Our Friends in the Streets (Second Saturdays)
    - i. Our monthly mission continues to bring us spiritual wholeness through our connection with Vallejo's most vulnerable population. This year we expanded our mission to include Christmas for families in housing transition, and special youth missions.
  - c. July 2013-June 2014 Participated in Common Ground
    - i. Dale Stanley and Nora Gauger continue to represent CCCUCC in our ongoing efforts to mobilize our greater community into actions promoting social justice.
  - d. December 2013 – Supplied Christmas for Families in Transition
    - i. This Christmas we reached out to Vallejo's families most in need, and learned how to best provide support to them.
  - e. May 2014 – “Empowering Mothers, Empowering Daughters” – screening of Miss Representation
    - i. This educational outreach had a viewing of this remarkable documentary with discussions led by professional childhood and adult educators.
2. We also gave a variety of “gifts of thanks” (charitable donations)
  - \$1000 to Planned Parenthood
  - \$1000 to Puente de la Costa Sur
  - \$1000 to Families in Transition
  - \$600 to Solano and Contra Costa County Food Bank
  - \$400 to Red Awning Cafe
  - \$604 to The Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)
  - \$50 Our Neighbors in Need
  - \$50 One Great Hour of Sharing
  - \$50 Strengthen the Church
  - \$4000 Our Church's Wider Mission
  - \$2530 IAU (Common Ground Dues)
  - \$120 Christmas Family Outreach
  - \$500 Empowering Mothers Empowering Daughters



## Stewardship

Michelle Cavagnuolo



The Stewardship Committee got to work right away in July of 2013, with the discussion and preparation of the Parking Lot/Campus Enhancement Survey working with Dale Stanley and Pastor Renie on drafting suitable questions to which the foundation for a Town Hall meeting would be set.

In August, a Budget and Finance meeting was held to address budget issues and adjustments because of the pledging shortfall and increases in pledges that came in after an appeal, as well as address concerns regarding the current Financial Policy and proceed with draft redline edits to the Policy.

The annual Fall Stewardship Auction held on October 8, 2013, is something I find so incredibly amazing about giving in our church. The auction happens in large part from the generosity of our congregation; in both the items and gifts of talent/time offered for the auction and in the attendance and spirited bidding that occur for the items available. Not only are contributors bidders but bidders are also contributors. Really, think about that for a moment. Most only see that generosity occasionally. I am thankful and grateful enough to witness it each time I step into our church. I want to thank Nora Gauger for her incredible knack for finding items for our auction and to Karen Hanna and Dale Olm for the incredible job calculating bids this year without a third and a tracking spreadsheet. As always, I am sincerely grateful for the generosity of our church. The Fall Auction raised \$2,800.

In November, despite my best efforts, the Budget and Finance Committee were unable to meet, but thankfully, due to the numbers crunching of team Riddle and Olm, we discovered that after the appeal to the congregation for increased pledging, you, the congregation changed the narrative of a deficit budget of \$12,000 to \$100. Again, and each time my own faith falters, it is you, the congregation, who reminds me the power of faith. As a result, the Budget and Finance Committee met December 8, 2013, and January 15, 2014, before the Mid-Year meeting to present a revised budget and we were able to fund items that were previously eliminated because of the shortfall. The first week of March 2014, we had a first-time visitor to our church from San Luis Obispo, Carl Meissner, who was so impressed with Pastor Renie's expression of our church's desire to go forward with renovation of our parking lot. Upon hearing of our congregation's continued generosity in support of our church, once he returned home, Mr. Meissner sent a check for \$2,000 for the parking lot/campus renovation fund. This was a complete surprise and a blessing. My heartfelt appreciation and gratitude were delivered in a personal message and in a card from the entire Council.

Our spring fundraiser and Crab Feed were held March 8, 2014. We had a great time filling an entire room of crustacean loving folks (and a few who liked just pasta). We tried a new twist on the sale of raffle tickets this year with the introduction of a special "green ticket" with the sale of \$20.00 worth of raffle tickets. I felt it was important to have fun and offer a win-win for the night. Pastor Renie, most generously agreed, and donated \$100.00 to the cause. The special "green ticket" was designated to fill up one of four buckets designated for the following organizations: Planned Parenthood of Vallejo, Families in Transition, Benicia, The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County. The organization with the most green tickets at the end of the night would receive \$100.00. We raised \$1,100 in crab feed ticket sales after costs, \$800.00 in raffle tickets and Families in Transition received \$100.00. A very lively and fun night of fellowship indeed.



Throughout April, I worked closely with Jim Lessenger on the need to obtain a quote and provide proof of earthquake insurance coverage. This was a new cost to the budget this year, as the Cornerstone loan required it. Ministry Pacific, our present insurance carrier and I worked closely to obtain the best quote possible. Proof of Insurance was provided to Jim Lessenger prior to the close of the loan documents with Cornerstone.

Our Stewardship Campaign, *Gracious Gifts, Open Hearts, Loving Hands*, kicked off, on Holy Humor Sunday. It was slightly challenging presenting an important topic such as pledging/tithing, in a way that was both informative and humorous. A most blessed thank you to Jett Thomas, who not only gave me his wallet willingly for the presentation and a laugh, but also provided one of the most moving testimonies I have had the privilege to hear in my life. I also wish to thank Laura Pyles and Anna Atuatasi, each in their own way, giving voice as to why the support of our church is so important and has led to their personal commitments to pledge. During the Campaign, I worked closely with Pastor Renie Stamm-Kirk to prepare our invitation letter, narrative budget and pledge cards. The narrative budget and pledge cards were mailed to the first week in May so that the Congregation could prayerfully reflect on what their pledge means to the church. We received confirmed pledges discussed at our June 4, 2014, Budget and Finance Meeting, of \$120,000.00. While it is common for financial contributions to increase and decrease over time, I was most pleased to see from the 2014-2015 pledging numbers the support behind the parking lot/campus renovation. In the first year of understanding what this undertaking means, we received pledging of \$20,000 to Capital Improvement Fund. While this decision impacts our overall budget, I see the pledge numbers as a sign that you want a safe and welcoming church to be here for future generations to come.

My thank you to the Budget and Finance Committee consisting of Dale Olm, Karen Hanna, Shelby Riddle, Nancy Gilman and Nora Gauger who have crunched numbers and spent many a long night discussing the best way to serve the church through financial stewardship.

It has been a pleasure to serve on Council 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 as Stewardship Chair. I am looking forward to the leadership of Nancy Aldritt and Carla Goad. It is my desire to follow my heart while offering and contributing to the church in the many ways that are needed. We have a truly amazing congregation, who lead by example and act as Stewards, every day and I continue to feel fortunate to be a part of this community of faith.



## Welcome and Growth

Dale Stanley, Deborah Stanley

*"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here!"*

### Members of the Welcome and Growth Committee for this fiscal year have been:

Dale Stanley, Co-Chair

Deborah Stanley, Co-Chair

Bill Dolter

Jean Dolter

### Thanks for special help and assignments:

- Larry Schaffer who counted attendance and to Nancy Gilman who took over for him in the latter half of the year
- Millie Thomas for tabulating attendance and filing the name tags every Sunday
- Donna Hill who helps with data entry from Millie's tracking sheets into the Church Windows database
- Christopher Hanna and Pastor Stamm-Kirk for maintaining the large sign
- Debi Stanley for maintaining the small welcome sign outside the front door and making up new name tags
- Eleanor Mortensen for being our gracious and reliable greeter
- The entire Church Council for embracing our principles of "welcome" and making a good effort to make sure that our visitors are handled well.

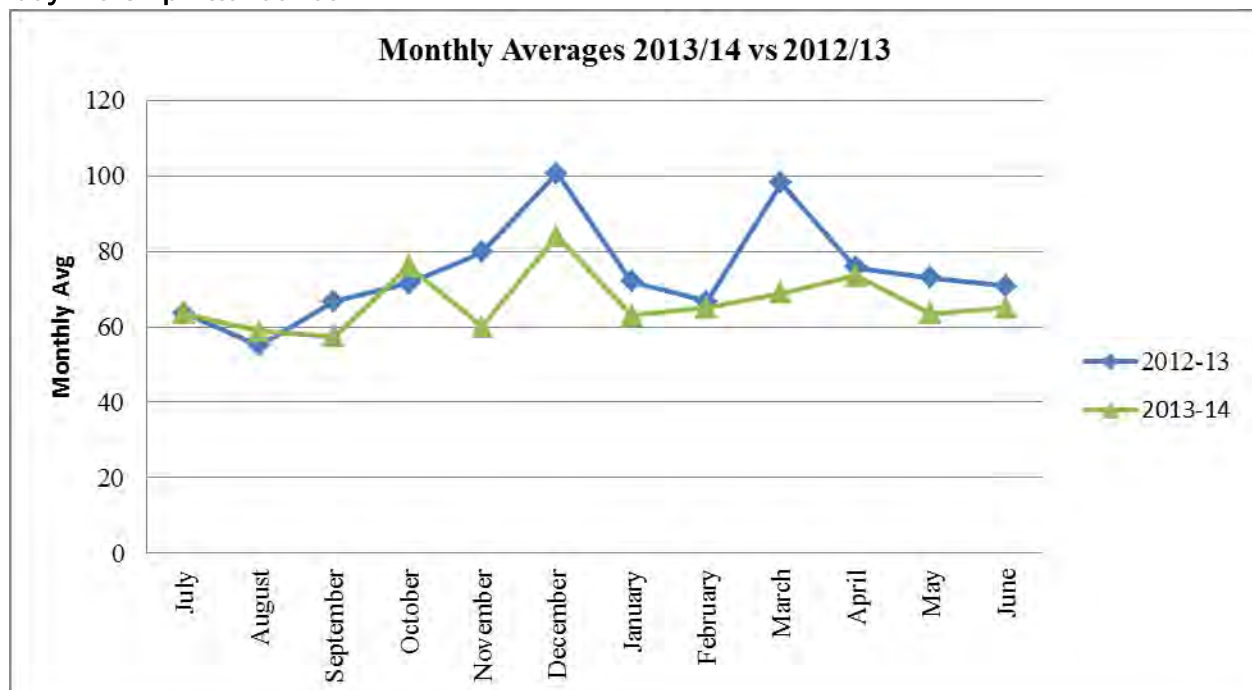
### Special Activities:

- We moved the name tag and welcome table for better flow and a more welcoming venue as people enter the church
- We implemented a system of small dots on the name tags of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> -time visitors, so that we can continue to emphasize their welcome when they return.

### Visitors:

We welcomed more than 32 visitors during this fiscal year (we don't attempt to count visitors on Easter or Christmas Sundays)

### Sunday Worship Attendance:



Weekly average for year 2012-13: 75

Weekly average for year 2013-14: 66 (-12%)

## Worship

Bruce Smith

The Worship Committee consisted of seven very hard working members (Debbie Conway, Nancy Gilman, Barbara Hamm, Karen Hanna, Priscilla Lane, Bruce Smith and Debi Stanley), whose main job was to support Rev. Renie in presenting quality worship services.

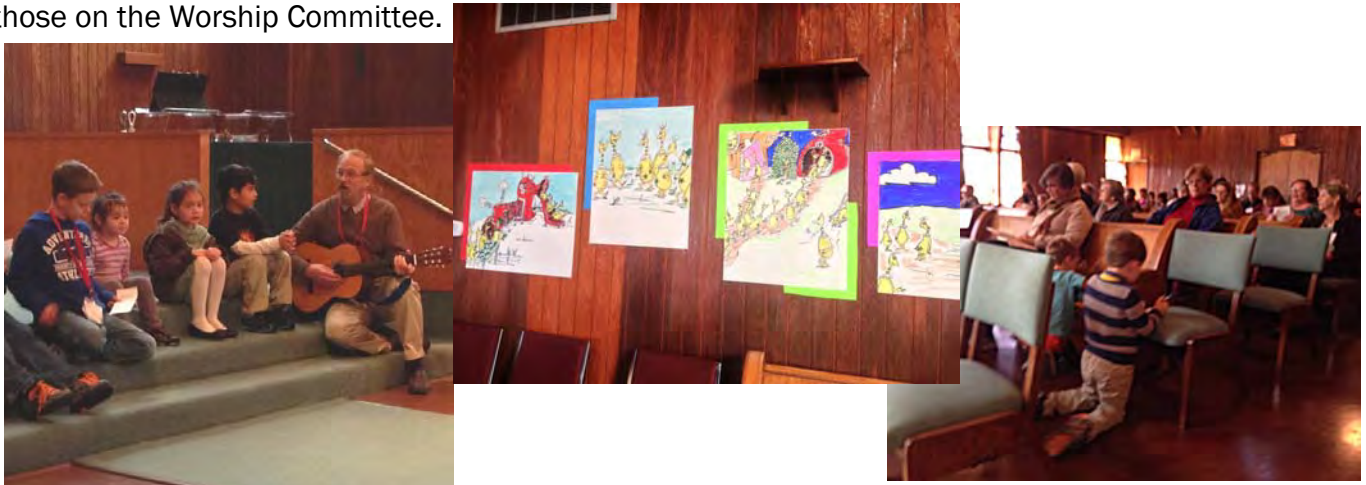
The committee met several times during the year to discuss themes for services, music needs, displays needed, and special needs (such as drama, dance, etc.). Once a schedule of services was designed various members worked independently or collectively to assure the completion of all aspects of each service.

Some of the highlights of the year were:

- A series of services centered around the stories of Dr. Seuss (special thanks to Debi Stanley for all the terrific posters and artwork for the series)
- “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” pageant presented by the youth (special thanks to Bruce Smith and Rev. Renie for writing the script and to Howard Gill for directing the production)
- A Lenten series “Things that separate us,” which emphasized the worldly things that separate us from each other and God (a real group effort to create and update the display of symbols representing those “things,” but special thanks to Nancy Gilman and Priscilla Lane)
- A Maundy Thursday service consisting of “scenes from a restaurant” and a simple soup and breads supper (special thanks to Rev. Renie, Nancy Gilman, and Bruce Smith for their work on this)
- Two great Easter services (Sunrise and 10:00 a.m. Worship) accompanied by a “breath-taking display” and excellent music
- A moving Pentecost Service lead by the youth centered around the theme of “walking in the shoes of others”
- Twelve communion services (Special thanks to Priscilla Lane for set up and laundering of communion supplies)

Sometimes things that go unnoticed, do so because they are done so well and so flawlessly. Such is the case of the music that accompanies services. Hymns for the services, special music (choir, bells, solos, offertories, etc.) are primarily planned or coordinated by Barbara Hamm, with input from Leslie Lessenger and Pastor Renie (or the guest speakers). Thanks Barbara for all your hard work.

“Many hands make small work,” especially when the hands are a creative, steadfast and willing as those on the Worship Committee.





## Campus Enhancement Committee

(A work in progress)

Dr. Jim Lessenger Chair

At the January Congregational meeting the Church voted overwhelmingly to proceed with a reconstruction of the parking lot. The task force met on February 9 and changed its name to the Campus Enhancement Committee (CEC) to reflect the entire scope of the project. The committee continues to be a subcommittee of the Buildings and Grounds committee. At that meeting several critical decisions were made:

- The chair is Jim Lessenger.
- Greg Cox and Jim messenger will continue as the co-chairs of the Building and Grounds Committee.
- Jim Lessenger was designated as the sole representative to authorize Change Orders. In his absence, Greg Cox will act in his place.
- The committee authorized Dale Olm to proceed with the Cornerstone loan application.
- The committee authorized architect Jim Goring to proceed with engineering studies at a cost \$27,000.
- It was noted that the sewer system has disintegrated – literally – and that it will have to be rebuilt as part of the enhancement. The extra cost will be about \$6,000 to \$10,000.
- The committee will try to keep the campus operational during construction.
- Laura Pyles has created a comprehensive workflow chart.

At the February 23 meeting it was announced that the 93 page Cornerstone loan application was in the mail.

At the March 9 meeting it was announced that the Cornerstone Fund loan had been approved and that the loan documents needed to be signed. The retention of an attorney was authorized to write the “consul letter” that was required as part of the loan process. The consul letter is a document that guarantees to the lender that the people who have signed the documents are authorized to do so, that the church is in compliance with all nonprofit corporation laws and that the church real estate is free of liens judgments and encumbrances. Mr. Scott Reep Esq. was retained to do that task.

The engineers and architect visited the city planning department and the church campus on Tuesday, March 11. Because we have made a proactive effort to comply with the zoning laws specifically pertaining to lighting, drainage, surfacing, retaining walls, and slope control, a conditional use permit will not be necessary and city staff can approve the designs. That will save us a tremendous amount of money and time. In addition, it looks like we will not be required to construct sidewalks along the streets.

At the May meeting it was announced that the loan was signed and will provide the Church a line of credit for the construction. Westgate Construction was selected as the general contractor. Up to that date, all expenses had been paid for by donations so the church as this point does not yet owe money.

As of June 2014 \$28,613 has been spent from the Capital Improvement Fund on the project. As of end of May 2014, \$21,767 remained in the fund. The Parking Lot Fund balance was \$30,427. Money currently pledged to the Capital Improvement Fund for 2014-15 equates to \$20,202 (vs. approximately \$12,000 pledged 2013-14). For comparison, a full year's loan payment on full \$350,000 would be \$22,548.

The Cornerstone contract was completed, signed and filed with the County Recorder. Special credit to Dale Olm for completing the 93 page application and running down to the Recorder's office in Fairfield to make sure past loan re-conveyances were properly filed.

The engineering plans are in progress. Committee members have been sent most recent plans and a meeting is pending with Mr. Ham, the contractor, and Mr. Goring, the architect.

The landscaping design is complete. The committee consensus is to plan on artificial turf for stairway landings. The committee consensus is also to hire foundational work, including drip system, with church members enlisted to perform individual planting.

Some items that are especially important in the construction and are being tracked are:

- Stubbing in utilities
- Stubbing in irrigation
- Lighting (LED, night sky)
- Sewer
- Drainage
- Access to facilities during construction

We are looking at a start date for construction of early August. A construction crew from Genesis House and volunteers from the Church will do some preconstruction work that will include:

- Major pruning and removal of plants
- Removal of the railroad ties
- Removal of boards
- Removal of tire stops

There will be announcements to the congregation on parking and access issues during construction.



## WITT (Weekend In The Trees)

Keith Read

Little did we know that “Oh, The Places We Will Go!” would be taken so literally for our annual church-wide retreat, Weekend In The Trees (“WITT”). WITT underwent its biggest change in 2013 when, for the first time in its 30 year history, it was not held at Valley Of The Moon Camp (“VOM”) in Glen Ellen. At the end of 2012, the owners of VOM sold the camp to private interests and closed it forever, but the memories will linger on for ages. We scrambled green eggs and ham to find a new site and after much research held WITT 31 at Monte Toyon Camp in Aptos (near Santa Cruz). We were reluctant to leave VOM and needless to say the challenges and changes of going to a new camp were numerous, but God always has a plan and it was never truer than when about 40 campers spent the weekend in awe surrounded by a beautiful redwood forest, upgraded sleeping facilities (including carpeted cabins!), paved trails everywhere, a level ping pong table, and wonderful home cooked meals. We were even able to have our traditional turkey dinner on Saturday night! There were new activities, and many of the traditional favorites, too, including the Saturday night skits in a beautiful amphitheater (with its own fire pit) hidden just steps away from the Dining Hall. We left the weekend believing more than ever to put our trust and faith in God who was truly with us all at another successful Weekend In The Trees.





**LEADERSHIP TEAM 2014-2015**

Nominating Committee

Keith Read, Jennifer Otero, Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

**STAFF**

Pastor

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

Minister of Music

Dr. Barbara Hamm

Associate Pastor of Youth &amp; Family Life Ministry

**OFFICERS**

Moderator

Keith Read

Vice-Moderator

Laura Pyles

Church Clerk

Dale Olm

Financial Secretary

Nancy Gilman

Treasurer

Shelby Riddle

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Building and Grounds Ministry

Jim Lessenger/Greg Cox

Christian Education Ministry

Tanya Nemcik

Congregational Care

Jennifer Otero/Anna Atuatasi

Fellowship

Susan Stofan/Allison Stamm-Kirk

Mission &amp; Outreach

Sarah Thompson

Stewardship Ministry

Nancy Aldritt &amp; Carla Goad

Welcome and Growth

Debi and Dale Stanley

Worship Ministry

Bruce Smith

Member-At-Large

Jackie Lawrence

Member-At-Large

Karyna Mitchell