

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016



*The 150th 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2015-2016	4
Pastor's Report	5
Music Ministry	7
Moderator	10
Vice Moderator	11
Clerk	12
Financial Secretary	14
Treasurer	15
Building and Grounds	18
Christian Education	19
Fellowship	20
Mission and Outreach	21
Stewardship	22
Welcome and Growth	23
Worship	25
The Rolling Tones Handbells	27
Fandango	28
LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016-2017	29

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2015-2016**STAFF**

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm
Youth Leader	Della Olm
Office Manager	Gina Marwick

OFFICERS

Moderator	Dale Olm
Vice-Moderator	Laura Pyles
Church Clerk	Dale Stanley
Financial Secretary	Nancy Gilman
Treasurer	Shelby Riddle

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds Ministry	Jim Lessenger
Christian Education Ministry	Deanna Mitchell & Tracy Daffern
Congregational Care	Vacant
Fellowship	Susan Stofan & Allison Stamm-Kirk
Social Outreach Ministry	Nora Gauger
Stewardship Ministry	Nancy Aldritt & Carla Goad
Welcome and Growth	Michelle Cavagnuolo
Worship Ministry	Bruce Smith

Member-At-Large	Karyna Mitchell
Member-At-Large	Felecia Doyle

Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

Dear Beloved Ones,

On April 15, 2016 I started my 10th year in Ministry with Community Congregational Church. On June 5th this same year, Community Congregational started it's 150th year of Ministry in this community. For me 10 and 150 have some significance together. 150 years ago this church came together with just a few folks (17 to be exact) in meeting hall above a saloon, to be a church that was against slavery, against oppression, and doing the work of Jesus. This church has known good years and rough years, and I have to say this last year was incredibly good. It was filled with much joy and celebration. We honored the many saints who labored long and hard to build this church we have today. Each Sunday we had "history moments" in worship, for our theme this was "I Love to Tell the Story" and tell it we did. In the fall we remembered the early saints from 1866-1960, from Christmas till Easter we remembered from 1960 to the present day and from Easter to the our 150th Anniversary we looked to the future, as we packed up our time capsule.



I feel so much gratitude in my heart to be blessed to be shepherd and teacher to this congregation at time such as this. I started this year off with a total knee replacement with two months off. And the church hired the Reverend Susan Meeter to lead you. I am very grateful for the time of healing. I have said, "thank you," on a variety of occasions and in a variety of ways. Truthfully, I continue to think I have not yet adequately thanked you – all of you – for your willingness to step forward when asked, to step forward when you were needed and to step forward when you probably had a million and one things you would rather be doing.

In 2015/2016 we mourned the passing of two members whom we loved dearly: Peg Stone and Alice Burgess, both whom we remember fondly. We also had new babies in our midst, baby Sage, baby Isla, and baby Avery.... we are blessed indeed by not only their joyful sounds but by the many children and adults who gather round them to lift them up and love on them!

If one were to look at our "numbers" this year in worship one might say we are on the decline...I would have to disagree. I know we are a much larger church than that. We have more folks involved elsewhere as our church than ever before. Many of our members serve the new Vallejo Together Shelter in Vallejo, or making sandwiches or feeding on our first Saturdays and our Second Saturday Feeding our friends of the street. We always have between 15-20 of our group there working, several of those folks don't come to worship the following Sunday because for them Second Saturday IS worship, and IS especially Communion. We as a "Faith Community" have grown this past year in deep and rich ways. We have not only talked about that which divides our communities but we are addressing these divides, with our hands, our hearts, our pocket books and our very bodies. This is what it means to follow Jesus. On any given day, at any given time many of Community Congregational Church has our members working to end hunger, volunteering at the food bank, or the library, or the shelter, or setting up a free book library for our friends of the street, or setting up clothes to give away, or stopping their car to give out a blanket they just happen to have in their trunk to someone they see on the street who might be cold. This list could go on and on, because we are the body of Christ in the world.

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” — Teresa of Ávila

The Apostle Paul understood what church would look like through our history, that each person, created in God’s image, has value and that we cannot reach our fullest potential by ourselves, but we must do so together. That we must use our gifts to strengthen others and allow others to help strengthen us. This emphasis of building up the body one member at a time has remained a core value of this church for 150 years!! In 1944 our bulletin cover stated “Whoever you are that worships here, in whatever household of faith you were born, whatever creed you now profess, if you come to this sanctuary to seek the God in whom you believe or to dedicate yourself to that same God you are Welcome!!! So much like what we say every single Sunday for the last 10 years! ***We believe that no matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.*** Or what we now require to become an active member in this Church: “Active membership in this Church shall be available to any person who has been presented by the Minister to the Church Council. You need not proclaim a particular set of beliefs to be a member of this Church. We respect the individual’s spiritual journey and the integrity of that journey. You will be supported on your spiritual journey through connection and engagement in many different ways. Our Mission is to follow in the example set by Jesus, and we welcome you to join us in this journey.”

You see, the early church required many gifts for it to work, and we still need many gifts, we still need everybody, all opinions, all singers, all dancers, all arms all the legs, all the heads all the mouths – all the parts that make up the body of Christ!

John Robinson, the pastor of our Puritan ancestors who came to Plymouth in 1620 said it beautifully: “There is yet more light and truth to break forth out of God’s Holy Word.” If there’s one basic principle that guides the United Church of Christ in this day and age it’s that... Yes, More Light to Break Forth, Yes! We are responsible. Revelation is never static. God is still speaking, the Holy Spirit is still working and guiding. In 1866 God was still speaking to 17 charter members, and every year since! We are forever challenged by new insights into God’s one eternal truth. Every person is needed, every person is valued, we are the body of the church in the world today!!

That’s the year we’ve had, a year of fellowship, a year of study, a year of knowing ourselves better, a year of listening to the still speaking God.



Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm



“The church can’t be if you guys aren’t.” These words were spoken by Rev. Renie to the youth on Pentecost Sunday, during a service planned and orchestrated by them. The youth are certainly important in and to our church—now and in the future. And as emphasized by Rev. Renie in her 150th anniversary service sermon on June 5, so are we *all*! We are *all* the body of Christ, *all* of us necessary to show up and to speak up.

One important way we do that at CCC is through the medium of music. What springs up first in my mind is the act of congregational singing, an act which is virtually commanded in a number of the psalms to render appropriate praise to the Almighty God. The singing on our anniversary Sunday was glorious, from first to last, beginning with “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and ending with my hymn commissioned for the occasion, “The Church Was Born Among the Poor,” sung in worship for the first time.

The Sanctuary Choir continues the act of communal praise, singing most Sundays September through June. I am grateful for the long-term commitment and dedication of these singers as it is no small thing to commit every Thursday night for ten months of the year to a choir rehearsal. On other Sundays, the Women and Girls’ Chorus, comprised of women from the Sanctuary Choir as well as others who are unable to commit to weekly rehearsals but who wish to sing, girls from the children’s choir, and some of our youth. In addition to singing for worship, they also sing on special occasions such as the Christmas Concert and Mother’s Day. We also have a number of vocalists who sing solos/duets.

Instrumental music is also offered as one of the ways that we “are,” that we show up and “speak” up, as evidenced by our handbell choir The Rolling Tones, the Sunday morning Instrumental Ensemble, and Jazz Gorilla, all of which play for gathering music and in worship services. The Christmas Orchestra plays for the Christmas Concert and a Sunday during Advent. The Hippie Chicks (Marilyn Scrutchins, Liz Cleves) have played for the second Saturday with our friends on the street, as have The Rolling Tones, Jazz Gorilla, and sometimes even individual performers such as Shelby Riddle and Dale Olm. In all of these ways, we are being the church.

Some of our members continue to sing in other musical organizations such as Cantare Con Vivo (Nancy Gilman), the Vallejo Choral Society (Nancy Gilman, Laura Pyles, Dean Gilman), the Melody Choral Singers (Cholé McGraw), and the Pleasanton Broadway Chorus (Leslie Blackie). Deborah Shanks participated several times in the quarterly concerts at Hope Lutheran Church, inviting The Rolling Tones to play bells and Barbara Hamm to sing. In addition to playing for worship services and second Saturday, Jazz Gorilla (Shelby Riddle, Dean Gilman, and Barbara Hamm) played for the Redwood City UCC 152nd anniversary service, the Thanksgiving feast for low-income seniors in Vallejo, the Longest Night Christmas Service at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, and the opening night service of the June 2016 UCC Annual Gathering at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. Besides playing with Jazz Gorilla, Dean Gilman plays in the Vallejo Just for Fun Jazz Band, which does musical outreach for seniors. He also plays with 3 rock bands: Astral Kitchen in Napa, a new start-up band in Fairfield, and a group in Point Richmond. Shelby Riddle plays with the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers and participated in their spring tour concerts. In addition, Shelby plays with the Pleasant Hill Taizé group, which Barbara Hamm also occasionally accompanies.

June 5, 2016, was celebrated as the 150th anniversary of this church in Benicia. It also marked my 20th year of music ministry at CCC. It was a thrill to have my commissioned hymn sung for the first

time on that day as part of the celebration. On behalf of the church, Rev. Renie presented me with a gorgeous red stole with doves and tongues of flame in gold. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to sing and play, to guide and direct as I live out my calling to musical ministry at Community Congregational Church. My two decades here have been a source of ongoing joy, fulfillment, and creativity.

Supplementing my musical ministry at this church, I continue my study of hymn writing with the Rev. Dan Damon. This spring one of my hymns, "O God, Bestow Your Love and Care," won the Macalester Plymouth United Church contest for a hymn that celebrated the love God has for the union of all people regardless of gender. Hope Publishing Company accepted several of my hymns for publication in their Online Hymnody. I also study jazz piano with Rev. Damon and played several times this year at Max's Opera Café in San Francisco and also at the Hotel Bourbon in the French Quarter in New Orleans.

I cannot end this report without expressing my deep gratitude to Deborah Shanks for filling in so capably while I was out for surgery. The music at CCC didn't miss a beat, thanks to her! In addition, Deborah has done arrangements for both the Sanctuary Choir and The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir.

Lists of Participants in All Groups:

Sanctuary Choir

Leslie Blackie
Michelle Cavagnuolo
Debbie Conway
Moirra Farrell
Dean Gilman
Nancy Gilman
Priscilla Lane
Cholé McGraw
Jackie Sayles
Deborah Shanks
Marlan Shanks
Bruce Smith
Susan Stofan
Barbara Hamm - Director

Women and Girls' Chorus

Audrey Benton
Lydia Benton
Autumn Thomas
Holly Thomas
Meadow Thomas
Maddie Vlnar
Leslie Blackie
Michelle Cavagnuolo
Debbie Conway
Moirra Farrell
Mary Susan Gast
Nancy Gilman
Tara Iddings

Priscilla Lane
Cholé McGraw
Laura Pyles
Jackie Sayles
Deborah Shanks
Susan Stofan
Barbara Hamm - Director

Children's Choir

Audrey Benton – Director
for the Christmas concert
and Christmas Eve
Lydia Benton
Colin Cavagnuolo-Pyles
Eric Gallmeyer
Ben Thomas
Emma Thomas
Meadow Thomas
Holly Thomas
Donnie Vlnar
Maddie Vlnar
Barbara Hamm - Director

Pentecost Youth Choir

Audrey Benton
Lydia Benton
Natalie Daffern
Hanna Hendrickson
Karyna Mitchell
Autumn Thomas

Meadow Thomas

Vocalists – solos, duets

Audrey Benton
Lydia Benton
Leslie Blackie
Mary Susan Gast
Barbara Hamm
Dean Gilman
Nancy Gilman
Laura Pyles
Deborah Shanks
Bruce Smith

The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir

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

Instrumentalists – solos, duets, ensembles

Leslie Blackie – violin
Lindsay Blackie – clarinet,
handbells
Stuart Blackie - handbells

Liz Cleves – guitar, banjo
 Moira Farrell - violin
 Dean Gilman – acoustic and electric bass, drum
 Leslie Lessenger – flute
 Dale Olm – mandolin
 Shelby Riddle – clarinet, fiddle, triangle
 Marilyn Scrutchins – guitar
 Deborah Shanks – guitar, piano, organ, drum [accompanist]
 Bruce Smith – guitar, piano [accompanist]
 Barbara Hamm – piano, organ [accompanist]

Christmas Orchestra

Moira Farrell - violin
 Dean Gilman – bass
 Barbara Hamm – piano
 Leslie Lessenger – flute
 Dale Olm – mandolin
 Shelby Riddle – clarinet
 Deborah Shanks – guitar

Benicia Celtic Band

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

The Hippie Chicks

Liz Cleves – guitar, banjo, vocals
 Marilyn Scrutchins – guitar, vocals

Jazz Gorilla

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



Moderator

Dale Olm

This year, the church marked it's 150th anniversary! We celebrated with a fantastic Fandango in the Camel Barn Museum. We also marked and celebrated 20 years of Music Ministry by Dr. Barbara Hamm.

We have been enjoying our new, geologically stable, safe and lighted parking lot.

We amended our Constitution and By-laws with an evolutionary and revolutionary reinterpretation of membership.

For the first half of our church year the Youth enjoyed an energetic and active youth director, Della Olm.

For the second half of the year we have had an outstanding, new secretary and office manager, Gina Marwick.

We received a \$50,000 bequest from the Estate of Peg Stone, a longtime member of our church, to be used for improvements of the building and grounds. This allowed us to give the church a great facelift. New paint and a new color! Work continues on new signage and irrigation and parking lot landscaping.

Ever mindful of the budget and economy, the Budget and Finance/Stewardship committees met monthly to check the financial pulse of the church. We continue to be a full time church with a full time pastor – a dwindling occurrence in churches our size, as well as being able to fund our loan payments for the Campus Enhancement Project without dipping into our reserves – something our loan financier (the Cornerstone Fund) predicted that it would take 5 years to accomplish. We unfortunately could not rehire a replacement for our youth director and we had to replace our child care team with volunteers. We could not fund our committees at a level that we would like. These are challenges for us in the future. We switched our insurance coverage to increase our protection without increasing our premiums.



I am thankful and grateful for my fellow officers and committee chairs that made up our Council this year. Their dedication of time and energy makes our church what it is. Their activities and accomplishments are detailed in this Annual Report.

I would like to thank our Pastor Renie Stamm-Kirk for all her guidance and support this year, and Barbara Hamm for her continued musical enrichment of our lives.



Vice Moderator

Laura Pyles

As your Vice-Moderator, my official role has been in part to lead the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC), which meets with our Pastor monthly to address matters of concern to both the Pastor and the Congregation. All conversations are confidential. Another part of my official duties is to lead the Nominating Committee for the new Council. For that work I have to thank Nancy Gilman, Jackie Lawrence, and Priscilla Lane for their advice and support through the process.

Additionally, as Vice-Moderator, my role necessarily includes stepping in for the Moderator when absent. I can say I exercised this position very infrequently as our current Moderator, Dale Olm, is dedicated, present and engaged - always. I extend my appreciation to him for his leadership and guidance over this past year.

As a closing thought, I offer this which I shared previously in the April Bridge newsletter. Many of our leaders serve in multiple capacities, helping our church run as it does. They give their time and energies to this church because they too know our vision is realized through the work we do together as a community. I am grateful for all of what we have done, and for what will do still, to make a difference in this world. Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you.



Clerk

Dale Stanley (July – April)

Baptisms

Emmett William Koehn June 5, 2016

Isla Kathleen Koehn June 5, 2016

Weddings

Marilyn Scrutchins & Liz Cleves October 10, 2015 (members/offsite)

Tracy Daffern & Deanna Mitchell December 23, 2015

Sophia & Tyler Swartz June 18, 2016 (non-members/offsite)

New Members

Natalie Kidder (re-instatement)

Liz Cleves, September 30, 2015

Moira Farrell, September 30, 2015

Felicia Morgado, September 30, 2015

Sara Morgado, September 30, 2015

Lanna McNeill, September 30, 2015

Faune Towery, September 30, 2015

Membership Withdrawn

Greg Cox

Karen Hanna

Transferred Membership

Jessica Sullivan

Deceased

Alice Burgess July 29, 2016 (longtime friend of the church)

Peg Stone: October 24, 2015 (member)

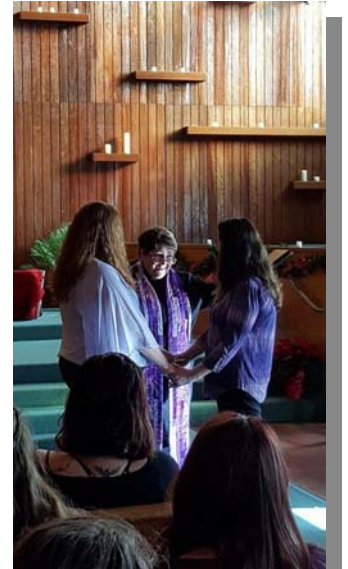
Members Placed On Inactive List

None

Total Members:

June 30, 2015 – 109

June 30, 2016 – 112



Time Capsule installed to the right of the Jesus window in fellowship hall



MEMBER JOIN DATE

Member Name	Join Date	Member Name	Join Date	Member Name	Join Date
Mortensen, Eleanor	11/21/1954	Benton, Graham	1/25/2004	Kidder, Natalie	3/20/2011
Burns, Karen	8/16/1955	Thompson, Sarah	1/25/2004	Briseno, Sophia	5/15/2011
Estey, Frances	3/25/1956	Gilman, Dean	12/12/2004	Briseno, Isabelle	5/15/2011
Updyke, Karen	3/25/1958	Olm, Sam	5/15/2005	Cooper, Kieran	5/15/2011
Estment (Wyatt), Patricia	10/9/1959	Blackie, Lindsay	5/15/2005	Herr, Liberty	5/15/2011
Stephens, Carol	11/4/1964	Schaffer, Larry	5/7/2006	Stamm-Kirk, Katie	5/15/2011
Stofan, Susan	2/24/1974	Stamm-Kirk, Rev. Renie	6/3/2007	Beatson, Leslie	4/8/2012
Hammonds, Maryo	9/15/1974	Riddle, Shelby	6/3/2007	Cavagnuolo, Michelle	4/8/2012
Hammonds, Sam	9/15/1974	Olm, Adam	6/3/2007	Daffern, Tracy	4/8/2012
Martin, Pam	10/22/1978	Parsons, Natalie	6/3/2007	Green, Jennifer	4/8/2012
Osada, Carolyn	6/8/1980	Stamm-Kirk, Allison	12/2/2007	Hill, Donna	4/8/2012
Scrutchins, Marilyn	6/7/1981	Eubank, Eileen	12/2/2007	Otero, Dylan	4/8/2012
Lane, Priscilla	12/5/1982	Munnely, Elizabeth	12/2/2007	Pyles, Laura	4/8/2012
Hutchins, Patricia	10/16/1983	Lawrence, Jackie	12/2/2007	Vlnar, Eric	4/8/2012
Read, Laurie	2/17/1985	Lawrence, Lynn	12/2/2007	Vlnar, Maria	4/8/2012
Read, Keith	2/17/1985	Stanley, Debi	6/1/2008	Benton, Audrey	6/10/2012
Wong, Jan	11/10/1985	Stanley, Dale	6/1/2008	Daffern, Kyle	6/10/2012
Cox, Betty	3/23/1986	Lessenger, Jim	6/1/2008	Daffern, Natalie	6/10/2012
Sayles, Jackie	4/5/1987	Lessenger, Leslie	6/1/2008	Mitchell, Karyna	6/10/2012
Kravets, Kathleen	4/12/1998	Scott, Mickey	6/1/2008	Brubaker Walton, Carol	3/23/2014
Kravets, Rob	4/12/1998	Schaffer, Nancy	12/21/2008	Walton, Jerry Alan	3/23/2014
Read, Robyn	5/31/1998	Hanna, Christopher	5/17/2009	Atuatasi, Anna	3/23/2014
Olm, Dale	9/27/1998	Hanna, Mathew	5/17/2009	Atuatasi, Sione	3/23/2014
Conway, Debbie	4/25/1999	Cooper, Brent	6/14/2009	Thompson, Tanya	3/23/2014
Mason, Carl	11/14/1999	McDonald, Reiko	6/14/2009	Thomas, Debra	1/18/2015
Mason, Gail	11/14/1999	Ensminger, Veronica	10/4/2009	Olm, Della	1/18/2015
Murrell, Janet	11/14/1999	Watson, Lance	10/4/2009	Riggs, Trudy	1/18/2015
Taylor, Penny	11/14/1999	Blackie, Stuart	1/24/2010	Riggs, Jennifer	1/18/2015
Thomas, Jett	1/16/2000	Gauger, Eleanor (Nora)	1/24/2010	Gast, Mary Susan	1/18/2015
Thomas, Milly	1/16/2000	Gauger, Hal	1/24/2010	Straw, Roger	1/18/2015
Blackie, Leslie	7/30/2000	Esparza, Jill	6/27/2010	Cleves, Liz	9/30/2015
Blackie, Jonathan	7/30/2000	Aldritt, Nancy	3/20/2011	Farrell, Moira	9/30/2015
McGraw, Cholé	2/25/2001	Goad, Carla	3/20/2011	Morgado, Felecia	9/30/2015
Cox, Daniel	5/12/2002	Dolter, Jean	3/20/2011	Morgado, Sarah	9/30/2015
Cox, Regina	5/12/2002	Dolter, Bill	3/20/2011	McNeill, Lanna	9/30/2015
Read, Kristen	5/12/2002	Hawthorne, Heidi	3/20/2011	Towery, Faune	9/30/2015
Sindt, Cassidy	5/12/2002				
Hamm, Barbara	6/30/2002				
Gilman, Nancy	7/20/2003				
Watson, Jim	7/20/2003				



Financial Secretary

Nancy Gilman

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 Nancy Aldritt, Carla Goad, Laura Pyles and Shelby Riddle for their help in counting. 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 (07/01/2015 - 06/30/2016)

Friday, July 01, 2016

Page 1 of 1

Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<i>Giving Accounts</i>		
060 - Pledges - Current Year	116,826.50	116,826.50
064 - Pledges - new Pledger	6,300.00	6,300.00
065 - Parishioner Contributions	13,627.45	13,627.45
067 - Donation In Kind	773.18	773.18
071 - Building Use - Other	4,180.00	4,180.00
073 - Building Use - Playing To Learn	35,300.00	35,300.00
085 - Fundraiser - Stewardship	2,758.00	2,758.00
098 - Refunds & Misc Deposits	5,585.79	5,585.79
409 - Puente de la Costa Sur	50.00	50.00
411 - Christmas Families	460.00	460.00
412 - Xmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	793.06	793.06
426 - Feeding Friends on the Street	910.00	910.00
600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	23,669.36	23,669.36
703 - Concert Series (Music Series)	203.00	203.00
706 - Youth Ministry / Youth Group	1,280.16	1,280.16
708 - Pastor Restricted Fund	1,230.00	1,230.00
711 - Weekend in the Trees	5,019.00	5,019.00
712 - FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget	770.00	770.00
714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	1,480.00	1,480.00
718 - Handbells	100.00	100.00
720 - Misc Inc - To Be Determined	65.00	65.00
721 - Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	50,020.00	50,020.00
725 - Special Renovation Projects	1,000.00	1,000.00
727 - 150th Anniversary	200.00	200.00
728 - Youth Camp Scholarship	431.00	431.00
Total Giving Accounts	\$273,031.50	\$273,031.50

Count: 25

Period: 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2016

Year: 2015

Treasurer

Shelby Riddle

Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia
Summary Annual Budget vs. Actual YTD (Ordinary P&L)
July 2015 through June 2016

	Jul '15 - Jun ...	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Refunds & misc. deposits	13.00			
Loose Offering - Parish Contrib	13,627.45	15,000.00	-1,372.55	90.8%
Pledges - Operations & Ministri	122,849.88	126,935.04	-4,085.16	96.8%
Pledges - Cap Improvement Fund	23,922.71	24,330.00	-407.29	98.3%
Use of Building	40,471.82	37,800.00	2,671.82	107.1%
Fundraisers	2,758.00	6,000.00	-3,242.00	46.0%
Trans Cap Imp Fund-Loan&Cap I...	-1,354.40	1,257.00	-2,611.40	-107.7%
Transf Equity/Reserves to Rev.	20,336.26	19,002.96	1,333.30	107.0%
Other sources of funding (int.)	790.64	195.96	594.68	403.5%
Total Income	223,415.36	230,520.96	-7,105.60	96.9%
Expense				
B & G - Utilities	12,138.48	12,231.84	-93.36	99.2%
B & G Custodial	5,160.00	5,160.00	0.00	100.0%
B & G- Maintenance & Janitorial	5,015.43	6,120.00	-1,104.57	82.0%
B& G-Taxes	715.80	716.04	-0.24	100.0%
Insurance- Property	4,143.59	7,215.96	-3,072.37	57.4%
Loan Payoff	22,546.56	22,548.00	-1.44	100.0%
Transf to future loan payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Cap Impr Fund Disbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Christian Education / Youth	1,093.96	2,094.00	-1,000.04	52.2%
Fellowship	648.90	1,134.96	-486.06	57.2%
Music, Adult & Youth Choirs	1,126.93	1,194.04	-67.11	94.4%
Stewardship	34.00	150.00	-116.00	22.7%
Mission, Outreach & UCC Support	10,513.94	10,155.00	358.94	103.5%
Welcome (Growth)	168.00	189.96	-21.96	88.4%
Worship	1,162.73	1,308.00	-145.27	88.9%
Other Committes & Ministries	2,099.24	2,500.00	-400.76	84.0%
Council & Discretionary Funds	0.00	540.00	-540.00	0.0%
Finance & Administration & IT	3,534.73	3,578.12	-43.39	98.8%
Office/Computer/Copier Supplies	3,978.03	3,972.96	5.07	100.1%
Professional Expenses	194.52	1,329.96	-1,135.44	14.6%
Sabbatical budgeted set aside	3,579.00	3,579.00	0.00	100.0%
Staff	139,050.51	144,803.01	-5,752.50	96.0%
Total Expense	216,904.35	230,520.85	-13,616.50	94.1%
Net Ordinary Income	6,511.01	0.11	6,510.90	
Net Income	6,511.01	0.11	6,510.90	

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

Cash Basis

As of June 30, 2016

	Jun 30, 16	Jun 30, 15	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
US Bank	29,134.73	9,415.29	19,719.44
Payroll Services Direct Depo...	0.00	37.89	-37.89
Cornerstone CD#9001 8/5/11	0.00	15,899.91	-15,899.91
Cornerstone CD#9002 2/5/12	15,929.50	15,929.50	0.00
Cornerstone CD#9003 2/9/12	30,878.77	30,878.77	0.00
Vanguard Money Market Fund	17,894.08	3,493.01	14,401.07
Total Checking/Savings	93,837.08	75,654.37	18,182.71
Other Current Assets			
Petty Cash Accounts	170.59	170.59	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	170.59	170.59	0.00
Total Current Assets	94,007.67	75,824.96	18,182.71
Other Assets			
Campus Renovation 2015	343,953.14	349,153.13	-5,199.99
Total Other Assets	343,953.14	349,153.13	-5,199.99
TOTAL ASSETS	437,960.81	424,978.09	12,982.72
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
Payroll Tax liabilities	829.33	291.83	537.50
Total Other Current Liabilities	829.33	291.83	537.50
Total Current Liabilities	829.33	291.83	537.50
Long Term Liabilities			
Cornerstone Loan - Parking ...	343,953.14	349,153.13	-5,199.99
Total Long Term Liabilities	343,953.14	349,153.13	-5,199.99
Total Liabilities	344,782.47	349,444.96	-4,662.49
Equity			
Pastor Restricted Fund	384.67	960.86	-576.19
Total of All M&O Funds	4,459.96	10,965.99	-6,506.03
Bequests - Cap Impr. Fund	27,673.46	0.00	27,673.46
Capital Improvements - General	1,331.56	1,050.05	281.51
Capital Impr. Special Projects	750.33	917.06	-166.73
Parking Lot Reno/Landscaping	0.00	2,277.34	-2,277.34
Sabbatical set aside (accrued)	10,933.87	8,043.12	2,890.75
Pledges Paid in Adv (use sub)	0.01	0.08	-0.07
Set-asides for current yr exp's	719.07	179.82	539.25
Special Restricted Equity Accts	8,631.95	6,378.01	2,253.94
Net Assets	31,375.04	37,964.04	-6,589.00
Net Income	6,918.42	6,796.76	121.66
Total Equity	93,178.34	75,533.13	17,645.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	437,960.81	424,978.09	12,982.72

Community Congregational Church UCC										
	of Benicia		2015-2016	2016-2017	Difference					
	Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017		Mid-year	Proposed	Between					
	(July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)		revised	Budget	2015-2016 &					
			Jan 2016	July-June	2016-2017					
1	Funding (Operations and Ministries)									
2	Refunds & misc. deposits		0	0	0					
3	Loose Offering		15000	13000	-2,000					
4	Pledges		126,935	125,300	-1,635	current pledge amount				
5	Capital Improvement Pledges		24,330	23,500	-830	current pledge amount				
6	Use of Building		37,800	41,077	3,277	PTL and 12 Step groups				
7	Fundraisers		6,000	4,500	-1,500					
8	Miscellaneous Fund Raisers		0		0					
9	Transfer from Reserves		10,849	3,579	-7,270	to cover sabbatical set aside				
10	Transfer from Cap Imp Fund for CI & Loan		1,257	0	-1,257					
11	Transfer from Restricted Accounts		7,155	0	-7,155					
12	Transfer from Restricted Accounts 2		1,000	1,000	0					
13	Other funding (interest +)		196	718	522	Interest & Interest rebate on loan				
14	Grants		0	0	0					
15	Total Revenues		230,522	212,674	-17,848					
16	Expense (Operations and Ministries)									
17	B&G - Utilities		12,232	11,584	-648	shared by PTL				
18	B&G - Custodial (contract)		5,160	5,160	0					
19	B&G - Maint. & Housekeep		6,120	5,815	-305					
20	B&G - Property Taxes		716	752	36	Paid by PTL				
21	B&G - Property Insurance		7,216	6,533	-683	changed insurer				
22	Cornerstone Loan Payments		22,548	22,163	-385					
23	Capital Improvement expenditures		0	0	0					
24	Transfer for future loan pmts		0	1,337	1,337	capital improvement pledges received in excess of loan				
25	Christian Education / Youth		2,094	256	-1,838	relying on home prepared curriculum				
26	Congregational Care		0	0	0					
27	Fellowship		1,135	1,136	1					
28	Music, Adult & Youth Choirs		1,194	1,273	79					
29	Stewardship		150	150	0					
30	Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM, IAF)		10,155	10,024	-131	8% of pledges actually received				
31	Welcome		190	168	-22					
32	Worship		1,309	800	-509					
33	Other committees & Ministries		2,500	0	-2,500	last year was for Anniversary celebration				
34	Council & Discretion Funds		540	0	-540	removed delegate funding for NCNC Annual Meeting				
35	Unexpected expenses/contingency		0	0	0					
36	Other Exp-Finance & Admin		3,578	3,480	-98					
37	Office/Comp./Copier Supply		3,973	3,753	-221					
38	Minister in training scholarship		0	0	0	no MIT this year				
39	Professional Expenses		1,330	1,330	0	required training, NCNC, dues, WITT				
40	Sabbatical set aside		3,579	3,579	0					
41	Camp Scholarships		0	0	0	relying on special fund raisers				
42	Staff		144,803	133,381	-11,422	not hiring a Youth Director this year				
43	Total Expense		230,522	212,674	-17,848					
44			-1	0	1	rounding errors				

Building and Grounds

Jim Lessenger

1. Stone Family Trust: The bequest of Florence (Peg) Stone has allowed us to do a number of projects. We are catching upon 50 years of delayed maintenance and are accounting for every penny.

2. Paint project: Done with an entirely new color palate.

3. Electrical project:

- a. Electrician and project approved by the Council.
- b. Permit is pending.
- c. LED conversion in CE building: Done.
- d. LED conversion in lower building: Done.

4. Signage project:

- a. Plan approved by the Council. New signs on street side of lower building, parking lot side of lower building and on Playing to Learn.
- b. Planning permit approved.
- c. Building permit is pending.
- d. "Tombstone" sign is rebuilt.

5. Landscaping:

- a. Need for aggressive weeding.
- b. Sandstone trim: Done.
- c. Irrigation: In progress.
- d. Planting: Moratorium in place until the irrigation is done.

6. Display box next to entry of church for bulletins: Done.

7. Sun shades for CE building: Done and donated.

8. Security: New security camera installed.



Christian Education

Deanna Mitchell & Tracy Daffern

Committee members: Tanya, Felecia, Greg, Jen and Bruce

We also had help from other church members cleared to work in CE including: Lana, Michelle, Jim, Nancy, Laura, Karyna, Natalie, and Hannah.

Over the course of the year, Sunday school has between 3-6 children on most Sundays.

We have recently been averaging 3 children on Sundays. The nursery has had one toddler who has come a few times in the last several months.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with us with CE this year.

During Sunday school we start with a prayer and short lesson. We finish with art projects or games that tie into what we learned. We spend the last 5-10 minutes playing if there is any time left.



Fellowship

Susan Stofan & Allison Stamm-Kirk



This year marked our 150th birthday. After a special worship on June 5th, our actual birthday, we celebrated with a special feast and to top it off a rainbow cake. Each and every Sunday we enjoy special treats and of course our time of visiting with each other.

We have begun ordering our supplies on line from Costco. UPS delivers them right to our door. This saves time and assures that we have all the things we need for Sunday morning and other church events.

We are thankful for all the help we get.

Everyone seems to pitch in whether it be on

setting up or clean up. Also appreciated are contributions from members and friends who feel that they can't host fellowship themselves.

It's nice to sign up as a team – either 2 or 3 people – then the work can be shared. Whatever you prepare is appreciated and enjoyed.



Mission and Outreach

Nora Gauger

It is a privilege to be M&O chair with a congregation so generous and involved in our efforts to follow the example set by Jesus in serving those most in need. In addition, I have had a delightfully active and supportive committee this year and a co-chair, Nancy Gilman, who has been so good to fill in at short notice for all the things I have not been able to do. *High 5's and heartfelt thanks to everyone.*

When we first met last August, our committee determined our priorities were to provide every opportunity we could to our congregation to participate in our missions and to spend the 8% of pledges allocated for Mission as effectively and wisely as we could.

At that time we voted the listed amounts to be sent to the following causes:

- To BUSD, to provide discount bus passes to low-income students who were either late or absent too often for good achievement due to lack of transportation **\$500**
- To UCC, *Five for Five* : **\$4,000** to Our Church's Wider Mission, **\$400** to Neighbors in Need, **\$400** to One Great Hour of Sharing, **\$400** to Strengthen the Church, and the amount of the Christmas Eve offering (this year **\$793**) to the Christmas Fund (for assistance to pastors in need).
- To *Common Ground*, for an associate membership in this local network of 16 non-profits and churches working for Social Justice in Solano and Napa Counties **\$200**
- To the pastor's discretionary fund, to allow her to help out those in need coming to our church in times of crisis, **\$500**
- To CCC, to underwrite to costs of hosting AA groups and other non-profits needing to use our church building. **\$1,000**
- To *Planned Parenthood of Vallejo*, for help with costs of providing health care to low-income women. **\$400**
- To 2nd Saturday breakfasts, to support our own programs providing meals and music on the 1st and 2nd Saturdays of the month to our friends on the streets in Vallejo **\$600**
- To our adopted mission, *Playing to Learn Childcare*, to support services for low-income—in this case for a college scholarship for a low-income employee to finish requirements to be certified for employment at any licensed childcare. **\$500**

In addition, we allocated the money brought forward from the last fiscal year to pay for our annual campaign to provide loaded backpacks for migrant worker's children through Puente, a non-profit based in Pescadero, CA. We will be doing that again this year.

As the year progressed, we added several new beneficiaries as we recognized the needs: an additional **\$500** for the pastor's discretionary fund in answer to an unforeseen number of requests and **\$100** to Benicia Family Resource Center to help them provide low-cost savings account to clients in their financial assistance program.



Stewardship

Nancy Aldritt & Carla Goad (July – April)

Committee Members: Pastor Renie Stamm-Kirk, Nancy Gilman, Nancy Aldritt, and Carla Goad

Stewardship Committee held an Annual Fall Auction and raised over \$2500. In January we went to the congregation with a mid-year budget review, based on actuals we modified the budget accordingly.

This year we did not hold our Annual Crab Feed fundraiser. The crab this year was contaminated by high levels of a known neurotoxin, and therefore we would have had to source from out of state bring the price up significantly.

On April 1st Our Stewardship Chairs, Nancy Adritt & Carla Goad were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Avery Joseph. At that time, they stepped down from their role as chairs so they could devote their full attention to their newborn son. Nancy Gilman and Pastor Renie stepped in to send out this year's Stewardship Campaign.

Community Congregational Church continues to be a 5 for 5 UCC Special Offering church, each year sending funds to Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund.

Our Stewardship Theme this Year was "Into the Future - Being "That Church"" This campaign was all about the celebrating the church's 150 years of being uniquely Community Congregational Church.

We are pleased to report that with pledges from 47 family units we are at \$129,000 for the General Fund and \$23,500 for the Capital Improvement Fund. We have 3 new pledging family units to date for 2016 which is a true blessing for our ministries to expand in the coming year.

- Here is the breakdown of giving – average giving was \$2,770 – most giving was over \$1,000

12	< 1K
10	1-2K
5	2-3 K
9	3-4K
4	4-5k
3	5-6K
1	6K
1	7K
1	9K
1	10K



Respectfully submitted,
The Stewardship Committee

Welcome and Growth

Michelle Cavagnuolo

"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

Co-Chairs: Eleanor Mortensen, Greeter
Dylan and Jennifer Otero (Fall 2015)

It has been a pleasure to serve as Welcome and Growth Chair in this, our 150th Celebration year. With many new and returning to the church, and visitors far and wide it has been a privilege to welcome them into our midst. My sincere thanks and gratitude to: Gina Marwick, Church Office Manager and Pastor Renie Stamm-Kirk for preparing and printing new 150th year name tags for all as well as new/returning visitors.

For Dale Olm and Shelby Riddle for working incredibly hard to make First Friday feedings a reality.

To Nancy Gilman and Laura Pyles for stepping in as counters and setting up name tags in my absence.

To all who served as greeters this year.

AVERAGE ATTENDING WORSHIP FOR 2015-16 (57)

AVERAGE ATTENDING WORSHIP 2014-2015 (64) A (-12%)

VISITORS:

- 32 with 4 returning more than three times throughout the year. Several visiting family members and friends as far away as Spain.

NEW MEMBERS:

- Lanna McNeill, Moira Farrell, Rev. Faune Towery, Liz Cleves, Felecia Doyle and Sara Morgado

RETURNING:

- Tara Iddings (Purves), Kristen Williams, Becky Koehn, Reiko MacDonald



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Game Night/First Friday Bag lunch started
With a belief that we could try and reach more of our Friends on the Street with a mobile lunch offering and provide an opportunity for those new to the church to volunteer a small idea sprung into First Friday Bag Lunch preparation. The thought around having First Friday and Game Night together arose out of a discussion of a way to also perhaps have more families who may be busy on the weekends but joining game night to have the opportunity to volunteer. We have had an average of 5 volunteers and 15 contributors assist in preparing 75 bag lunches, consisting of a PB&J sandwich, bottle water, breakfast bar, fruit, something sweet, bagel or roll, information about Second Saturday hot breakfast at JFK Library and toiletries including requested items such as Kleenex packs and Vaseline. During the Christmas holiday, Lanna McNeil arrived with reusable bags she filled with toiletry items she donated to carry our friends through a tough winter.

With our first stop JFK library, to go where those near the park know us, Dale and Shelby play music and have offered hot coffee with the bag lunches – from there we have driven around Vallejo stopping at families in RVs and cars, the Walmart Center on Sereno Drive, median homeless with signs and grocery carts encampments under freeway overpasses, parking lots and the day laborers on Admiral Callahan at the Shell station. In each and every cup of coffee that has been served and lunch provided we do not come to preach but we have been there to listen and offer hope.

My absolute gratitude to Dale Olm and Shelby Riddle who heard me ask whether a mobile idea was possible and in their true leadership and amazing can do spirit, said let's try it and see what happens!

Game Night has been reserved for the 7:00 hour the First Friday of the month.

What started under the helm of Dale and Debi Stanley as a means of inviting friends and family to our church in a fun and relaxing way has been enjoyably attended by a few members but not regularly. It is my hope that either Game Night or some version of a fun way for families to meet at the church continues.

- Started CCCUCC of Benicia Book Club/Activities Group Facebook page



Worship

Bruce Smith

Although the fiscal year begins in July, the Worship Committee's year really began when it held its annual retreat on August 15, 2015 to discuss the upcoming year of Worship Services. Five members of the committee met with Rev. Renie for this retreat: Deborah Dahl, Nancy Gilman, Barbara Hamm, Priscilla Lane, and Bruce Smith.

This being the 150th anniversary celebration the theme chosen was "I Love to Tell the Story." We divided the church year into three sections for development of this theme: The early history of the church (first 100 years); the last 50 years of the church and a look into the future. We decided that history moments would be woven into the Sunday services each week beginning with Homecoming Sunday on September 13. This was done throughout the year. A wide variety of items from the archives were used for these presentations including: letters from pastors, community leaders and members; newspaper clippings; bulletins from previous services; information from previous anniversary celebrations; photos from the past; and a slide show of cakes by Jean Osborn.



Community Congregational Church has a long tradition of leadership in the Bay area and particularly Benicia in not only religious activities, but many other cultural and educational areas. Here are a few examples.

- Rev. Dr. Sam Whitley who was pastor at First Congregational Church of Benicia from 1880-1889 was one of the founders of University of California, which eventually settled in Berkley. And he had the distinction of being its first Vice President of the university.
- In 1893 First Congregational Church of Benicia started the first "free reading room" which became the original Benicia Library.
- Rev. Sam Weyler who was pastor of First Congregational Church of Benicia from 1896 to 1898 started Benicia High School, which initially met in the social hall of the church.
- In the early 1900s First Congregational Church of Benicia organized the first Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the city.

These and other activities of the church provide us with a strong tradition of Community involvement that has continued throughout our history.

The Worship Committee, also, decided to tie the anniversary theme into Christmas by decorating the sanctuary in a style that would have been used in the past. The pageant that was presented by the youth, also, took on a historical theme and became a "play within a play" that began with our early ancestors planning a "traditional" Christmas pageant.

Lent started early this year and by mid-February the Sanctuary reflected the theme of the season "The Gifts of the Dark Wood." The Lenten series included special music, special prayers, a weekly ritual of placing dissolving papers with concerns written on them in bowls of water that turned over our concerns to God. A book study group was formed during this time to read the book *The Gifts of the Dark Wood*. The dark woods were engulfed by the pure white light of Easter and the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

Following Easter and Holy Humor Sunday, we moved into the Stewardship Campaign. The emphasis each Sunday was a little different from what the Bible says about giving to why the church today needs our gifts to what each of us gains by giving. The stewardship campaign ended just in time for Pentecost Sunday.

And what a Pentecost Sunday it was. Our youth planned and participated in our Pentecost Service. It was full of music, dance and moving messages. Hearing our youth speak from their hearts sharing their personal messages was both moving and eye-opening. We all took a piece of them with us as we left the sanctuary. It left us with a thought provoking Pentecost service and for showed us what amazing and talented youth we have in our church.

Now we have turned to summer and Worship is continuing with a new sermon series based on the book *Not in My Name* with a book study to go with it. The choir may stop singing, but they will be replaced by talented soloists and duets.



The Rolling Tones - Handbells

Leslie Lessenger

The Rolling Tones enjoyed a full year of rehearsal and performance. The holiday season included playing for the Second Saturday in the park, Baskin Robbins, and accompanying the Melody Choral Singers. With 6 regular musicians, we found that 12-bell music offered new opportunities. Smaller groups contributed to choral anthems as well. Directed by Leslie Lessenger, handbell musician included Keith Read, Laurie Read, Pat Obendorf, Chole McGraw, Deborah Dahl Shanks and Kim Webb.



Fandango

A Feast Celebrating 150 Years

On May 21st we held our Fandango at the Camel Barn Museum. This was our 150th Anniversary Party and party we did!! Some of you came in period costumes which just added so much to our celebration. With a DJ to provide music for square dancing and line dancing, the dance floor was full of guests of all ages. Thank you Leslie Lessenger for making this happen.

There were exhibits brought by Jim Lessenger to show the history of our church as well as a slide show prepared by Pastor Renie.

The food was spectacular! Laura Pyles was our BBQ Master for the day cooking ribs, chicken, sausage, hotdogs and tri-tips. Many of our lucky attendees acquired a sample rib on their way in just to whet their appetite. The rest of the food was all potluck. We started with a big table of appetizers. When the BBQ was ready we moved on to the multiple tables of salads, side dishes and desserts. Looking down the long row of tables I had to stop and just take it all in. Amazing!! Thank you all who brought food to share and all who came to share food.

Special thanks to our committee who made this all come together: Jim and Leslie Lessenger, Laura Pyles, Dale Olm, Shelby Riddle, Nancy Gilman and Pastor Renie.



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016-2017

Nominating Committee

Laura Pyles, Nancy Gilman, Jackie Lawrence, Pricilla Lane, Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

Minister of Music

Dr. Barbara Hamm

Youth Leader

Vacant Due to Budget

Office Manager

Gina Marwick

OFFICERS

Moderator

Laura Pyles

Vice-Moderator

OPEN

Church Clerk

Shelby Riddle

Financial Secretary

Nancy Gilman

Treasurer

Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry

Jim Lessenger & Shelby Riddle

Christian Education Ministry

Deanna Mitchell & Tracy Daffern

Congregational Care

OPEN

Fellowship

OPEN

Mission & Outreach

Bruce Smith & Nancy Gilman

Stewardship Ministry

OPEN

Welcome and Growth

Jan Wong

Worship Ministry

Pricilla Lane

Member-At-Large

Karyna Mitchell

Member-At-Large

Moira Farrell

