

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



The 156th Annual Report of the
Community Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Benicia, California

Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Benicia, California

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Leadership Team 2022

STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Renie Kirk

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Bladimer Paeste

Minister of Music

Dr. Barbara Hamm

Office Manager

Susan Slater

OFFICERS

Moderator

Nancy Gilman

Vice-Moderator

Deborah Shanks

Church Clerk

Shelby Riddle

Financial Secretary

Leslie Lessenger

Treasurer

Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry

Dale Olm and Shelby Riddle

Christian Education Ministry

Dale Olm

Congregational Care

Leslee Prah

Fellowship

Nancy Gilman

Mission & Outreach

Nora Gauger and Shelby Riddle

Stewardship Ministry

Deborah Shanks and Cholé McGraw

Welcome and Growth

Nora Gauger

Worship Ministry

Priscilla Lane

Members-At-Large

Marilyn Scrutchins

Todd Wolf

Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Kirk



With the start of 2022, our city experienced the full impact of Covid as cases continued to rise and upended the lives of many. Covid has in some ways been a great equalizer; none of us has escaped its impact. In other ways, this pandemic has once again illustrated that it is the vulnerable in our community who pay the highest price when a crisis hits.

As we witnessed the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the city of Vallejo's most at-risk communities, our people joined together to care for those who desperately needed support. Being lights in the dark, our congregation reached out to low-income families whose positive Covid tests meant they were forced to isolate, and for many, were unable to earn an income to provide for themselves and their families. We had adopted families at Christmas, and our altar was still covered with undies and tarps and sleeping bags as we started the new year. We performed delayed memorial services and prayed for the sick among us, and we still gathered with masks and encouraged vaccinations. Our congregation continued to show up when it felt like times were bleak with our hope-filled music and our love.

Offering both in person and online worship via Zoom allowed our community to join us when they felt healthy and when they did not, or even when they were on vacation. Our hybrid set-up kept us connected throughout the year. We took advantage of Zoom to run our Lenten faith study using the book "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler, which tied into our Lenten worship service. We also used it to run our monthly council meetings, and there is a church book group that continues to meet monthly using this technology.

In the spring of this year, I needed to take a short leave for health reasons and I was blessed to call a dear colleague, the Reverend Bladimer Paeste. What a blessing for both myself and the congregation to have Pastor Bladimer lead the congregation while I was out. Not only did Pastor Bladimer fit right into to our unique congregation but his presence made clear we are open to new ways and new ideas. Upon returning from my leave I began to understand that we were called to a new ministry, a ministry to the Filipino community in our area. We as a community had known this since we had served the Filipino community on our Second Saturdays for many years. Once I had discussed this with our leadership team we set about doing a revisioning.

In the fall of 2022, Community Congregational did a revisioning session about what we needed to do next. So much came out of that session. To begin we asked the question: What's the definition of insanity?

Doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. We HAVE TO BE OPEN TO NEW IDEAS - WE HAVE TO BE OPEN TO RADICAL CHANGE! So we asked the tough questions:

1. "Why do we exist as a church?"
2. "Where are we going?"
3. "How do we get there?"

We identified the key issues facing Benicia/Vallejo today:

We as a church plan to address these issues head-on in 2023 and beyond. We agreed that one of the major issues we need to focus on is reaching out to other communities intentionally. Since one of our biggest ethnic communities in the area is Filipino, the church agreed that calling Reverend Paeste would be a good fit for us to do this ministry. In November 2022, the church council, with unanimous consent by the revisioning group, voted to call Pastor Bladimer for 10 hours a week until January when the congregation can vote on a part time call for more hours. This ministry in 2022 has already brought more life and light into our congregation. This intentional ministry has opened us to new possibilities that we as a church have never fully investigated before.

Come look and see God is doing a New Thing in Benicia!!

I am so grateful to be here at this time, with a congregation that is listening to the Divine in new ways!!!

Blessings and Gratitude,

Pastor Renie



Associate Pastor's Report

The Rev. Bladimer Paeste

My journey with you was an unexpected one to say the least. It is amazing how God uses our circumstances to draw us together so we can do more and serve better in Christ's name.

It gives me joy every time I recall when I filled in for the Rev. Renie between April and July of this year. To be able to relieve the Rev. Renie from her pastoral responsibilities at a time when she needs to rest and heal puts a smile on my face. Little did I know that from there on God paved the way for this common journey for which I'm truly grateful.

On November 1st 2022, I was technically called by the Church Council, to officially serve as an Associate Minister on a ten-hour commitment. For the last two months or so now, I have learned a lot about the leadership dynamics of the Church Council, familiarized with the ministries, mission and outreach of the church, got to know some church members in a deeper sense, have enjoyed the luxury of music in worship and other events, and have been blessed to preach and at times simply sit in the pew and receive the Word and be inspired. Deep inside me I feel I am in the right context of ministry where I can share my humble gifts and hopefully make a difference in the life of the church.

Looking back, this call was borne out of the Rev. Renie's vision to diversify the church. The church leadership has fully welcomed, embraced, and supported this vision. The main focus is to start a hybrid Filipino-American ministry nestled at the CCCUCC.

As of December 30, 2022, five families have committed to join this ministry. Three more families have already signified to join but have not started to attend church yet. The counting continues as we move forward. The initial and tentative plan is to have a 2:00PM worship service by the month of March. The families will have the prerogative to decide on this.

I can anticipate with all positivity that the year 2023 will be a different one for CCCUCC. With all the enthusiasm and excitement being carried over into the new year a lot of good things will happen. We are standing in the miracles of possibilities and God has a lot in store for us in the next 12 months. I celebrate with gratitude for the opportunity to take part in this new endeavor. Whatever God is up to and wherever God leads us to, then let it be. It is my prayer that we will be one in mind and spirit, unified in our vision and goals, and with true joy we put ourselves all in.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Bladimer Paeste



Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music



Following an almost two-year hiatus during the pandemic, the Sanctuary Choir resumed weekly rehearsals in January – wearing singers' masks and sitting several feet apart. We began an alternating Tuesday rehearsal schedule, with the choir rehearsing on the first and third Tuesdays in the afternoon and the second and fourth Tuesdays in the evening. The choir voted collectively to move its rehearsal day in the fall to Thursdays, making it easier for choir members who also played with The Rolling Tones on Monday nights, by eliminating two successive evenings of back-to-back rehearsals. We kept the alternating afternoon and evening rehearsals. Choir members were Cholé McGraw, Priscilla Lane, Deborah Shanks, Susan Stofan, Nancy Gilman, Pat Obendorf, and Todd Wolf, with Andy Zinkevich rejoining us to sing for Christmas Eve. The choir sang on average two Sundays a month, performing largely SAB music, though occasionally 2-part or unison. We also sang a number of pieces specifically arranged for our choir by Deborah Shanks. Instrumentalists joined us for several anthems, notably on Easter Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and the Christmas Concert. What a joy it was to hear the combination of voices and instruments! Vocalists from the choir as well as other church members, namely Liz Cleves and Marilyn Scrutchins, also sang solos or duets during the year.

The strings ensemble, organized during the pandemic by Shelby Riddle, continued playing for gathering music and worship services as the "in-house" ensemble, with Leslie Lessenger moving from handbells to flute and Shelby Riddle taking up the clarinet again once it was deemed safe enough (following the pandemic) to resume playing wind instruments. Other musicians included Dale Olm on mandolin, Deborah Shanks on harp (also organ or piano), Lisa Dwiggin on cello, and Barbara Hamm on piano. Occasionally the gathering music was provided by solo instruments (flute, clarinet, cello) as was the ministry of music. Playing carols arranged by Deborah Shanks for our specific instrumentation, the group accompanied congregational singing throughout Advent and Christmas. It also provided music for the Oktoberfest celebration, playing German polkas arranged by Deborah, and joined by Ellen DeCarlo on flute. Beyond our local congregation, Shelby, Dale, and Barbara accompanied two morning Taizé services at the United Church of Christ Conference Annual Gathering at Sonoma State University in June. Shelby and Barbara also played jazz Christmas carols at the Global Holiday Faire December 3rd at First Christian Church in Vallejo, with all proceeds going to benefit nonprofit groups in the community.

Directed by Leslie Lessenger, The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir also comprised a very active part of music ministry, playing on multiple Sundays

during the year. Members were Chol  McGraw, Deborah Shanks, Kathy Monroe, Kim Webb, Nancy Gilman, and Pat Obendorf. Deborah filled in as the director during Leslie's absence in the fall; Barbara Hamm was an "extra" as needed and played with the group for the Christmas concert. The Rolling Tones also played for events in and beyond the community.

Our annual Christmas Concert took place on Sunday, December 11, at 5 PM. Not so constrained by health concerns as we were in 2021, we still observed the precautions of offering a shorter program, eliminating an intermission, and serving only light refreshments afterwards. A number of vocal soloists performed, including Chol  McGraw, Deborah Shanks, Liz Cleves, Marilyn Scrutchins, Nancy Aldritt, Nancy Gilman, Rev. Bladimer Paeste, Todd Wolf, and Barbara Hamm. The smaller children, Miguel Juan-Pascual and Natalia Juan-Pascual, sang "Away in a Manger." Instrumental solos were provided by Dale on mandolin, Shelby on clarinet, Leslie on recorder, and Lisa on cello. Instruments also accompanied the Sanctuary Choir's performance of "Christmastime." Readings offered by Susan Stofan and by Benicia's Poet Laureate Mary Susan Gast, who read her own work, rounded out the program. The Christmas Ensemble played "White Christmas" for the finale, again joined by Ellen DeCarlo on flute. So many people helped make this year's concert a success—including all of you who attended!

Minister of Music Barbara Hamm conducted a reading session of her collection *Table of Grace: Hymns and Short Songs*, published by Hope Publishing Company, at the opening session of the Disciples of Christ Regional Annual Gathering in Sacramento in April. She also attended the Annual Conference of The Hymn Society, celebrating its 100th anniversary, in Washington, D.C. in July. Presented in a workshop at the Conference was a new online publication from Hope entitled *Trust the Work*, a collection of Paperless Songs, which includes a short song of Barbara's. Presented in another workshop at the Conference was the new 3rd edition of the Hymnology text, *Sing with Understanding: Introduction to Theology in Christian Congregational Song*, ed. by Michael Hawn, and published by GIA Publications in Chicago. One of Barbara's hymns, "The Heart Will Choose the One It Loves," composed in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, is included in this new edition. It appears in the section entitled "The Church's Mission to the Marginalized and Disenfranchised." Barbara has also had a new hymn, "In the Twilight, in the Midnight," accepted by GIA—her first with this publisher—for publication in its online section *Unbound*.



Moderator

Nancy Gilman

I feel so honored to have been Moderator for 2022. This has been a year of growth for our church. We have survived our second year of Covid and are stronger than ever. For many churches membership has dropped, they have their Pastor work less hours, or have had to close their doors. We have added new members, run a zoom service every Sunday as well as in person worship service, have Pastor Renie Kirk as our full time Pastor, continue our generous mission programs, our choir sings twice a month, we have live musicians, childcare and added Pastor Bladimer Paeste as our part time Associate Pastor.

All this happens because of our strong leadership, church council and our members. Thanks to the generous giving to meet our budget, and the generous giving of time and talent.

Thanks to all who make a difference in our church and our world every day.

Nancy Gilman



Vice Moderator

Deborah Shanks

2022 Vice Moderator/PPRC Annual Report

As Vice Moderator, I filled in for the Moderator as needed throughout the year doing announcements and welcoming people to our Sunday morning services.

As chair of the PPRC (Pastor Parish Relationship Committee) I met with pastor Rev. Renie and pastor Rev. Bladimer Paeste (during his time as fill-in pastor) along with members Leslee Prah, Priscilla Lane and Dale Olm. These meetings were always cordial and informative.

I was also involved with Buildings and Grounds, Budget and Finance, and the Worship Committee; as well as co-chair of Stewardship.

2022 was a fruitful, yet difficult, year due to our pastor being out on medical leave and many of our congregation coming down with Covid. But through all of that, our church remained dynamic and committed to each other and to our missions.

The projected slate of officers for 2023 are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Moderator | Deborah Shanks |
| • Vice Moderator | Liz Cleves |
| • Financial Secretary | Leslie Lessenger |
| • Treasurer | Dale Olm |
| • Clerk | Shelby Riddle |

Committee Chairs:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Buildings and Grounds | Dale Olm & Shelby Riddle |
| • CE | Open |
| • Congregational Care | Open |
| • Fellowship | Nancy Gilman |
| • Mission and Outreach | Nora Gauger and Nancy Gilman |
| • Stewardship | Shelby Riddle & Chole McGraw |
| • Welcome and Growth | Billie Munns & Michelle Cavagnuolo |
| • Worship | Priscilla Lane & Marilyn Scrutchins |
| • At Large (2) | Kathy Berry & Jonathan Carpio |



Clerk

Shelby Riddle
Membership

| Member Name | Join Date |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Burns, Karen..... | 8/16/1955 |
| Stephens, Carol | 11/4/1964 |
| Stofan, Susan | 2/24/1974 |
| Hammonds, Maryo | 9/15/1974 |
| Hammonds, Sam | 9/15/1974 |
| Martin, Pam | 10/22/1978 |
| Osada, Carolyn | 6/8/1980 |
| Scrutchins, Marilyn | 6/7/1981 |
| Lane, Priscilla | 12/5/1982 |
| Read, Laurie | 2/17/1985 |
| Read, Keith | 2/17/1985 |
| Sayles, Jackie..... | 4/5/1987 |
| Olm, Dale..... | 9/27/1998 |
| Conway, Debbie | 4/25/1999 |
| Murrell, Janet | 11/14/1999 |
| Taylor, Penny..... | 11/14/1999 |
| Thomas, Jett | 1/16/2000 |
| Blackie, Leslie | 7/30/2000 |
| McGraw, Chol  | 2/25/2001 |
| Cox, Regina | 5/12/2002 |
| 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 |
| Kirk, Rev. Renie | 6/3/2007 |
| Riddle, Shelby | 6/3/2007 |
| Olm, Adam..... | 6/3/2007 |
| Stamm-Kirk, Allison | 12/2/2007 |
| Lessenger, Jim | 6/1/2008 |
| Lessenger, Leslie | 6/1/2008 |
| Ensminger, Veronica | 10/4/2009 |
| Gauger, Eleanor (Nora) | 1/24/2010 |
| Aldritt, Nancy | 3/20/2011 |
| Kidder, Natalie..... | 3/20/2011 |
| Stauffer, Cheryle | 3/20/2011 |
| Goad, Carla | 3/20/2011 |

| Member Name | Join Date |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Dolter, Bill | 3/20/2011 |
| Stamm-Kirk, Katie | 5/15/2011 |
| Cavagnuolo, Michelle | 4/8/2012 |
| Mitchell, Deanna..... | 4/8/2012 |
| Daffern, Tracy..... | 4/8/2012 |
| Hill, Donna | 4/8/2012 |
| Pyles, Laura | 4/8/2012 |
| Vlnar, Eric | 4/8/2012 |
| Vlnar, Maria..... | 4/8/2012 |
| Benton, Audrey..... | 6/10/2012 |
| Thomas, Debra..... | 1/18/2015 |
| Olm, Della..... | 1/18/2015 |
| Gast, Rev. Mary Susan..... | 1/18/2015 |
| Straw, Rev. Roger..... | 1/18/2015 |
| Cleves, Liz..... | 9/30/2015 |
| Towery, Faune..... | 9/30/2015 |
| Dieden, Ed..... | 4/1/2018 |
| Dieden, Kathy..... | 4/1/2018 |
| Obendorf, Pat..... | 4/1/2018 |
| Purtle, Nancy..... | 4/1/2018 |
| Shanks, Deborah..... | 4/1/2018 |
| Wolf, Todd..... | 3/3/2019 |
| Padilla, Michelle..... | 3/3/2019 |
| Gieg, Carol..... | 3/32019 |
| Bovey, Dona..... | 3/3/2019 |
| Berry, Kathy..... | 11/3/2019 |
| Monroe, Katrina..... | 11/3/2019 |
| Osborn, Kim..... | 11/3/2019 |
| Prahl, Leslee..... | 11/3/2019 |
| Webb, Kim..... | 11/3/2019 |
| Zinkevich, Andre..... | 11/3/2019 |
| Waters, Susan..... | 10/30/2022 |
| Meade, Dennis..... | 10/30/2022 |

71 ACTIVE MEMBERS IN 2022

New Members:
October 30, 2022
Susan Waters
Dennis Meade

Memorial Service/Celebration of Life:
February 18, 2022 – Jean Dolter – Burial
February 26, 2022 - Sam Scrutchins (non member service in CCCUCC Sanctuary)
March 4, 2022 – -Anastacio “Nick” Marquez (Susan Slater, our church administrator’s significant other -at the graveside – non member)





Financial Secretary

Leslie Lessenger

**Community Congregational Church, UCC - Benicia
CA**
Donations Account Balances (01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022)
Monday, January 9, 2023 **Page 1 of 1**
Account **YTD Balance**

Giving Accounts

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 060 - Pledges - Current Year | 145,970.47 |
| 061 - Pledges - Paid Advance Next Year | 3,253.66 |
| 065 - Parishioner Contributions | 14,908.40 |
| 067 - In Kind Gift | 2,810.79 |
| 071 - Building Use - Other | 2,000.00 |
| 073 - Building Use - Playing To Learn | 36,755.50 |
| 074 - Bldg Use, PTL Utilities | 6,407.00 |
| 075 - PTL - Building Use - Property Tax | 801.00 |
| 077 - TULIP Insurance Reimbursement | 30.00 |
| 085 - Fundraiser - Stewardship | 5,296.83 |
| 098 - Refunds & Misc Deposits | 9,071.64 |
| 110 - Mission & Outreach Funds | 2,560.50 |
| 209 - Special One-time Missions | 1,431.26 |
| 411 - Christmas Families | 900.00 |
| 412 - Christmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC) | 1,353.00 |
| 600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge | 21,843.08 |
| 68 - Child Care | 1,811.25 |
| 708 - Pastor Restricted Fund | 920.00 |
| 710 - Gift Funds | 902.75 |
| 712 - FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget | 200.00 |
| 714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund | 3,480.80 |
| 718 - Handbells | 400.00 |
| 721 - Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu | 1,050.00 |
| 725 - Special Renovation Projects | 20,966.00 |
| 900 - UCC Cornerstone Loan Payoff | 4,054.27 |
| Total Giving Accounts | \$289,178.20 |

Count: 25
Period: 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022
Year: 2022



Treasurer

Dale Olm

This has been both a challenging and blessed post-pandemic year. Live services continue to be available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Fiscally, the church is stable, with net cash reserves of about \$47,700 on December 31, 2022. Expenses averaged \$21,641 per month, so our cash reserves represented about 2.2 months of expense liability.

- Although we had passed a deficit budget for 2022, we ended the year in the black. We budgeted for a \$23,723 deficit but realized a \$1,380 net surplus despite a challenging economic post-pandemic recovery period.
- We received more than 100% of pledges to Operations and Ministries and the Capital Improvement/Loan Payment Fund. Contributions from non-pledging parishioners also exceeded our expectations. Our congregation is awesome and generous!
- Parking Lot/Campus Loan: From both our regular loan payments and additional loan reduction contributions, our loan principal has been reduced by \$26,286. Our outstanding principal on the parking lot/campus renovation (parking lot resurfacing, hillside retaining walls, landscaping, sewer line & drainage replacement) loan is currently \$135,112, down from an original loan of \$350,000 in 2015. The Cornerstone Fund offered to refinance our remaining loan at 5% (reducing from 5.5%) and to extend the payment period to 20 years, reducing our required monthly payment from \$2,110 to \$937 and allowing more flexibility in managing our finances.
- Due to the amount of funds held in CDs in the Cornerstone Fund by our church and by members of the congregation, we are eligible for a 1% reduction in our loan payments. We recognized that the amount received in the last few years did not seem to meet our expectations. Inquiries with the Fund revealed a miscoding of accounts. As a result, we received an additional \$6,081 in interest rebates from previous years.
- We requested that the Cornerstone Fund allow us to cancel our loan stipulated earthquake insurance which we only had as a requirement for the parking lot loan. They granted that request, which saved us about \$8,000 per year.
- During this year, the organ pit was renovated with an upper level and a door opening to the sanctuary, proving much needed storage space, removing a serious safety hazard and utilizing unused space. Funds were provided by private restricted fund donations. Also, during this year, the skylight glass was replaced with polycarbonate and acrylic panels using funds provided by private restricted fund donations.

- Revenue from building use from one outside music group and one 12 Step group continued. Playing to Learn childcare was able to continue in operation throughout the year.
- The Financial Secretary report shows that more funds were received by the church than is indicated in the revenue reported in the Treasurer report. This is due to funds received which were not included in budgetary operating revenue and which instead went into restricted committee or program accounts. This was also due to receiving pledged funds designated for 2023.
- The Bookkeepers, a professional bookkeeping service in Vallejo, has continued to enter financial data into QuickBooks and prepare financial reports. The Treasurer continues to pay bills, manage insurance and the pension plan, and oversee the budget. The Treasurer also continues to prepare and report payroll data to our payroll company.
- The Budget and Finance Committee (Nancy Gilman, Leslie Lessenger, Dale Olm, Shelby Riddle, Deborah Shanks, Nora Gauger, Rev. Renie Kirk) met monthly to review the budget, revenue, and expenses. The committee prepared the 2023 budget to be presented at the congregational meeting in January for approval. Revenue for 2023 through pledges and building use is expected to be higher in 2023. Expenses will be higher than 2022, mainly due to our anticipated calling of the Rev. Bladimer Paeste as Associate Pastor at the January 2023 Congregational meeting to foster a progressive ministry in the Filipino community within our church. Grants with the national UCC and the local NCNC Conference are being investigated to help offset the deficit in the budget as we step out in faith and intention to build this new ministry with Pastor Bladimer.

Dale Olm, Treasurer



BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |
|----|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|------------|---|------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Balance Sheet Summary (Current vs End of Last FY) | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | As of December 31, 2022 | | | | | | | | | Cash Basis |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | Dec 31, 22 | | Dec 31, 21 | | \$ Change |
| 6 | ASSETS | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Current Assets | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Checking/Savings | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | Cornerstone CD 1 year 02/09/xx | 35,039.25 | | 34,636.16 | | 403.09 |
| 10 | | | | | Cornerstone CD 1 year 7/31/xx | 10,839.25 | | 10,713.66 | | 125.59 |
| 11 | | | | | Demand Plus UCC Cornerstone | 42,799.70 | | 51,185.72 | | -8,386.02 |
| 12 | | | | | Payroll Services Direct Deposit | 0.00 | | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| 13 | | | | | US Bank 2241 | 5,997.25 | | 12,092.49 | | -6,095.24 |
| 14 | | | | | Vanguard Federal MMF | 1,500.11 | | 1,140.49 | | 359.62 |
| 15 | | | | | Total Checking/Savings | 96,175.56 | | 109,768.52 | | -13,592.96 |
| 16 | | | | | Total Current Assets | 96,175.56 | | 109,768.52 | | -13,592.96 |
| 17 | Other Assets | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | Campus Renovation 2015 | 135,112.42 | | 161,398.48 | | -26,286.06 |
| 19 | | | | | Total Other Assets | 135,112.42 | | 161,398.48 | | -26,286.06 |
| 20 | TOTAL ASSETS | | | | | 231,287.98 | | 271,167.00 | | -39,879.02 |
| 21 | LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Liabilities | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Current Liabilities | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Other Current Liabilities | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | Payroll Tax liabilities | -543.72 | | -543.72 | | 0.00 |
| 26 | | | | | Total Other Current Liabilities | -543.72 | | -543.72 | | 0.00 |
| 27 | | | | | Total Current Liabilities | -543.72 | | -543.72 | | 0.00 |
| 28 | Long Term Liabilities | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | | Cornerstone Loan - Parking Lot | 135,112.42 | | 161,398.48 | | -26,286.06 |
| 30 | | | | | Total Long Term Liabilities | 135,112.42 | | 161,398.48 | | -26,286.06 |
| 31 | | | | | Total Liabilities | 134,568.70 | | 160,854.76 | | -26,286.06 |
| 32 | Equity | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | Capital Impr. Special Projects | 3,461.59 | | 461.24 | | 3,000.35 |
| 34 | | | | | Capital Improvements - General | 969.79 | | 969.79 | | 0.00 |
| 35 | | | | | Other Restricted Funds | 9,151.96 | | 4,876.98 | | 4,274.98 |
| 36 | | | | | Pastor Restricted Fund | 3,548.30 | | 4,249.63 | | -701.33 |
| 37 | | | | | Pledges Paid in Adv (use sub) | 3,253.66 | | 8,418.83 | | -5,165.17 |
| 38 | | | | | Sabbatical set aside (accrued) | 12,590.07 | | 13,168.18 | | -578.11 |
| 39 | | | | | Set-asides for current yr exp's | 955.98 | | -479.81 | | 1,435.79 |
| 40 | | | | | Total of All M&O Funds | 15,088.19 | | 15,423.07 | | -334.88 |
| 41 | | | | | Unrestricted Net Assets | 46,318.47 | | 59,865.63 | | -13,547.16 |
| 42 | | | | | Net Income | 1,381.27 | | 3,358.70 | | -1,977.43 |
| 43 | | | | | Total Equity | 96,719.28 | | 110,312.24 | | -13,592.96 |
| 44 | TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | | | 231,287.98 | | 271,167.00 | | -39,879.02 |
| 45 | | | | | Unrestricted Reserves | 47,699.74 | | 63,224.33 | | (15,524.59) |

ANNUAL BUDGET vs ACTUAL YTD

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K |
|----|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------|---|------------|---|----------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Summary Annual Budget vs. Actual YTD (R&E) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | January through December 2022 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | Jan - Dec 22 | | Budget | | \$ Over Budget | | % of Budget |
| 6 | Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Income | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | Child Care | 1,811.25 | | 2,340.00 | | -528.75 | | 77.4% |
| 9 | | | | Cornerstone Rebate on Interest | 7,299.40 | | 814.00 | | 6,485.40 | | 896.73% |
| 10 | | | | Debit/Credit CIF for Loan Pmts | 0.00 | | 2,510.00 | | -2,510.00 | | 0.0% |
| 11 | | | | Fundraisers | 4,713.45 | | 3,999.96 | | 713.49 | | 117.84% |
| 12 | | | | Loan Prin. Red'n from Reserves | 2,862.13 | | 2,500.00 | | 362.13 | | 114.49% |
| 13 | | | | Loose Offering - Parish Contrib | 14,958.40 | | 12,000.00 | | 2,958.40 | | 124.65% |
| 14 | | | | Other sources of funding (int.) | 965.02 | | 1,334.96 | | -369.94 | | 72.29% |
| 15 | | | | Pledges - Cap Improvement Fund | 21,843.11 | | 21,609.96 | | 233.15 | | 101.08% |
| 16 | | | | Pledges - Operations & Ministri | 154,389.27 | | 152,070.00 | | 2,319.27 | | 101.53% |
| 17 | | | | Refunds & misc. deposits | 450.19 | | 0.00 | | 450.19 | | 100.0% |
| 18 | | | | Transf Equity/Reserves to Rev. | 5,562.09 | | 4,217.04 | | 1,345.05 | | 131.9% |
| 19 | | | | Use of Building | 46,218.28 | | 45,754.50 | | 463.78 | | 101.01% |
| 20 | | | | Total Income | 261,072.59 | | 249,150.42 | | 11,922.17 | | 104.79% |
| 21 | Expense | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | Additional reduct'n Loan Prin. | 2,862.13 | | 2,500.00 | | 362.13 | | 114.49% |
| 23 | | | | B & G- Maintenance & Janitorial | 2,508.25 | | 3,175.00 | | -666.75 | | 79.0% |
| 24 | | | | B & G - Utilities | 14,683.97 | | 14,056.00 | | 627.97 | | 104.47% |
| 25 | | | | B & G Custodial | 7,800.00 | | 7,800.00 | | 0.00 | | 100.0% |
| 26 | | | | B& G-Taxes | 815.78 | | 792.00 | | 23.78 | | 103.0% |
| 27 | | | | B&G - Genesis House Maintenance | 2,208.00 | | 3,500.04 | | -1,292.04 | | 63.09% |
| 28 | | | | Burglary Expense | 2,155.80 | | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | Christian Education / Youth | 249.30 | | 399.96 | | -150.66 | | 62.33% |
| 30 | | | | Congregational Care (Diakonat) | 0.00 | | 225.00 | | -225.00 | | 0.0% |
| 31 | | | | Covid-19 | 29.84 | | 500.04 | | -470.20 | | 5.97% |
| 32 | | | | Fellowship | 342.71 | | 919.92 | | -577.21 | | 37.25% |
| 33 | | | | Finance & Administration & IT | 8,716.35 | | 11,264.12 | | -2,547.77 | | 77.38% |
| 34 | | | | Insurance | 6,679.75 | | 14,700.00 | | -8,020.25 | | 45.44% |
| 35 | | | | Loan Payoff | 27,741.26 | | 24,120.00 | | 3,621.26 | | 115.01% |
| 36 | | | | Mission, Outreach & UCC Support | 7,298.53 | | 7,604.04 | | -305.51 | | 95.98% |
| 37 | | | | Music Programs and Licenses | 984.03 | | 1,246.92 | | -262.89 | | 78.92% |
| 38 | | | | Nursery and Childcare Provider | 1,504.20 | | 2,340.00 | | -835.80 | | 64.28% |
| 39 | | | | Office/Computer/Copier Supplies | 3,491.96 | | 2,465.92 | | 1,026.04 | | 141.61% |
| 40 | | | | Professional Expenses | 550.00 | | 950.00 | | -400.00 | | 57.9% |
| 41 | | | | Sabbatical budgeted set aside | -1,750.16 | | 4,217.04 | | -5,967.20 | | -41.5% |
| 42 | | | | Staff Payroll & Benefits | 168,015.61 | | 165,234.00 | | 2,781.61 | | 101.68% |
| 43 | | | | Stewardship | 50.40 | | 100.00 | | -49.60 | | 50.4% |
| 44 | | | | Welcome (Growth) | 154.00 | | 594.96 | | -440.96 | | 25.88% |
| 45 | | | | Workers Comp. Ins. Staff & IC's | 958.26 | | 2,533.00 | | -1,574.74 | | 37.83% |
| 46 | | | | Worship | 1,641.35 | | 1,664.92 | | -23.57 | | 98.58% |
| 47 | | | | Total Expense | 259,691.32 | | 272,902.88 | | -13,211.56 | | 95.16% |
| 48 | | | | Net Ordinary Income | 1,381.27 | | -23,752.46 | | 25,133.73 | | -5.82% |
| 49 | | | | Net Income | 1,381.27 | | -23,752.46 | | 25,133.73 | | -5.82% |

2022 FISCAL YEAR SNAPSHOT

Community Congregational Church UCC - Budget Summary

2022 Fiscal Year Snapshot

January 1 to December 31, 2022

| | Actual | Budget | Difference | % Act/Bud |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Budget Revenue from Donations | 195,903 | 189,680 | 6,223 | 103% |
| Other Revenue (Building use, etc.) | 65,167 | 59,471 | 5,696 | 110% |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 261,070 | 249,151 | 11,919 | 105% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES (including loan) | 259,691 | 272,903 | -13,212 | 95% |
| YTD Budget Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) | 1,379 | -23,752 | | |

Pledge Report:

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|------|
| for Operations and Ministries | 154,389 | 152,070 | 2,319 | 102% |
| for Capital Improvement & Loan | 21,843 | 21,610 | 233 | 101% |

Comments: At the end of December, we were in the BLACK by \$1,379. Our budgeted deficit was projected to be \$-23,752 at year end. 102% of pledges were received during this fiscal year. Other revenue was higher than expected. Expenses at year end were less than budgeted mainly due to savings on insurances and maintenance costs.



Building and Grounds

Dale Olm and Shelby Riddle – Co-Chairs

The Committee was very active and productive during 2022. The members of the committee were Dale Olm and Shelby Riddle (Co-chairs), Nancy Gilman, Jim Lessenger, Leslie Lessenger, and Deborah Shanks. Rev. Renie Kirk participated in committee meetings. Chole McGraw and Todd Wolf were project managers for specific gardening and landscaping projects. Deborah Shanks was project manager for the Organ Pit renovation and Skylight renovation. Jim Lessenger was our archivist and maintained the church archives. Jim arranged the Genesis House work schedule. Nancy Gilman maintained our housekeeping supplies and kitchen maintenance. Shelby Riddle supervised monthly Genesis House and yardwork activities. Leslie Lessenger maintained the flutter flag and organized the new compost bins. Dale Olm and Jim Lessenger were our general handymen.

Thanks to our many volunteers, including Armando, Roger Reaber, Leslee Prah, Carol and Luis Gieg, Michelle Cavagnuolo, and Adam and Rhys Olm.

Projects and repairs completed in 2022.

- A timer was installed at the front of the building facing 2nd Street to control the flood light on the front of the building and the new floodlight on the flutter flag. It is also used to control the Christmas lights
- Christmas lights were strung on the Labyrinth rosemary, Peace pole and bushes at the street front of the church
- Re-mulching the street hillside at the driveway entrance behind the sign (Todd Wolf is spearheaded this).
- New recycling and organic composting requirements were implemented with separate containers in Fellowship Hall and color-coded framed posters mounted on the wall.
- New water heaters were installed in the Sanctuary building and the CE building (Wayne Plumbing). These replaced our approximately 20-year-old water heaters.
- A new Archives Display cabinet was donated and installed in the Fellowship Hall. Lights were installed in our new Archives Display cabinet under the TV in Fellowship Hall.
- New Ring cameras were installed in the church office, the sanctuary and the instrumental (organ/piano) area. Four additional Ring security cameras were installed outside the sanctuary and labyrinth to replace the cameras rendered inoperable during the burglary this year. Door sensors and an audible alarm (Ring) were installed in the church office and pastor's study.
- The outside sanctuary door (stained glass) was adjusted to prevent sticking.



- The doors to Fellowship Hall were not closing properly due to shifting of the building and a concrete edge in front of the sill. The concrete and metal sill were ground down to allow the door to close properly.
- Photographic, archival copies of the "Black" and "Blue" membership books were prepared and placed in the archives.
- The drip, irrigation system was extended to the new hillside native plant garden.
- The skylight glass was replaced with acrylic sheeting (OCCB).
- A TV monitor was installed in Fellowship Hall and connected to the AV system and the Jesus Window closet was rewired for safety and code (K Butler Electric)
- The organ pit was renovated with a sanctuary-level floor installed and a door to the sanctuary (OCCB). The organ speakers were relocated. Jim Lessenger rebuilt the sub-woofer cabinet.
- The failing Gazebo was removed (OCCB).
- A new Windows 11 Dell desktop computer was installed to replace our aging desktop. A Dropbox cloud storage upgrade was implemented to better safeguard church computer file management. The 1Password program was installed to manage confidential church passwords. Acronis backup software was installed on new computers. IT equipment stolen during the burglary was replaced.
- AT&T Uverse was replaced with Comcast Xfinity for internet access and telephone services.
- A new, "atomic" self-setting clock was installed in the Fellowship Hall.
- A new backup drive for the church office computer was installed.
- Ethernet cabling was extended to the Pastor's office.
- TULIP insurance was obtained for the Thursday Night Hilltop AA Group
- New drapery and shades were installed in Fellowship Hall and the church office.
- A temporary repair of the small gutter & downspout below the skylight was made.
- Roof leak repair over the organ pit (ongoing).
- Painted step in patio with orange paint to help prevent tripping
- Re-keyed the outside doors to the CE Building and Sanctuary after the burglary (Concord Locksmith).

On-going routine maintenance:

- Weed whacking, pruning, palm tree sprout removal, spreading wood chip mulch; wildfire weed control
- Mowing the lawn in the lower lot (Fall and Spring and as needed)
- Restocking paper, trash bags and cleaning supplies; monitoring of custodial services; cleaning the kitchen/refrigerator; dusting and cobweb removal; cleaning chairs in Fellowship and sanctuary; window cleaning; vacuuming the Sunday School room
- Light bulb and smoke alarm battery changes as needed
- Replacement of the flutter flag when faded (twice a year)
- Quarterly furnace MERV 11 filter replacement in the sanctuary furnace and CE building furnaces
- Monthly B&G workdays (and sometimes bimonthly) with Genesis House for landscaping and building maintenance
- Inspection and repairs to the underground drip irrigation system as needed
- Campus litter, garbage (and other) patrol

- Application of vinegar spray (15% vinegar, Dawn, Epsom salts) for weed control in the patio, retaining walls, rocks and labyrinth areas to control weeds. It is non-toxic. It is not a systemic poison, so touch-up reapplication is required (Fall & Spring)
- Repairs to the old, original retaining walls along the driveway and street

Projects in progress:

- Chole McGraw continues to work on planting the upper hillside facing 2nd Street, outside the PTL fence with drought resistant native species (planning layout, removal of old debris, laying ground cover, installing rocks and plants).
- Location and capping of the leak in the labyrinth irrigation zone.
- Review of the facility use policies, insurance requirements, and the hold harmless statement are in progress.
- Repair/replacement of inoperable solar parking lot lights (K Butler electric).

Future projects (2023 and beyond):

- Future, major projects not yet scheduled include replacement and extension of rain gutters, repair and renovation of the original parts of the irrigation system, repair of the labyrinth, resealing/maintenance of the parking lot surface (~2027), roof replacement (~2032). Roof maintenance (resealing, cleaning, leak repairs); the retaining wall on 2nd Street is slowly deteriorating – at some point it will fail and will need to be replaced (date unknown).
- Re-painting the portico outside Fellowship Hall
- Replace the kitchen sink faucet/sprayer
- Mulching of the hillside between the CE Building and the Sanctuary
- Preparation of a photographic archive of the Green membership book
- Evaluation of the underground gutter drainage system
- Replace the smaller TV monitor in the sanctuary with larger screen; install audio monitor in instrumental area; re-configure Zoom cameras for new video streaming angle; review sound system



Submitted by Dale Olm & Shelby Riddle, co-chairs



Welcome and Growth

Nora Gauger



Although Welcome and Growth has a number of responsibilities for our church, I have come to believe the most important one is that of being there to greet not just our guests, but all our familiar attendees too—and (isn't it nice?) it is the most fun one too!!



There is nothing quite as uplifting on a Sunday morning as to stand there by the name labels and be smiled at by friends and strangers alike and to hear the news from familiar faces and learn from the new ones. I have been lucky, and honored, to serve as chair of Welcome and Growth these last 4 years.

All the same, Welcome and Growth has done a bit more than smile for and with the church this year:

- Throughout the year, we have kept track of the attendance numbers for our worship services, dividing attendance by category (adults, guests, and children) and whether they are in person or here through Zoom. It is interesting to note that generally, 1/5th to 1/3rd of our attendance was on Zoom as members traveling, housebound or just ducking the weather were still able to worship with us.
- We have provided name labels for all regular attendees. Everyone doesn't always wear them, but our people are great at welcoming guests and are careful to don their labels when I remind them we have visitors.
- Whenever possible—and it most often is possible—we have gotten the information from visitors that allows us to enroll them in *News from the Pews* and send them a note welcoming them.
- Although we no longer require vaccination information before anyone can attend, we have provided masks for those who want them and guests particularly have availed themselves of the service.
- As they occur, we have advertised on the Bulletin Board the various outreach events the church has put on (Christmas concert, Thanksgiving potluck, Parking Lot sale, Easter Egg Hunt etc.) and posted pictures afterwards on the same bulletin board to maximize congregational support and participation.



2022 ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

| | ADULTS | GUESTS | CHILDREN | TOTALS | Live(L) & Zoom (Z) |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| January | 162 | 14 | 6 | 182 | 128L & 54Z |
| February | 133 | 8 | 11 | 152 | 116L & 36Z |
| March | 155 | 18 | 9 | 182 | 114L & 41Z |
| April | 161 | 36 | 29 | 226 | 211L & 15Z |
| May | 172 | 14 | 13 | 199 | 158L & 41Z |
| June | 132 | 7 | 7 | 146 | 117L & 29Z |
| July | 163 | 10 | 12 | 185 | 139L & 46Z |
| August | 143 | 7 | 6 | 156 | 116L & 40Z |
| September | 145 | 5 | 10 | 160 | 124L & 36Z |
| October | 203 | 16 | 8 | 227 | 187L & 40Z |
| November | 169 | 16 | 16 | 201 | 167L & 34Z |
| Averages | 158 | 14 | 12 | 183 | |



Christian Education

Dale Olm

We resumed in-person Sunday School on February 13 of this year after our COVID 19 hiatus. Initially, we required proof of vaccination and masking. Later in the year, as per CDC guidelines, these requirements were recommended, but optional.

Children go up to the Sunday School room after the Children's Story Sermon in the Worship Service. Currently we are a "One-room Sunday School" for all ages from pre-school up to middle school. Our childcare provider, Parand Banagar, assists the teacher(s) with lessons and the pre-school children. There are always at least 2 adults present.

We typically had 2 to 4 children in attendance with an average of 2.4. There are 5 children who regularly attend, ages 1 to 7 years. On Easter Sunday, we had 12 children. Lessons were created from Children's Worship Bulletins (<https://www.childrensbulletins.com>), The Family Story Bible (Milton), The Lectionary Story Bible (Milton), Growing in God's Love – a Story Bible (Caldwell & Wehrheim), and the Complete Children's Liturgy Book (Thompson).

During the pandemic closure we continued to email at-home lessons and activities to parents and grandparents each week. We have continued that practice after re-opening in-person Sunday School for those who could not attend in person. Thank you to adult volunteers Nancy Aldritt, Liz Cleves, Nancy Gilman, Jim Lessenger, Adam Olm, Dale Olm and Marilyn Scrutchins for their assistance in Sunday School and childcare. The Council chair remained open during the 2022 year.

A new California law, AB506 for child abuse prevention, was enacted. Seminars have been attended and we have subscribed to Church HR Network to assist in setting up LiveScreen background testing and mandated reported training for staff and volunteers. This is in progress and will continue through 2023.



Mission and Outreach

Nora Gauger and Shelby Riddle

Community Congregational Church is a church that is serious about “Mission”--not just talking about, but actually doing what we can to follow in Jesus’ footsteps and reach out to those in need here in our community and around the world. This year, 2022, has been a great example of this.

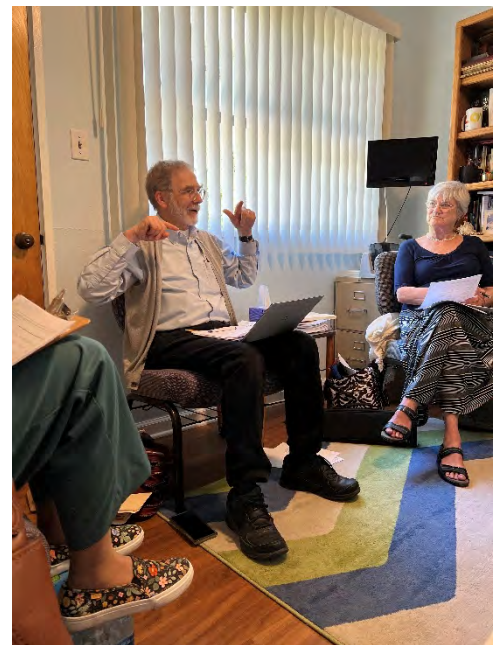
With the faithful support of our entire congregation, this year our church took on the following missions:

- On the 3rd Tuesdays of every month, we gathered from our volunteer donors the ingredients for 50 nutritious bag lunches and delivered them to Vallejo Together to feed unhoused and in need homeless in Vallejo.
- In January, we authorized from the 5% of pledges this church dedicates to Mission \$5,000 to OCWM, and \$400 each to One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need and Strengthen the Church—all funds our denomination has created to support Mission throughout the world.
- In February, our committee also voted to donate \$300 to supply creative math materials to Katie Stamm-Kirk’s class of low-income students who were having difficulty catching up their math skills with only the basic math materials the Louisiana school district was able to provide.
- In March, we authorized the request to the congregation to donate to match a \$1,000 donation for humanitarian relief to Ukraine (specifically assist families evacuating without husbands/fathers and evacuation of special needs children from institutions caring for them). The congregation donated over \$1,000.
- In April, at Easter, our congregation filled the altar area with not the usual lilies, but over \$1,100 worth of Starter Kits (mops, cleaning supplies, towels, pot and pans, etc.) for aged-out foster youth being installed in their first apartments by First Place for Youth, a local non-profit who assists foster youth to transition to independence safely and with meaningful job and financial skills.
- In July, our congregation donated school supplies to provision 30 backpacks to kindergarteners at Stefan Manor, a low-income elementary in Vallejo. Together we loaded each of the backpacks with all the necessary supplies on a Sunday in July, and took them to be distributed at the schools’ give-away day.
- In August, our committee voted to supplement the rent an AA group pays to meet at our church so that they can continue to grow their group and their recovery here at our church.



- In October, we brought Francie MacMillan, director of Vallejo Together, to do our Mission Moment and update our church on what local non-profits and churches are doing to house, feed, and serve the Homeless in Benicia and Vallejo.
- In November, we adopted four Benicia families having difficulty providing Christmas for themselves and their children. Our congregation signed up for and provided gifts and gift cards for the children and gift cards of \$100 each for gas and groceries for the adults.
- In November also, we provided 20 18-pound turkeys for the Thanksgiving feast put on by Vallejo Together for the homeless of Vallejo.
- In December, our congregation donated over \$1800 to our "Instead of Poinsettias" fund which we used to buy sleeping bags, 8x10 tarps and LOTS of new underwear, socks, and even thermals for our friends on the street in Vallejo. During the Christmas season, the above items decorated the front of our church, spilling out from in front of the creche to under the Christmas tree and along the front walls of the altar area. After January 1, everything will be taken to those who can actually distribute them to Vallejo and Benicia homeless.

Thanks to our whole congregation who gives so generously whenever we present with them with a need—and a special thanks to our Mission and Outreach Committee who worked so hard all year long to make sure we did present and support valuable missions. M&O Committee: Kathy Berry, Michelle Cavagnuolo, Michelle Padilla, Dennis Meade, and Nancy Gillman



Worship

Priscilla Lane and Marilyn Scrutchins (co-chairs)

Our Worship Committee consisted of six super thinkers: Nancy Gilman, Barbara Hamm, Pastor Renie Kirk, Leslee Prah, Deborah Shanks, and Lisa Wiggins. Lisa was a new member this year. In May, Pastor Bladimer Paeste joined our committee for two months while Pastor Renie was on medical leave. We met once a month with extra meetings as needed.

During our monthly meetings, the pastor presented the bible texts and sermon titles for the month. That allowed us to choose appropriate music and decorations to go along with the bible texts.

New this year was the scheduling of musicians. The Rolling Tones bell choir performed about once a month and the choir every two to three weeks. Between those groups our talented orchestra consisting of cello, clarinet, flute, mandolin, harp, piano and sometimes violin or organ provided the music. Each group practiced once a week, late August through mid June.

New also, this year was the introduction and use of song leaders in order to energize the congregation in singing. Two people each Sunday led the congregation in the opening and closing hymns. Thank you to Deborah Shanks for organizing and scheduling the song leaders.

For many years our committee has been inspired by and learned from Dr. Marcia McFee, a preacher, professor, author, and worship designer. For the different liturgical seasons, Marcia publishes themes with church service ideas, original music, decorating designs for the sanctuary and chancel areas as well as offering webinars. We used, with some changes in liturgy and music, several of her worship designs and ideas this year.

The series we chose for Lent was a Marcia McFee theme based on a book entitled Good Enough. We all watched a webinar about the theme to get an overview. During Lent, Pastor Renie led a faith study attended by 12 people based on the book. A ladder was placed in our chancel area representing the idea that one doesn't need to get to the top of a ladder to be "good enough."

Rainbow colors decorated our sanctuary during the month of June in honor of Gay Pride Month.

For our fall homecoming we used the Cheers song, "Where Everybody Knows Your Name", as a theme. We wanted to emphasize the safe, welcoming space we have here at Community Congregational Church.

"Change is good.....you go first." Are you able to relate? Congregations, actually most of us, are not generally open to change so we chose Marcia McFee's 4 part series, "Reshaped: What We're Made For" to address this subject. The congregation got to create something with their own play dough one of the weeks. Fun! Embracing change was to help us with the revisioning process held on September 25.

The series we used for Advent combined two Marcia McFee themes, "Finding the Sacred in the Everyday" and "Reflecting the Sacred". We installed in the chancel area large and small mirrors to illustrate this reflection of the sacred, recognizing all created things.

Deborah Shanks wrote her second of three pageants focusing this year on angels and shepherds. Inspired by Deborah's writing and directing and with Marilyn Scrutchins

help, the children and adult actors presented a wonderful story for all of us. Thank you, Deborah and Marilyn.

The sanctuary was decorated for Advent by our committee, along with help from Dale Olm, Roger Reaber, and Todd Wolf. Todd, Dale, and Leslee Prah! put lights out front, street side, so that our light could be reflected out to the community. We were shining brightly inside and out. Thanks to all.

We have had Liz Cleaves, Barbara Hamm, and Deborah Shanks lead Children's Time this year.

Our congregation was truly blessed when Pastor Bladimer Paeste was hired to fill in for Pastor Renie when she was on a medical leave in May and June. He was well prepared for all the services, provided inspiring messages, and always had us laughing. Then, lucky us, he returned in November and December to fill in again. Thank you Pastor Bladimer!

Friend of our church and retired minister the Reverend Roger Reaber substituted for Pastor Renie several times during the year. We love his confident stage presence, passionate messages, and great sense of humor, also. Many thanks, Reverend Roger! We are grateful to the dedicated worship committee members. It's been a pleasure working with you, creating a meaningful worship experience in a lovely environment. You all stepped up consistently. Thank you.



The Rolling Tones – Handbells

Leslie Lessenger, Director

The Rolling Tones continued to provide a musical message about once per month during spring and fall. Repertoire included *Seek Ye First* with Pachelbel's Canon, arr. Karen Lafferty; *Love Lifted Me* with flute, arr. Sandra Eithun; and several numbers by Jason Krug (*Pastorale*, *Called to the Light*, *Royal Flourish*, *Lament*, *Glorious Dawn*, *Of Fearless Spirit*). The congregational particularly enjoyed the lively *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*, arr. Brenda Austin.

For Christmas we jazzed things up a bit with *Jingle Bell Rock* and *Winter Wonderland*, arr. Tammy Waldrop, and of course, traditional carols and *Carol of the Bells* arr. Cathy Moglebust. In addition to the Christmas Concert, we provided entertainment for the holiday dinner of the Contra Costa Search and Rescue volunteers.

Rolling Tones ringers are: (from right to left) Nancy Gilman, Deborah Dahl Shanks, Kathy Monroe, Pat Obendorf, Cholé McGraw and Kim Webb. Leslie Lessenger, Director.



Congregational Care

Leslee Prah

With the help of Pam Martin, Marilyn Scrutchins and Susan Stofan, over 90 birthday cards were sent to members and friends of the church.

We are still dealing with Covid-19 and this fall added concerns with the flu and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus).

Each month, cards or E-cards were sent to those on the prayer list and those mentioned by our Pastors during Sunday worship. This was between 10 to 16 cards.



Fellowship

Nancy Gilman

This year we had two chairs for fellowship, Trisha Thomas and Billie Jo Munds. They were only able to serve for part of the year, were always there with a big smile and plenty of coffee and snacks. Billie made sure we had doilies every Sunday to highlight our coffee table.

This year we had an Octoberfest event with Brats and Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Apple Strudel and lively music. We also held our annual Thanksgiving feast, with three 20-pound turkeys and all the fixings brought by congregants to share. We set up the food and fellowship hall and the tables in the sanctuary. Another huge success and a group effort in set up, cooking, and cleaning!

Thanks to our generous congregation and leadership who every Sunday stepped up to help set up, bring food, clean up and sit and enjoy our fellowship. Every Sunday after worship more people stay and chat and our fellowship, for some, has become an hour long event. Lots to share and discuss. Stories and laughter fill our fellowship hall.

Looking forward for 2023 to see us fill our sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Nancy Gilman

Moderator written for Fellowship Committee



Stewardship

Deborah Shanks



Biblical stewardship means accepting your role as a steward or manager of God's money and other resources. Stewardship is looking after someone's property in that person's interest. Biblical stewardship applies to a Christ follower's daily lifestyle choices affecting time, talents, and money. Annual pledging allows the church to make choices affecting staff, buildings & grounds, and missions.

When we approach pledging it is important to consider if we are being good stewards of our "time, talents, & money"? Are we doing and giving all we can or should?

This year it is important to thank and acknowledge all those who helped in our various events. Our church could not do what we do without the help of many volunteers. The following events were held and raised money for our general fund.

| | |
|---|------------|
| APRIL: Service and General Auction (Virtual) | \$1,837.38 |
| SEPTMBER 3rd: All Church Parking Lot Sale | \$1,585.00 |
| OCTOBER 21st: "OCTOBERFEST" Dinner/Concert/Raffle | \$1,093.62 |
| Gross Income | \$1,660.45 |
| Expenses | \$ 566.83 |
| NOVEMBER 16: Thanksgiving Dinner with Raffle of Quilt | \$214.00 |

The total gross income raised by the Stewardship Events was \$5,296.83 with a net to our General Fund of \$4,730.00, coming in at 144% of budgeted amount.

The Brazzissimo Concert on November 13th was postponed to February 2023.

And the Fall Stewardship Drive was held with the theme "Dream Big", with the Blessing of the Pledges held on November 6.

Stewardship Co-Chairs: Deborah Dahl Shanks & Chole McGraw

Committee: Kim Osborn
Liz Cleves



Proposed Budget for 2023

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|----|--|---|---|---|----------|----------------------------|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Community Congregational Church UCC | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | of Benicia | | | | Approved | Actual | PROPOSED* | | | | | |
| 3 | PROPOSED Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 | | | | Budget | 2022 | Budget | | | | | |
| 4 | (January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023) | | | | 2022 | | 2023 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | "TTM" = trailing 12 months | | | | | | |
| 7 | Funding (Operations and Ministries) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Refunds & misc. deposits; special programs | | | | 2,340 | 450 | 0 | contributions for church programs | | | | |
| 9 | Child Care Donation | | | | 0 | 1,811 | 2,480 | | | | | |
| 10 | Loose Offering | | | | 12000 | 14,958 | 12,000 | estimated non-pledged contributions | | | | |
| 11 | Pledges | | | | 152,070 | 154,390 | 169,258 | Total of Pledge cards rec'd as of 12/19/22 | | | | |
| 12 | Capital Improvement/Loan Pledges & donations | | | | 21,610 | 21,843 | 17,400 | Pledges for loan payment & Cap. Imprvt as of 12/20/22 | | | | |
| 13 | Cap Improvement Fund - non-pledged contrib. | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| 14 | Use of Building | | | | 45,755 | 46,219 | 49,593 | Playing to Learn; 12 Step Groups, Outside Choirs | | | | |
| 15 | Fundraisers | | | | 4,000 | 4,713 | 4,000 | Auctions/Crab feed, probably no crab feed d/t COVID | | | | |
| 16 | Transfer from Reserves & Restricted accounts | | | | 4,217 | 5,562 | 4,470 | set-aside for future sabbatical, other transfers | | | | |
| 17 | Loan Principal Reduction from Reserves | | | | 2,500 | 2,862 | 0 | to accelerate loan payoff (from reserves) | | | | |
| 18 | Transfer to(-)/from(+) Cap Imprvmt/Parking Lot | | | | 2,510 | 0 | 0 | excess/deficit of cap Impr/loan pledges | | | | |
| 19 | Other funding (interest +) | | | | 2,149 | 8,264 | 2,649 | CD Interest & rebate on loan interest | | | | |
| 20 | Grants | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Possible 2023 NCNC & UCC grant for associate | | | | |
| 21 | Total Revenues | | | | 249,150 | 261,072 | 261,850 | | | | | |
| 22 | Expense (Operations and Ministries) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | B&G - Utilities | | | | 14,057 | 14,685 | 14,896 | shared by PTL (share included in revenue) | | | | |
| 24 | B&G - Custodial (contract) | | | | 7,800 | 7,800 | 8,232 | | | | | |
| 25 | B&G - Maint. & Housekeep | | | | 3,175 | 2,509 | 3,235 | Supplies, TP, paper towels | | | | |
| 26 | B&G - Property Taxes | | | | 792 | 816 | 792 | Paid by PTL (included in revenue) | | | | |
| 27 | B&G - Property Insurance | | | | 14,700 | 6,680 | 7,467 | Earthquake discontinued 2022 | | | | |
| 28 | B&G - Genesis House | | | | 3,500 | 2,208 | 2,400 | landscaping maintenance, weed control | | | | |
| 29 | Cornerstone Loan Payments | | | | 24,120 | 27,741 | 17,400 | Ref'd: int decr'd to 5%; lower pmt | | | | |
| 30 | Additional Reduction in Loan Principal | | | | 2,500 | 2,862 | 0 | accel's loan payoff by 4.2 yr; saves \$52,133 if annual | | | | |
| 31 | Christian Education / Youth | | | | 400 | 249 | 100 | curriculum & supplies for Sunday School | | | | |
| 32 | Congregational Care | | | | 225 | 0 | 100 | supplies | | | | |
| 33 | Covid-19 Pandemic Expenses | | | | 500 | 30 | 100 | tests and masks | | | | |
| 34 | Fellowship | | | | 920 | 343 | 805 | food and supplies | | | | |
| 35 | Music Programs and Licenses | | | | 1,247 | 984 | 1,248 | sheet music, supplies, copyright fees, piano maint. | | | | |
| 36 | Stewardship | | | | 100 | 50 | 100 | postage and paper | | | | |
| 37 | Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM) | | | | 7,574 | 7,298 | 8,463 | 5% of pledges rec'd; for mission & OCWM (UCC Support) | | | | |
| 38 | Welcome | | | | 595 | 154 | 595 | banners, flags, advertising | | | | |
| 39 | Worship | | | | 1,665 | 1,640 | 2,175 | including on-line streaming worship expenses | | | | |
| 40 | Other committees & Ministries | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| 41 | Council & Discretionary Funds | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| 42 | Finance & Admin Expenses | | | | 11,264 | 8,716 | 8,742 | Bank fees; Bookkeeper | | | | |
| 43 | Office/Computers/Copier Supply | | | | 2,466 | 3,493 | 2,954 | Decreased copier expense d/t new lease | | | | |
| 44 | Professional Expenses | | | | 950 | 550 | 700 | required Pastor training | | | | |
| 45 | Sabbatical set aside | | | | 4,217 | -1,750 | 4,470 | for future sabbaticals (funded from reserves) | | | | |
| 46 | Child Care during Worship | | | | 2,340 | 1,504 | 2,480 | Child care provider (offset by private donation) | | | | |
| 47 | Staff | | | | 167,767 | 168,974 | 236,978 | Added 20 hour Associate pastor in Feb 2023 | | | | |
| 48 | Other | | | | | 2,156 | | burglary expenses 2022 | | | | |
| 49 | Total Expense | | | | 272,873 | 259,692 | 324,431 | | | | | |
| 50 | NET INCOME | | | | -23,723 | 1,380 | -62,582 | | | | | |
| 51 | *revised 1/14/23 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | pending congregational approval on 1/22/2023 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Projected Leadership Team 2023

Nominating Committee
Shelby Riddle and Pastor Renie

STAFF

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Pastor | The Rev. Renie Kirk |
| Associate Pastor | Rev. Bladimer Paeste |
| Minister of Music | Dr. Barbara Hamm |
| Office Manager | Susan Slater |
| Children's Education | Parand Bangoar |

OFFICERS

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Moderator | Deborah Shanks |
| Vice-Moderator | Liz Cleves |
| Church Clerk | Shelby Riddle |
| Financial Secretary | Leslie Lessenger |
| Treasurer | Dale Olm |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Building and Grounds Ministry | Dale Olm & Shelby Riddle |
| Christian Education Ministry | Open |
| Congregational Care | Open |
| Fellowship | Nancy Gilman |
| Mission & Outreach | Nora Gauger & Nancy Gilman |
| Stewardship Ministry | Shelby Riddle & Cholé McGraw |
| Welcome and Growth | Billie Munds & Michelle Cavagnuolo |
| Worship Ministry | Priscilla Lane & Marilyn Scrutchins |
| At Large (2) | Kathy Berry & Jonathan Carpio |