

ANNUAL REPORT

2011 – 2012



The 146th Annual Meeting of the
Community Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Benicia, California

**Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Benicia, California
Annual Report 2011 – 2012**

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LEADERSHIP TEAM 2011-2012**STAFF**

Pastor
Minister of Music
Director of Youth Ministries
Church Secretary

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Dr. Barbara Hamm
Howard Gill
Maggie Hart

OFFICERS

Moderator
Vice-Moderator
Clerk
Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Shelby Riddle
Larry Schaffer
Carolyn Osada
Nancy Gilman
Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds
Christian Education
Congregational Care
Fellowship
Missions & Outreach
Stewardship
Welcome and Growth
Worship

Greg Cox & James Lessenger
Leslie Lessenger & Janet Murrell
Penny Taylor & Jackie Lawrence
Allison Stamm-Kirk & Susan Stofan
Nora Gauger
Dale Stanley
Tricia Hartzell
Annette Cook

Member-At-Large
Member-At-Large

Sarah Johnson
Isabelle & Sophia Briseño

Community Congregational Church's mission is to follow the example of Jesus by being a welcoming community who cares for and honors each other and the world.

We welcome everyone, young and old, gay and straight, singles and families, exuberant children and inquiring adults. We celebrate our diversity in vibrant music, sacred worship and lively fellowship. As a congregation governed by our members, we are a justice-making, radically inclusive community.

We seek to live fully, love wastefully and lead courageously.

Approved at the Congregational meeting June 2011

PASTOR'S REPORT

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk



The year 2011-2012 has been an amazing year for Community Congregational, not just because we've had so many new visitors and guests, or because we've welcomed 18 new members; not just because we have baptized 10; not just because we have the most amazing music program, or that we started two new services that are set to reach out to parts of our community that have not worshipped with us before; and not because we've started our futuring projects, especially looking at our property and longevity use as well as community outreach.

All of those things happened in this last year. But I think Community Congregational is amazing because of something else. For the last five years I have seen people come and go in the life of the church. And it's true – folks are often attracted to churches because the preacher preaches great sermons, or the church has a great youth ministry, or the choir is dynamic, or the sanctuary is lovely. But those kinds of things, I've found, don't sustain them for the long haul. In this community preachers have come and gone, the choir will occasionally grow and shrink, and unfortunately youth eventually do what they're supposed to do and grow up and leave (and, sometimes, their families with them).

But I have found something else here at Benicia Community Congregational. And it's something that has been true for this faith community for the last 146 years. More and more, I'm convinced that what attracts people to this particular church, and what keeps them here, is that they sense at some deep level that this church is authentic. Not that it has all the answers, but that it's a place where you can ask all the questions. Not that it knows exactly who we are and what we're called to do in the world, but that we're committed to the on-going journey of discerning that. Not that we understand ourselves by negation (we are not this; we are not that...), but that we understand ourselves by affirmation.



Just look at our mission statement approved at the Congregational meeting June 2011:

Community Congregational Church's mission is to follow the example of Jesus by being a welcoming community who cares for and honors each other and the world. We welcome everyone, young and old, gay and straight, singles and families, exuberant children and inquiring adults. We celebrate our diversity in vibrant music, sacred worship and lively fellowship. As a congregation governed by our members, we are a justice-making, radically inclusive community. We seek to live fully, love wastefully and lead courageously.

This is who we ARE. This is what we believe. And most importantly, we are not defined by our fears, but by our hopes and our faith. Believing that the real mission of Community Congregational is to

bring hope to those outside of the building and beyond the congregation is vital in how we move forward. It is vital in how we are remembered. It is vital in how and who we serve.

I realize I'm a little biased, but this is who we are – authentic, real, honest and loving, and that's what attracts folks to us. So let's keep at it!



FUTURING

Dale Stanley

Action Planning / Vision / “Leaves and Branches” Phase

This year, our Futuring process continued with action. Inspired by our new Values and Mission statements, we were now ready to tackle a vision for our future.

In keeping with our tree theme, this was called the “Leaves and Branches” phase.

It started with a “Day of Discernment” on July 23, and a follow-up evening session on September 18, at which we brainstormed all of our inspirations and ideas for what the church could do in our future. Over 30 distinct ideas were generated. We also began to ask for individuals’ commitments to the ideas.



On October 9, we held an all-church workshop called “Dreams and Priorities” facilitated by Judy Donovan of the IAF. We took the input from the previous sessions and voted on them in a manner that allowed us to see which ideas held the most interest and passion for immediate action.



The top three vote-getters happened to fall into one of the three, broad-theme categories discovered in the discernment meetings:

- Inside the Church: **Explore “Alternative Worship” possibilities.**
- Outside the Church: **“Building Bridges”** with other churches and non-profits for increased impact on social action.
- Capital Improvements: **“Resurrect the Capital Improvements Plan”** and create medium and long-term capital improvements and building plans for the church.



We did not, however, merely discard the remaining 27 ideas. For the Futuring Process to be a dynamic and sustainable process, we needed a “well” of new ideas from which to draw.

Taskforces Established

On November 9, we held a final workshop aimed at kick-starting the taskforces. The output of this highly interactive session was a poster for each of the taskforces which include an explicit purpose of the taskforce, objectives, challenges, help needed, and next actions.

Futuring Culmination and Blessing of Activities

The planning phase culminated on November 13, 2011, during a Sunday morning worship service with a presentation of posters and blessing of the activities they represent during worship service.

Taskforces Actions

As of this writing the Taskforces have formed and made substantial progress:

- **Explore Alternative Worship Possibilities** – Renaming themselves the “AWE” (Alternative Worship Experience”) the team has developed and begun two alternative worship

experiences. The first service, held on the first Saturday of each month at 5pm began on March 3, 2012. This service is the more contemporary service and is called the S.O.U.L Service (Singing Out Universal Love). This service usually includes singing, prayer, dramatic reading and a short sermon. Each service continues to grow with twenty-six attending the last service held in June 2012.

The second service, held on the third Saturday of each month at 5pm began on March 17, 2012. This service is more contemplative in nature and includes time for meditation, conversation and readings. This service is called the AWE Gathering and has a much smaller attendance which is somewhat stable as of June 2012.

- **Building Bridges** – The taskforce started with looking at three main objectives to explore in the first three to six months. These include research of what groups are doing in Benicia and Vallejo, involvement of IAF, and events to bring interested groups together.



They plan to develop a new website/blog to post all of our research regarding area services once this is completed. On May 16, 2012, Nora Gauger coordinated a successful gathering of Benicia non-profit groups at CCC-UCC. In addition, several members attended a two-day community organization training session by the IAF. The taskforce has also met once with Missions and Outreach Committee and others to make plans for the initial steps in discerning the church's interest in building bridges topics and putting the IAF training to work.

- **Resurrect the Capital Improvements Plans** – The committee has met often and done much analysis and development work, including reviewing original site plans and speaking with construction experts, Benicia City Hall, and financial institutions. They are initially focusing on the major problem of our parking lot: the need for re-paving and potential re-grading. On June 10, 2012, the taskforce presented a major decision to the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting: To fund either of two options for re-constructing the parking lot. The Congregation voted to pursue the option of re-grading the parking lot from four to two tiers while planning utilities and other structures for eventual expansion. This option is the more expensive option, but allows for expansion and growth in pursuit of our future.

Futuring as a Sustaining Activity

The Futuring Planning Committee decided on several actions and processes to achieve this including a poster of "The Well" of ideas that might inspire future action, periodic Bridge articles, a bulletin board, a committee for "Sustaining Our Future", and commissioning Jim Lessenger to write a comprehensive final report on the Futuring efforts of 2011-2012.

Thanks



The Futuring Committee (Judy Donovan, IAF; Pastor Candace Frawley; Nora Gauger; Shelby Riddle; Pastor Renie Stamm-Kirk; Dale Stanley) thanks the entire congregation for their passion, energy, patience, and openness to change during this planning phase of our future. We also encourage all to continue to engage with our values, mission, and ideas for action.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Barbara Hamm

WHAT'S NEXT?

The theme of last year's WITT retreat, this question is one on which we've spent a good deal of time and effort this past year at CCC in an effort to determine how we might minister more effectively to the increasingly wider demographic that our church both reaches out to and represents. A number of answers have been suggested, one of which realizes a dream harbored by Rev. Renie from the day she arrived—that of starting an alternative service that would offer a different style of worship and appeal to a different group of people from those who traditionally attend our, or any, Sunday service. To date, not one but two such services have emerged, one of them being the SOUL service, "Sing Out Universal Love," an informal, lively, and largely music oriented service. With the help of a planning committee guided by Rev. Renie's vision, this service got off the ground in March under the capable musical leadership of Deborah Shanks and Bruce Smith along with Nancy and Dean Gilman and Leslie and Stuart Blackie. Carla Goad and Barbara Hamm have also participated in musical leadership.



Musically anchoring and supporting the Sunday morning worship service at CCC is the Sanctuary Choir, which sings every Sunday September through June (except for the youth-led service on Pentecost Sunday). This year we sang the most widely varied repertoire of the sixteen years I have been at CCC; we take seriously the Scriptural injunction to "sing a new song"! A special thank you goes to Howard Gill for his wonderful solo with the choir anthem on June 3. (Names of all participants in all groups are listed at the conclusion of my report.)



The Girls' Choir gained some new members and sang several times throughout the year, as did the Women and Girls' Chorus, comprised largely of singers from the Sanctuary and Girls' Choirs.

CCC also offers a rich variety of instrumental music: the Rolling Tones Handbell Choir, the annual Christmas Orchestra, Jazz Gorilla, and the musical group that leads the

SOUL service, as well as occasional instrumental solos and duets. Of the Rolling Tones Handbell Choir, Director Leslie Lessenger writes the following:

The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir continued to gain in experience and skill. They played in church about once a month and also accompanied the choir and the congregation on occasion. In addition, we provided holiday music for the community at Baskin Robbins in December. In February the entire choir attended the Bay Area Handbell Festival in Oakland. Church members and friends had the opportunity to make a donation to the handbell fund and receive a musical valentine at their home on February 14.



The annual Christmas Orchestra accompanied Christmas carol sing-alongs for the worship service on December 11 and for CCC's Home-Made Christmas Concert on December 16.

Jazz Gorilla, comprised of Dean Gilman on bass, Shelby Riddle on clarinet, and Barbara Hamm on keyboard, frequently accompanied Sunday services and also played for a number of community events: a benefit for the Benicia Human Services Fund at the Winterhawk Winery; the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers concert at CCC; the Blue Christmas Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church; a Christmas concert at Merrill Gardens; CCC's Home-Made Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. They also played for a Women's Symposium sponsored by the American Association of University Women at Arts Benicia.

Many other musicians also performed in the community and beyond: Chol  McGraw with Vallejo's Melody Chorale; Leslie Blackie with Pleasanton's Broadway Chorus; Gail Mason and Nancy and Dean Gilman with Oakland's Cantare Con Vivo, including a tour to Spain the end of June with performances in Barcelona, Granada, Valencia, and Madrid; Kathleen Kravets in productions with



the Napa Valley Conservatory Theatre, the Royal English Opera Company at the Dickens Faire in San Francisco, and the Walnut Creek Festival Opera; Larry Schaffer with the Brentwood Summerset Singers. Laura Pyles, Kim Webb, Nancy and Dean Gilman, and Barbara Hamm sang with the Vallejo Choral Society, while Shelby Riddle and Dean Gilman played in the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers spring concert series. Dean also has several projects in tow with his recording company, Alchemist Productions.

Deborah Shanks contributed in varied ways to CCC's music program, playing organ, piano, and guitar, as well as arranging several pieces for both the Sanctuary Choir and the Rolling Tones. In the summer she directs a choir at the Community United Methodist Church of Port Hadlock, Washington.

Deborah, Annette Cook and Gail Mason have accompanied CCC's worship services in the absence of the Music Minister. Chris Francis, aided by spouse Rick Beeson, conducted a drum circle at CCC in November. Among our youth, Katie Stamm-Kirk, Christopher Hanna, and Stuart Blackie played in the annual Christmas Orchestra and in the Pentecost band at CCC for the youth-led service, as well as in their respective school bands and music events.



Music Minister Barbara Hamm led music beyond the doors of CCC at several events. She conducted two workshops in July at the UCC Synod in Tampa, Florida; led music while on vacation in August at the Disciples of Christ Church in Olathe, Kansas; accompanied a Disciples of Christ Women's Retreat at Mission Springs in September; accompanied a Women's Healing Retreat in February at the Disciples of Christ Church in Loomis; accompanied in March a workshop/worship service led by Dr. Marcia McFee at Skyline Community Church in Oakland; accompanied the opening night service of the NCNC-UCC Conference's Annual Gathering and conducted a sing-along for the Bay Association Meeting at Annual Gathering. Barbara ended her musical church year by leading two workshops at the UCC Musicians' National Network Conference in Kansas City June 22-25 at Country Club Congregational Church. One of her hymns was sung in the Sunday morning worship service with that congregation.



For all of these opportunities to serve at CCC and elsewhere, I am so grateful. And for all the musicians who willingly serve God and God's people with their many talents, I give my heartfelt thanks. What's next? Though we do not know for sure, we will endeavor faithfully to follow where God leads us, praising God with tambourine and trumpet and singing with our whole heart. *Deo Gloria.*

Sanctuary Choir – Barbara Hamm, Director

Leslie Blackie (Advent and Christmas)	Kathleen Kravets	Larry Schaffer
Dean Gilman	Priscilla Lane	Deborah Shanks
Nancy Gilman	Cholé McGraw	Marlan Shanks
	Jackie Sayles	Susan Stofan

Girls' Choir – Barbara Hamm, Director

Ella Beatson	Asha Cooper	Autumn Thomas
Audrey Benton	Natalie Daffern	Holly Thomas
Lydia Benton	Elizabeth Green	Meadow Thomas
Isabelle Briseño	Victoria Green	
Sophia Briseño	Katie Stamm-Kirk	

Women and Girls' Chorus – Barbara Hamm, Director

Ella Beatson	Veronica Ensminger	Nancy Gilman
Audrey Benton	Elizabeth Green	Priscilla Lane
Lydia Benton	Tricia Hartzell	Cholé McGraw
Isabelle Briseño	Kathleen Kravets	Jackie Sayles
Sophia Briseño	Katie Stamm-Kirk	Deborah Shanks
Asha Cooper	Autumn Thomas	Susan Stofan
Natalie Daffern	Meadow Thomas	

The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir – Leslie Lessenger, Director

Nancy Gilman	Cholé McGraw	Jane Robinson
Carla Goad	Keith Read	Deborah Shanks
Mike Hill	Laurie Read	Kim Webb

Instrumentalists

Leslie Blackie - guitar	Gail Mason - piano
Lindsay Blackie - clarinet	Adam Olm - violin
Stuart Blackie - trumpet, drums	Shelby Riddle - clarinet, violin
Annette Cook - piano	Deborah Shanks - guitar, organ, piano
Dean Gilman - bass	Katie Stamm-Kirk - flute
Christopher Hanna - baritone saxophone, piano	Barbara Hamm - organ, piano

Drum Circle

Chris Francis	Rick Beeson
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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Howard Gill

As I reflect over this year and the spiritual journey of each youth, I'm reminded of the question each was challenged with - Where is God for you Now?

As the dialogue began, their answers reflected each personal faith journey experience. God was speaking and they were listening. Through each Sunday school lesson, Confirmation session and youth group, the youth were on a path to understand who God truly was to each of them. As sacred text was presented the desire to know God deepened. Through the work of mission and outreach their love and compassion grew stronger, their lives were changing. Our youth are the future right now and they are speaking right now

- I see God in dreams, in my family, in the faces of the homeless, in the hope of SF Night Ministries, in the wise eyes of elders, through the wonder of the new believer, I see God everywhere now.

Thank you, youth, as you continue to inspire us by being faithful to the work of ministry. Thank you parents and CCCUCC family for this journey of faith together. God's blessing to each.



SEMINARIAN IN DISCERNMENT

Candace Frawley

As I settle into the reality of a completed seminary education, I can't help but reflect on what an incredible year this has been. I began my Advanced Minister in Training role here at Community Congregational Church, UCC (CCCUCC) just as I entered into my final year of seminary in September of 2011. I was blessed to have an active leadership role in Sunday worship service, participating in important church rituals as communion, baptism and even funerals. Pastor Renie graciously gave me the opportunity to preach at least once each month and I had the honor of leading the faith study groups this past year. Perhaps my favorite role during this time has been providing pastoral care. Visiting with folks and sharing in their stories have truly been a gift to me.



As CCC-UCC continued in the futuring process this year I also had the opportunity to work with many of you, exploring ways to build bridges into our community in order to make a difference - work that is vital and will be on-going. This along with all the other components to our mission statement became a focus of our stewardship campaign this year, and I had the honor of working in that effort along with the stewardship committee. It was refreshing to be a part of this process and witness a community of faith step into action as we commit our precious resources to the mission and ministries of this church.



Supporting the mission and ministries of the church was also a highlight over this past year for our wider church as the Northern California Nevada Conference (NCNC) continues to go through a process of understanding who and what the church should be today and into the future. In this past year I accepted a new role in this process as the Vice President of the Conference Council. This work requires thoughtful leadership and the ability to reach out and connect with local churches. Holding a vital leadership role in the life of this church has been a tremendous growth opportunity for me and one that is essential to this new role in the wider church and any future work as a faith leader.

This past year the Committee on Ministry approved me to move forward with my ordination in the United Church of Christ and I was granted a license for ministry. The license will come in handy as I move into the role of sabbatical supplement here at CCC-UCC while Pastor Renie embarks on a well-deserved three month sabbatical. This is a role I am very excited about and I cannot think of a better place to begin my formal ministry. What a summer it will be.



My time here has provided me with an enormous opportunity to prepare for my future ministry - one that I recognize is unique because of my dual role as a MIT and as a member in discernment with this congregation. Pastor Renie and the congregation have fulfilled their roles with much grace, and have provided much support and care. It's been an added benefit to receive guidance and support from a community of faith who will continue to be an integral part of my ministry in the future as my home church.

My time year over this past year has been a sacred experience for me and has given me even greater clarity and certainty in my own call to ministry. As I recently shared with the congregation, over this past year I have had the honor and privilege of being on the receiving end of caring, guidance and support from Pastor Renie and from this church as I have served as minister in training. They have planted various seeds in my life over the past year, some of which have bloomed. Others are about to burst out of the earth and still many others are germinating, waiting for the right season to bear fruit. They have planted these seeds, nurtured my soul and tended to my weeds, and the fruits of their labors will live on in me into my future ministry, wherever God may call me. As I continue on this journey towards ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ, I will never forget how this church has touched my life and taught me as much about being a minister as they taught me about myself. For all of this I am grateful beyond measure.



MODERATOR

Shelby Riddle

There are two major areas for me that highlight this year as Moderator. The first is one that I took part in and that was the Futuring Process. Out of that arose the SOUL Saturday night musical service, and the more meditative AWE service, both on separate Saturday nights once a month. The Building and Grounds task force also came from the Futuring process, where we saw a need to improve and fix our physical plant and grounds and took the first step at our June Congregational meeting voting to hire an architect and get estimates for a two-tier parking area. This is a long term process but we have set the stage for the expansion of our facilities to handle the needs of our community.



The other major area that I was involved in this year was bringing to our Congregation in our January meeting the Conference salary guidelines (Northern California Nevada Conference using the Bay Area guidelines) and where our Pastor's salary fell in that picture. It was clear by the end of the presentation, that our Pastor was barely above minimum conference guidelines. As a justice issue to our Pastor, who has done all and more as requested in her job description, our Congregation stepped out in faith and voted a significant pay raise to get her above the average for the conference guidelines. The congregation then lived into that faith during our stewardship campaign, significantly increasing pledging to cover this needed additional expense during tough economic times.

While I did not enter my Moderator year with any specific goals in mind, several needs became apparent and I was able to help these come to a resolution. Thank you all for allowing me to serve our church this year as your moderator. It has been my honor and pleasure.



VICE MODERATOR

Larry Schaffer

As Vice Moderator and a member of this church, I sincerely appreciate the efforts of so many. No matter how small or large your time, talents and giving, each and every one of you are a blessing to this village we call Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Benica.

Working with you, the Council, and the Ministers this past year has been very rewarding for me. The leadership of committees, choirs, work parties, social functions, and fund raisers has displayed dedication and commitment at every level. Thank you.

The youthful energy displayed by this Congregation is matched only by the energy of the youth you embrace with open arms. The kindness, support, and care given those in need by you exemplify the Christian love that breathes within each of us.

As your In-coming Moderator so much has changed, and of course for the better, since I last served as Moderator. Thank you goes to the In-coming Council with six new faces. The opportunities are endless and the enthusiasm abundant.

God IS still speaking - through all of you.

**PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Larry Schaffer

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) was comprised of Rob Kravets, Janet Murrell, Dale Olm, Larry Schaffer and Susan Stofan. We met monthly with Pastor Renie, and in June of this year we met with Pastor Candace Frawley, Rev. Renie's Sabbatical Replacement.

We served as an advisory group to the pastor and as support for the pastor's leadership. Members of the congregation were encouraged to take any pastoral concern directly to Pastor Renie or Pastor Candace. If this was uncomfortable they could speak in confidence to any member of the PPRC. The committee functioned as liaisons, providing communication between the congregation and the pastor.

We respected the privacy of those congregants who so requested. All conversations were conducted in the strictest of confidence but discussed openly and honestly within the group. We felt honored to sit down and chat frankly with Pastor Renie and Pastor Candace, and to provide an environment that allowed them to do the same with us. We were privileged to have played this small part in the life of this vibrant and growing congregation.

CLERK

Carolyn Osada

BIRTHS

Emma Leigh Thomas (parents: Tricia Hartzell and Adam Thomas) 12/28/2011
 Amaya Esparza (parents: Jill and Gina Esparza)

DECEASED (Members)

Arloine E. Stoner - Member (12/1/11)

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Arloine E. Stoner (member) 12/10/2011
 Randy Stauffer (non-member) 1/14/2012



BAPTISMS

Tracy Daffern 4/8/2012
 Isabella Green 4/8/2012
 Victoria Green 4/8/2012
 Elizabeth Green 4/8/2012
 Dylam Otero 4/8/2012
 Roland Eugene Smith 4/8/2012

Audrey Benton 6/10/2012
 Matt Daffern 6/10/2012
 Kyle Daffern 6/10/2012
 Karyna Mitchell 6/10/2012

DEDICATIONS

Colin James Cavagnuolo-Pyles 4/8/2012
 Ella Beatson 4/8/2012
 Jack Beatson 4/8/2012

WEDDINGS IN THE CHURCH

No weddings in the church this year

INACTIVE	<u>Date joined</u>	<u>Inactive</u>
Christina Harrison	10/4/2009	July/2011
Kathy Cox	6/5/1983	4/17/2012
Gerry Forcier	6/10/1984	4/17/2012
Nolan Cox	5/31/1998	4/17/2012
Lynn Martinez	4/25/1999	4/17/2012
Marcia Bunch	1/16/2000	4/17/2012
Rufus Bunch	1/16/2000	4/17/2012
Katherine Betz	11/5/2000	4/17/2012
Stephan Betz	11/5/2000	4/17/2012
Jay Smith	6/30/2002	4/17/2012
Paul Terry	12/12/2004	4/17/2012
Samuel Terry	5/15/2005	4/17/2012
Porter Terry	5/15/2005	4/17/2012

INACTIVE (continued)	<u>Date joined</u>	<u>Inactive</u>
Sheryl Sindt	6/26/2005	4/17/2012
Curt Sindt	6/26/2005	4/17/2012
Samantha Majors	6/3/2007	4/17/2012
Jennifer Diethelm	6/3/2007	4/17/2012
Janelle Diethelm	6/3/2007	4/17/2012
Kelsey Sass	6/3/2007	4/17/2012
Elizabeth Munnelly	12/2/2007	4/17/2012
Mike Patterson	12/2/2007	4/17/2012
Larry McCown	12/2/2007	4/17/2012
Mary Ewart	10/4/2009	4/17/2012
TRANSFERS	<u>Date joined</u>	<u>Transferred out</u>
Annette Cook	12/21/2008	6/14/2012
Cheryl Paterson	12/21/2008	6/14/2012

NEW MEMBERS (affirmation of faith)

<u>4/8/2012</u>	<u>6/10/2012</u>
Leslie Beatson	Audrey Benton
Michelle Cavagnuolo	Matt Daffern
Tracy Daffern	Kyle Daffern
Jennifer Green	Natalie Daffern
Donna Hill	Karyna Mitchell
Mike Hill	
Deanna Michell	
Dylan Otero	
Laura Pyles	
Roland Smith	
Linda Smith	
Eric Vlnar	
Maria Vlnar	

**MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY**

Active Members at 7/1/2011	138
+ New Members	18
- Members Made Inactive	(23)
- Deceased Members	(1)
- Transferred Members	(2)
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS at 6/30/2012	130

MEMBER JOIN DATE

Member Name	Join Date
Nelson, Helen	4/6/1950
Mortensen, Eleanor	11/21/1954
Burns, Karen	8/16/1955
Estey, Frances	3/25/1956
Updyke, Karen	3/25/1958
Estment (Wyatt), Patricia	10/9/1959
Stone, Peg	10/25/1959
Stephens, Carol	11/4/1964
Stofan, Susan	2/24/1974
Hammonds, Maryo	9/15/1974
Hammonds, Sam	9/15/1974
Atkins, Nancy	3/28/1976
Atkins, Stephen	3/28/1976
Martin, Pam	10/22/1978
Osada, Carolyn	6/8/1980
Wingert, Hope	2/8/1981
Scrutchins, Marilyn	6/7/1981
Lane, Priscilla	12/5/1982
Cox, Bob	6/5/1983
Hutchins, Patricia	10/16/1983
Read, Laurie	2/17/1985
Read, Keith	2/17/1985
Wong, Jan	11/10/1985
Cox, Betty	3/23/1986
Sayles, Jackie	4/5/1987
Oraboni, Larry	10/10/1993
Hull, Chuck	3/3/1994
Huebner, John	3/13/1994
Huebner, Vreni	3/13/1994
Kravets, Kathleen	4/12/1998
Kravets, Rob	4/12/1998
Read, Robyn	5/31/1998
Olm, Dale	9/27/1998
Francis, Chris	2/14/1999
Beeson, Rick	2/14/1999
Conway, Debbie	4/25/1999
Mason, Carl	11/14/1999
Mason, Gail	11/14/1999
Murrell, Janet	11/14/1999
Taylor, Penny	11/14/1999
Thomas, Jett	1/16/2000
Thomas, Milly	1/16/2000
Blackie, Leslie	7/30/2000
Blackie, Jonathan	7/30/2000
Tyree, Louise	11/5/2000
McGraw, Chol�	2/25/2001

Member Name	Join Date
Cox, Greg	2/25/2001
Cox, Daniel	5/12/2002
Cox, Regina	5/12/2002
Read, Kristen	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
Hicks, Rhonda	3/28/2004
Gilman, Dean	12/12/2004
Olm, Sam	5/15/2005
Blackie, Lindsay	5/15/2005
Mautz, Tim	6/26/2005
Schaffer, Larry	5/7/2006
Stamm-Kirk, Rev. Renie	6/3/2007
Riddle, Shelby	6/3/2007
Olm, Adam	6/3/2007
Parsons, Natalie	6/3/2007
Stamm-Kirk, Allison	12/2/2007
Eubank, Eileen	12/2/2007
Hanna, Karen	12/2/2007
Hanna, John	12/2/2007
Garrigues, Jeff	12/2/2007
Munnely, Elizabeth	12/2/2007
Lawrence, Jackie	12/2/2007
Lawrence, Lynn	12/2/2007
Stanley, Debi	6/1/2008
Stanley, Dale	6/1/2008
Lessenger, Jim	6/1/2008
Lessenger, Leslie	6/1/2008
Scott, Mickey	6/1/2008
Hayes, Stephanie	12/21/2008
Robinson, Jane	12/21/2008
Schaffer, Nancy	12/21/2008
Sirota, Kay	12/21/2008
Hanna, Christopher	5/17/2009
Hanna, Mathew	5/17/2009
Cooper, Brent	6/14/2009
McDonald, Reiko	6/14/2009
Ensminger, Veronica	10/4/2009
Sullivan, Jessica	10/4/2009
Watson, Lance	10/4/2009
Toney, Lynette	10/4/2009
Hartzell, Valerie	1/24/2010

Member Name	Join Date
Hartzell, Patricia	1/24/2010
Blackie, Stuart	1/24/2010
Gauger, Eleanor (Nora)	1/24/2010
Gauger, Hal	1/24/2010
Esparza, Gina	6/27/2010
Esparza, Jill	6/27/2010
Frawley, Candace	7/20/2010
Bouty, Andree	7/20/2010
Aldritt, Nancy	3/20/2011
Kidder, Natalie	3/20/2011
Stauffer, Cheryle	3/20/2011
Goad, Carla	3/20/2011
Dolter, Jean	3/20/2011
Dolter, Bill	3/20/2011
Hawthorne, Heidi	3/20/2011
Johnson, Sarah	3/20/2011
Brisena, Sophia	5/15/2011
Brisena, Isabelle	5/15/2011
Cooper, Kieran	5/15/2011
Herr, Liberty	5/15/2011
Stamm-Kirk, Katie	5/15/2011
Beatson, Leslie	4/8/2012
Cavagnuolo, Michelle	4/8/2012
Daffern, Tracy	4/8/2012
Green, Jennifer	4/8/2012
Hill, Donna	4/8/2012
Hill, Mike	4/8/2012
Otero, Dylan	4/8/2012
Pyles, Laura	4/8/2012
Smith, Roland	4/8/2012
Smith, Linda	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Eric	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Maria	4/8/2012
Benton, Audrey	6/10/2012
Daffern, Matt	6/10/2012
Daffern, Kyle	6/10/2012
Daffern, Natalie	6/10/2012
Mitchell, Karyna	6/10/2012

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Nancy Gilman

**Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ - Benicia CA 94510
Contribution Account Balances (July 2011 thru June 2012)**

07/07/12

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Account Number	Account Name	Period	Year to Date
059	Previous fiscal year pledges	\$800.00	\$800.00
060	Pledges - Current Year	\$115,976.00	\$115,976.00
061	Pledges - Paid Advance Next FY	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
065	Parishioner Contributions	\$16,678.80	\$16,678.80
067	Donation In Kind	\$3,217.30	\$3,217.30
070	Building Use - Preschool (HH)	\$16,687.50	\$16,687.50
071	Building Use - Other	\$4,485.00	\$4,485.00
072	Copier Use - Other	\$51.00	\$51.00
085	Fundraiser - Stewardship	\$4,912.00	\$4,912.00
087	Fundraiser - Crab Feed	\$4,155.00	\$4,155.00
098	Refunds & Misc Deposits	\$1,149.48	\$1,149.48
099	Other Sources of Funding	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
110	Mission Pool - Pledge Amount	\$7,569.74	\$7,569.74
401	Fisher House	\$302.00	\$302.00
404	Strengthen the Church (UCC)	\$342.00	\$342.00
405	AHA -Affordable Housing Assoc.	\$20.00	\$20.00
408	One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)	\$344.15	\$344.15
409	Puente de la Costa Sur	\$803.50	\$803.50
410	Food Bank CC / Solano Counties	\$387.00	\$387.00
411	CAC Xmas Families	\$438.08	\$438.08
412	Xmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	\$1,111.00	\$1,111.00
413	Neighbors in Need (UCC)	\$316.00	\$316.00
415	Heifer Project	\$1,335.00	\$1,335.00
423	SF Night Ministry	\$797.00	\$797.00
424	First Place for Youth	\$563.00	\$563.00
425	Solano Land Trust	\$429.00	\$429.00
600	Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	\$12,671.49	\$12,671.49
703	Concert Series (Music Series)	\$1,761.00	\$1,761.00
704	Music Program Fund (Barbara's)	\$150.00	\$150.00
705	Christian Ed / Sunday School	\$118.56	\$118.56
707	Christian Ed/Adult	\$30.00	\$30.00
708	Pastor Restricted Fund	\$6,600.00	\$6,600.00
710	Gift Funds	\$698.00	\$698.00
711	Weekend in the Trees	\$4,287.00	\$4,287.00
712	Fellowship Freewill Off - Budget	\$257.82	\$257.82
714	Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	\$1,190.00	\$1,190.00
716	Cong Care (Diakonate) Ministry	\$25.00	\$25.00
718	Handbells	\$100.00	\$100.00
721	Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	\$473.00	\$473.00
726	Holiday House	\$3,945.50	\$3,945.50
801	Special Fellowship Events	\$221.00	\$221.00
Total:		\$218,647.92	\$218,647.92

Period: July thru June.

Count: 88

TREASURER

Dale Olm

It has been an interesting and exciting fiscal year. The congregation made several mid-year “leaps of faith” that resulted both in hiring a pastoral assistant to augment the pastor’s work schedule and also brought our pastor’s compensation up to “industry standards”, each a major advance for this church. As reported to the congregation, we anticipated that these mid-year changes (plus one additional payroll period than anticipated due to the fiscal calendar) might result in a deficit of up to \$10,000. In fact, however, the deficit was kept to \$3,383 largely through the efforts of committee chairs and administrators to curtail expenses, but also through the generosity of our parishioners. Thank you!



Starting in 2006, our budget committee chaired by Carl Mason started setting aside annual funds in anticipation of the sabbatical leave that our pastor would be taking in 2012 (we had not even called our new pastor yet!). Because of that foresight by our financial planners, we are adequately prepared to retain an excellent sabbatical replacement pastor during Pastor Renie’s leave this summer.

We use a hybrid cash and accrual accounting method for the church and we divide revenue and disbursements between a working or operating budget and a restricted fund system for contributions donated for designated purposes (i.e., missions, capital improvements, youth group, etc.). This has led to some confusion as to where the church funds come from and go to. The “Cash Flow Report,” hopefully helps clarify how all these funds are received and distributed. In the coming 2012-2013 fiscal year, Mission and Outreach has been folded into the operating budget. Ten percent (a tithe) of individual (pledge and “loose offering”) donations will be set aside for Mission and Outreach.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the church as treasurer this year.

Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia
CCCUCC Cash Flow Report 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

(Or, how did all the money come and go?)

July 1, 2011
to June 30,
2012 % of total

All Revenues and Deposits

Pledge Unit Donations to Church Operating Budget	\$117,126	53.6%
Parishioner donations (loose offering)	\$16,679	7.6%
Building use	\$26,521	12.1%
Donations to All Capital Improvement Funds combined	\$12,671	5.8%
Donations to Missions Pool, Monthly & Special Missions	\$14,757	6.7%
Other restricted Donations & Deposits	\$7,034	3.2%
Other revenue	\$23,859	10.9%
Total revenues and donations via Financial Secretary	\$218,648	100.0%
Interest payments from mmf & CD's & other deposits	\$511	
Total revenues and donations	\$219,159	

All Disbursements & Payments

Church Operations and Ministries	\$183,668	86.9%
Capital Building Improvements (all funds)	\$1,331	0.6%
Mission and Outreach Disbursements (includes OCWM)	\$18,453	8.7%
Other restricted funds disbursements & transfers	\$7,935	3.8%
Total Disbursements & Payments	\$211,387	100.0%

Change in cash on hand

\$7,772

highlighted cells are operating budget line items

Community Congregational Church, UCC of Benicia - Statement of Financial Position

A current "snapshot" of CCCUCC financial status

	06/30/11	06/30/12	Change in Value	
	End of last Fiscal Year	Current Value		
Assets (Cash on Hand)				
US Bank (Checking)	35,222	4,943	-30,279	
Cornerstone 12 mo CD #1	15,102	15,408	306	matures 8/5/12
Cornerstone 12 mo CD #2	15,264	15,454	190	matures 2/5/13
Cornerstone 12 mo CD #3	0	30,000	30,000	matures 2/9/13
Vanguard (Savings)	35,032	42,539	7,507	money market
Petty Cash & Misc Credits	98	146	48	
TOTAL	\$100,718	\$108,490	\$7,772	Total Cash on Hand
Liabilities, Restricted and Set asides (Owed or not-available)				
Missions & Outreach	6,305	7,591	1,286	Mission pool & missions waiting for disbursement
Building & Grounds - restricted				
Capital Improvement Fund	17,934	29,425	11,491	Major building & grounds capital improvements
One Brick at a Time	2,300	2,300	0	One Brick at a Time Fund (Parking Lot)
New sound system	50	50	0	For sanctuary sound system
Special Renovation Projects	667	667	0	Kitchen renovation + new furniture fund
Sabbatical Leave Set aside	11,000	11,154	154	For substitute minister during future sabbatical
Payroll Liabilities	1,085	1,394	308	Payroll taxes waiting to be paid
Prepaid Pledges - Disbursed monthly	0	1,000	1,000	Amortized over 12 months
Set-aside funds-anticipated expenses	2,192	1,411	-781	WC, Insurance & Prop Taxes set aside
Other Restricted Accounts & Misc.	20,042	19,129	-913	Other ministries, account adj's; rents on deposit
TOTAL	\$61,575	\$74,121	\$12,546	Total Restricted Cash
Net Assets	\$39,143	\$34,370	-\$4,773	Unrestricted Net Cash reserves
TOTAL LIABILITIES + NET ASSETS	\$100,718	\$108,490	\$7,772	

Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia

(Revised June 30, 2012)

YTD SUMMARY BUDGET REVIEW - by Quarter

Fiscal year 7/1/11 to 6/30/12 (excludes Capital Improvement Fund)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Ytd Total 2011 to 2012	Fiscal Year Budget	Difference from Budget
Funding (Operations and Ministries)							
Refunds & misc. deposits	98	105	100	0	303	0	303
Loose Offering	3,825	4,591	4,358	3,905	16,679	16,000	679
Pledges (+ paid in adv.)	26,270	30,598	30,449	29,809	117,126	127,148	-10,022
Anticipated Shortfall in pledges (6%)						-7,629	
Use of Building	6,465	6,871	6,560	6,625	26,521	25,694	827
Fundraisers	0	4,330	1,813	100	6,243	6,100	143
Transfer from Mission Pool	1,174	5,144	2,511	5,724	14,552	14,552	0
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other funding (interest +)	314	188	4	5	511	445	66
Grants	0	1,125	0	1,125	2,250	2,250	0
Total Revenues	38,147	52,950	45,795	47,293	184,185	184,560	-8,004
Expense (Operations and Ministries)			0				
B & G - Utilities	1,792	2,080	2,275	1,771	7,918	8,494	-576
B & G - Custodial (contract)	1,251	1,251	1,251	876	4,629	5,000	-371
B & G - Maint. & Housekeep	770	2,076	1,771	334	4,951	4,122	829
B&G-Taxes & Loan set aside	158	158	158	158	634	635	-1
Insurance- Prop. set aside	1,316	1,316	1,316	1,316	5,264	5,803	-539
Christian Education / Youth	69	180	449	1,108	1,807	2,275	-468
Congregational Care	165	-25	0	0	140	200	-60
Fellowship	233	4	693	351	1,280	1,425	-145
Music, Adult & Youth Choirs	95	572	308	105	1,079	1,418	-339
Stewardship	0	0	90	0	90	0	90
Mission & Outreach (OCWM)	923	823	1,078	1,078	3,900	4,000	-100
M&O Funds Expended	1,174	5,149	2,511	5,717	14,551	14,551	0
Welcome	60	80	263	187	590	990	-400
Worship	397	142	135	659	1,332	2,050	-718
Other committees & Ministries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council & Discretion Funds	0	0	0	927	927	950	-23
Other Exp-Finance & Admin	795	700	1,265	945	3,704	3,979	-275
Office/Comp./Copier Supply	548	1,173	1,191	-29	2,883	3,827	-944
Minister in training scholarship	500	1,500	1,500	1,000	4,500	4,500	0
Professional Expenses	1,035	0	0	132	1,167	2,364	-1,198
Sabbatical set aside	500	500	500	500	2,000	2,000	0
Staff	29,526	29,278	31,049	34,368	124,221	115,976	8,245
Total Expense	41,306	46,957	47,802	51,503	187,568	184,559	3,009
Net Revenues	-3,159	5,993	-2,008	-4,210	-3,383	1	

NOTES: RED is "bad": revenue is under budget or expense is over budget
 Green is "good": revenue is over budget or expense is under budget

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC of BENICIA

-APPROVED 2012-2013 BUDGET versus HISTORICAL ACTUALS (2007-2012)

	2007- 2008 Actual	2008- 2009 Actual	2009-2010 Actual	2010-2011 Actual	2011-2012 Actual	Approved 2012-2013 Budget
Income						
Refunds & misc. deposits	0	0	93	5	303	0
Loose Offering - Parish Contributions	13,825	19,928	13,237	21,727	16,679	16,639
Pledges - Operations & Ministries	103,218	102,005	108,883	110,011	117,126	142,798
Use of Building	29,133	24,884	25,593	26,215	26,521	27,155
Directed Extra Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	
Fundraisers	4,730	7,862	6,442	5,760	6,243	6,200
Trans. from Reserves/Net Assets	0	2,000	0	0	0	0
Transfer from M&O to revenue	13,156	13,917	12,419	21,657	14,552	2,200
Other sources of funding (int.)	1,835	968	50	6,392	511	2,445
Grants	0	0	0	0	2,250	0
Total Income	165,897	171,563	166,716	191,768	184,185	197,437
Expense						
B & G - Utilities	7,381	7,200	8,289	8,431	7,918	8,194
B & G Custodial	3,600	3,600	4,125	4,800	4,629	5,155
B & G- Maintenance & Janitorial	5,837	5,745	3,874	5,022	4,951	5,200
B & G-Taxes	2,043	-2,631	1,000	635	634	635
Insurance- Property set aside	4,961	4,960	5,264	5,264	5,264	5,800
Loan Payoff	2,123	1,113	0	0	0	0
Christian Education / Youth	751	849	1,092	2,166	1,807	1,120
Congregational Care (Diakone)	-58	0	0	0	140	200
Fellowship	-25	941	998	1,113	1,280	1,118
Music, Adult & Youth Choirs	2,654	1,176	1,560	1,261	1,079	1,198
Stewardship	0	0	0	82	90	400
Mission & Outreach-UCC Support	3,530	3,620	3,690	3,690	3,900	merged
Mission/Outreach Fund Expended	13,156	13,917	12,419	21,657	14,551	14,280
Welcome (Growth)	311	869	1,190	664	590	990
Worship	883	2,514	1,836	1,006	1,332	1,200
Other Committes & Ministries	836	783	0	0	0	0
Council & Discretionary Funds	916	910	1,828	503	927	1,575
Other Expenses - Finance&Admin	1,468	2,345	2,868	3,255	3,704	3,163
Office/Computer/Copier Supplies	4,650	4,979	4,928	4,768	2,883	4,315
Minister in Training Scholarship	0	0	0	0	4,500	0
Professional Expenses	496	919	1,664	2,727	1,167	1,100
Sabbatical budgeted set aside	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
Staff	95,309	112,049	106,191	110,977	124,221	139,794
Total Expense	152,820	167,856	164,815	181,021	187,568	197,437
Net Revenue	13,076	3,708	1,901	10,747	-3,383	0

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Greg Cox & Jim Lessenger

The main focus this year was futuring. The major outcome relating to building and grounds stewardship was the formulation of the Capital Improvement Taskforce to look at the parking lot repair/replacement. The task force led by Jim Lessenger and Marlan Shanks included several members (Leslie Lessenger, Dale Olm, Mike Hill, and Greg Cox). Jim and Marlan met with city Planners and a local general contractor, R3 Builders, to review the option of repairing the parking area as is or to redesign the parking area to accommodate future growth including a new fellowship hall or sanctuary.



The plan was put to vote and approved at the congregational meeting June 10, 2012. At this time we will be hiring an architect to develop detailed plans for building a new two-tier parking area, including landscaping and plans for access to the gazebo area.

Two wide screen monitors were installed in the sanctuary. Many thanks go to Mike Hill who designed and supervised the installations. These are a great addition to our worship and now we can view the words of the hymns without having to look down at the hymnals.



The major area of concern this year was the upkeep of the grounds. We looked into hiring a landscape contractor, but at a cost of \$800 a month this is currently not in the budget. An adopt-a-weed program was developed to allow members to select an area of the ground to keep weeded and clean. This is going slowly, but already 50% of the property has been adopted by members. We encourage participation by everyone in this effort to keep the grounds in the best condition possible.

We continue to employ Maids Above the Rest as our janitorial service. Jacque has kept the place in excellent shape and on a couple occasions has cleaned twice in the week at no extra charge when we had special events.

Building Use

Our facility continues to serve the community in whole by providing a safe space where everyone is welcome no matter who you are. As part of our social outreach to the community we continue to support the following groups by extending the use of our facilities.

- Happy Hearts – Jackie is now the sole owner and now into the eighth year offering year-round classes. We have ongoing communication and yearly review of agreements.
- AA\NA\ALANON – We now host the only Women's AA group in the area on Wednesdays. Weekly meetings are posted on the church calendar at (<http://www.cccucc.org/>) or in the monthly Bridge.

Building and Grounds fellowship day will continue to be held on the fourth Saturday of each month through October 2012. They will resume again in January 2013. Please mark your calendars with these important fellowship events before your schedule gets busy. It takes everyone's help no matter what they can contribute to continue our growth. Donations are always welcome and can really help to hire labor, rent equipment, or purchase plants, trees, benches, etc. Please contact me if you can assist in this way. Our fellowship team Allison and Karen make the work days a pleasure to attend. I know our friends from Genesis House in Vallejo look forward to these home cooked meals at our work days. Many other members have stepped up to the plate in the past year to help out and, again, I want to thank everyone.

We welcome our new Building and Grounds Chair, Jim Lessenger. Jim has been instrumental in numerous projects this past year and we welcome his insight and energy.

God Bless.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Leslie Lessenger

Sunday School

In the fall the younger children learned about Moses, the flight from Egypt and God's faithfulness. In the spring the focus changed to stories of Jesus. *Gather Round* curriculum was used along with unique crafts introduced by Janet Murrell. The junior high/high school class experienced the Faith Practices curriculum. Attendance in Sunday School varied from 10 to 21 children and youth. Teachers included Marilyn Scrutchins, Greg Cox, Donna Hill, Veronica Ensminger, Jean Dolter, Leslie Lessenger, Jim Lessenger, Janet Murrell, Dale Olm, Susan Stofan and Howard Gill.



Adult Sunday school was led in the fall by Nora Gauger and in the spring by Tim Mautz. Meeting from 9:00 to 9:40 AM, the attendance was sparse, but discussion could be lively.

Two adult faith studies were led during the year by Pastor Renie and Minister in Training Candace Frawley: Naked Spirituality by Brian McLaren and Love Wins by Richard Bell

Confirmation

Confirmation class was led by Youth Director Howard Gill. Confirmands were Asha



Cooper, Audrey Benton, Karyna Mitchell, Matt, Kyle and Natalie Daffern. This year, Confirmation ran from 2/19/2012 thru 6/10/2012. The curriculum used, "A Treasurer Hunt of Faith" covered the Old and New Testaments, the history of The United Church of Christ and Community Congregational Church UCC. During the season of Lent, their Confirmation journey covered Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Confirmands also attended a Spiritual Retreat at the Pacific School of Religion.

Youth Group

Fall youth group was organized by Leslie Lessenger and led with the help of Veronica Ensminger, Janet Murrell, Debbie Stanley, Donna Hill, and several parents. Two sessions on family life were offered to the youth by Planned Parenthood as well as a "Sex Ed for Parents" workshop for parents of our church and the community. Other activities included game night, crafts, Wii night, and attendance at the Nutcracker (including Sophia and Isabelle Briseno). Youth attendance varied from seven to ten youth.



In the spring Youth Director Howard Gill led the youth in a variety of activities including Heifer Project, San Francisco Night Ministries, and a youth-led Pentecost Sunday service.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Penny Taylor & Jackie Lawrence

Once again it is time for the annual report of the Congregational Care Team. We are a small team with a big reach. When a team member can't perform a request, we know who to call for help. There is always someone in our community that is willing to help.

We have provided rides to church and to events at the church for those who did not have transportation. We mowed yards, and found folks to clean houses. We took people to doctor appointments and to come and go surgeries. We stayed with folks in the ER and watched their children while they were there. We visited some of our elderly and tried to provide respite for their spouses. We provided meals for a family that had a death. We try to do whatever we can to decrease the stress and anxiety that members of our congregation might be feeling.



Whatever it is that our congregation needs, we are there to help. If we hear from them or someone else that they might need help, we check it out, but we always try to protect the privacy of the folks we are helping. The things that we do make us feel good as individuals and as a church community.

FELLOWSHIP

Allison Stamm-Kirk

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

This has been my fourth year of service as Fellowship Chair and it's time for me to step down and let someone else carry us forward. We've worked hard together and had fun. It's been a wonderful experience and I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

We each have unique gifts and talents and we each bring our own vision into leadership. I've done things differently than those who came before me and those who come next will bring their own vision to Fellowship. This is how we grow; this is how we evolve; this is how we move forward.

My vision for Fellowship over the last four years has been based on two guiding principles:

1. If we (the church) are adding something to someone's to-do list, we should strive to be taking something off as well. I can't mow your lawn, run your errands, or do your chores, but we all need to eat!
2. We (the church and council) are a team; we succeed *together* or fail *together*; we are all volunteers and we are all busy. We should proactively look for ways to support each other - nothing is worse in leadership than feeling like you alone must accomplish a task.

As Fellowship chair, I believe my responsibility was to look for opportunities to bring people together, beyond just the work at hand. This meant supporting other committee events in ways that foster fellowship, as well as creating new events, and honoring existing traditions. For me, this translated into Workday Fellowship, Friday Fun Nite, 4th of July BBQ, Thanksgiving Potluck, supporting Music, Stewardship, and Worship teams by helping coordinate events, and so much more. Together we accomplish more, and working as a team just makes it fun.

The Fellowship Committee is not a food committee, or a catering company; what we do goes far beyond food. But people *do* come together over food; it transforms working together into getting to know one another, getting to know one another into building a community. It worked for Jesus ...

As Fellowship Chair, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with all of you. The thought of trying to accomplish this task alone would have sent me running for the door! My co-chair, Susan Stofan, has been a vital part of making sure that Sunday Fellowship and other events run smoothly and I am eternally grateful for Janet Murrell and Gail Mason, who helped coordinate fellowship from September through January while I was away and Susan was traveling.

All of you at CCC are the fellowship team. Nothing is possible without you. You have helped by volunteering, or sometimes just stepping in when help was needed. I thank you for your support and know that you will welcome and support your new fellowship team.



2011-2012 Events

Event	Date	Event	Date
Sunday Fellowship	7/3	Christmas Day Worship	12/25
4th of July BBQ & Fireworks	7/4	Sunday Fellowship	1/1
Sunday Fellowship	7/10	DeGreening the Sanctuary (Pancake Breakfast)	1/7
Sunday Fellowship	7/17	Sunday Fellowship	1/8
Annual Meeting Potluck	7/24	Sunday Fellowship	1/15
Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	7/30	Mid-Year Congregational Budget Meeting	1/22
Sunday Fellowship	7/31	Sunday Fellowship	1/22
Friday Fun Night	8/5	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	1/28
Sunday Fellowship	8/7	Sunday Fellowship	1/29
Sunday Fellowship	8/14	Sunday Fellowship	2/5
Sunday Fellowship	8/21	Sunday Fellowship	2/12
Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	8/27	Sunday Fellowship	2/19
Sunday Fellowship - Ice Cream Social	8/28	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	2/25
Sunday Fellowship	9/4	Sunday Fellowship	2/26
Homecoming Sunday	9/11	Sunday Fellowship	3/4
Sunday Fellowship	9/18	Sunday Fellowship	3/11
Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	9/24	Sunday Fellowship	3/18
Sunday Fellowship	9/25	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	3/24
Sunday Fellowship	10/2	Sunday Fellowship	3/25
Friday Fun Night	10/7	Sunday Fellowship	4/1
Sunday Fellowship	10/9	Maundy Thursday Simple Supper	4/5
Sunday Fellowship	10/16	Sunday Fellowship	4/8
Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	10/22	5th Anniversary of our Pastor	4/15
Sunday Fellowship	10/23	Sunday Fellowship	4/15
Stewardship Auction (Potluck)	10/30	Sunday Fellowship	4/22
Sunday Fellowship	10/30	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	4/28
Fall Bay Association Meeting	11/6	Sunday Fellowship	4/29
Sunday Fellowship	11/6	Sunday Fellowship	5/6
Sunday Fellowship	11/13	Sunday Fellowship	5/13
Thanksgiving Feast	11/16	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	5/19
Sunday Fellowship	11/20	Sunday Fellowship	5/20
Greening the Sanctuary (Cookie Decorating)	11/26	Sunday Fellowship	5/27
Sunday Fellowship	11/27	Sunday Fellowship	6/3
Sunday Fellowship	12/4	Sunday Fellowship - Congregational Meeting	6/10
Sunday Fellowship	12/11	Sunday Fellowship	6/17
Christmas Concert	12/16	Building & Grounds Fellowship Day	6/23
Sunday Fellowship	12/18	Sunday Fellowship	6/24
Christmas Eve Family Service	12/24		

MISSION & OUTREACH

Nora Gauger

This has been a year of transition for Mission and Outreach. On one hand, we have been busy addressing our usual tasks, but we have also been working with Pastor Renie, the Futuring Committee, and the Stewardship Committee, all under the auspices of the Council, to better integrate mission into the whole life of the church.

As part of our effort to increase congregational participation in mission, the emphasis this year was on tangible giving — bikes for migrants in Pescadero, a food drive during February, socks and gloves, etc. for SF Night Ministry, Christmas gifts for Benicia families in need through CAC, starter packets for aged-out foster children at Easter, etc. With everyone's mission pledge this year being incorporated into the general fund, Mission and Outreach will be concentrating much more on bringing local mission opportunities to the congregation and working with others to make that mission count.

This year, M&O took the following actions:

- Each month, we presented information and the opportunity to donate to the following missions selected by the M&O committee:

July: Fisher House

August: Night Ministry of San Francisco

September: First Place for Youth

October: Neighbors in Need (UCC)

November/December: CAC Adopted Families

Christmas Eve: The Christmas Fund (UCC)

January: Heifer International (Youth Project)

February: Solano County Food Bank

March: Solano Land Trust

April: One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)

May: SF Night Ministry

June: Strengthen the Church (UCC)

Note that we changed our May Mission from Rebuilding Together to SF Night Ministry to coordinate with Howard Gill and the Youth, since May turned out to be a better time for the youth to make their visit.

Each mission chosen was selected only after being carefully researched and deemed to best represent our church's interests and Jesus' mandate. An amount of \$400 from the Mission Pool was added to the money donated by the congregation to each mission during the month it was featured.

- In August of 2011, we took on a special project. With the help of the Youth and our Change for Change jar, we supplied not only the usual backpacks to Puente de la Costa Sur, a migrant ministry in Pescadero that we work with, but also collected and transported 16 used bicycles for migrants on isolated ranches to give them some independence. Ron Smith drove the rented truck, the youth and a number of volunteers went along to deliver the bikes and backpacks and share a meal with the Puente teens. The whole congregation participated in donating the money needed to fill the backpacks, fix the bikes and rent the truck.
- At Christmas, the congregation joined us in purchasing gifts for Benicia families in need (as identified by CAC) and, by donating to our "Instead of Poinsettias altar decoration," supplied basic clothing and



food to those same families. At Easter, we used a similar theme—"Instead of Lilies altar decorations" to provide independent-living starter kits (and two new baby starter kits) for aged-out foster teens (as identified by First Place for Youth).

- In January, 2012, the M&O committee authorized a one-time donation of \$1,000 from the Mission Pool to the Benicia non-profit, Families in Transition, which helps Benicia families with back rent. This donation replaced the amount slated to be collected during Worship in Park as that event was cancelled last fall.
- Starting this last January, the M&O committee has sponsored a Social Justice table during the Fellowship Hour at least one Sunday each month. This table displays information from both the current Mission of the month and other timely issues currently in the news. With the upcoming election season on us, the M&O committee intends a special effort to make accurate and objective information on the Propositions on the November ballot available for the congregation through the Social Justice table.



This year's Mission and Outreach committee is to be commended for their willingness to consider, discuss, and make thoughtful decisions governing how we as a church fulfill the commitment we have expressed in our Mission statement—that we follow the example set by Jesus. Working with these dedicated members of our church has been extremely rewarding for me—and I thank every one of them. I encourage anyone with an interest in how we "do mission" in this church to join our group as we move forward to the new challenges and opportunities brought by our new fiscal year.

Disbursements from the Mission and Outreach Committee for the 2011-2012 fiscal year were as follows:

Fisher House	\$702.00	San Francisco Night Ministry	\$964.00
First Place for Youth	\$963.00	Solano County Land Trust	\$829.00
CAC (Xmas families)	\$514.47	Lilies (Foster Teens)	\$706.57
Heifer Project (with CE)	\$1,335.45	Families in Transition	\$1,000.00
		Puente de la Costa Sur (Bikes and Backpacks)	\$1,174.05
UCC special offerings:			
Christmas Fund	\$1,511.00	Strengthen the Church	\$742.00
Neighbors in Need	\$659.00	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$744.15

For a total of \$11,844.69 disbursed from the M&O Committee on behalf of the congregation.



STEWARDSHIP

Shelby Riddle

The Stewardship Committee had a busy year both in fund raising for our operating budget and in our Stewardship campaign.

We had a very successful fall auction, bringing in \$4,520. We also had our March Crab Feed fund raiser which was fun and well attended and raised \$1,331. We had a 50/50 raffle at the Crab Feed that brought in an additional \$392.

Our Stewardship Campaign's theme was *Live, Love and Lead*. We chose to mail an appeal with a pledge card rather than use the pass-around notebook method this year. The campaign had testimonials and we urged every member to pledge something.

Dale Olm gave a final appeal for pledges after the campaign ended. This moving plea, given from the lectern, stated that we would be presenting a balanced budget to be voted on in June by the congregation. The question we had to answer as a congregation was what that budget would look like and if we would be reducing and/or cutting needed and desired programs, staff and ministries to balance it. Dale left us with the challenging question of "what do we want to be as a church", and emphasized that we were voting what we wanted to be through our pledging.



This appeal resonated with our members and the pledges increased significantly over the next few weeks as our congregation pledged an additional \$22,000 to make our total pledges for the upcoming year \$142,798. Our congregation voted to have a church that supports our youth, outreach and missions, music, a full time pastor, support staff and more. We voted to keep our church moving forward at a time when it is so desperately needed.

The Stewardship Committee thanks each and every one of you!



WELCOME & GROWTH

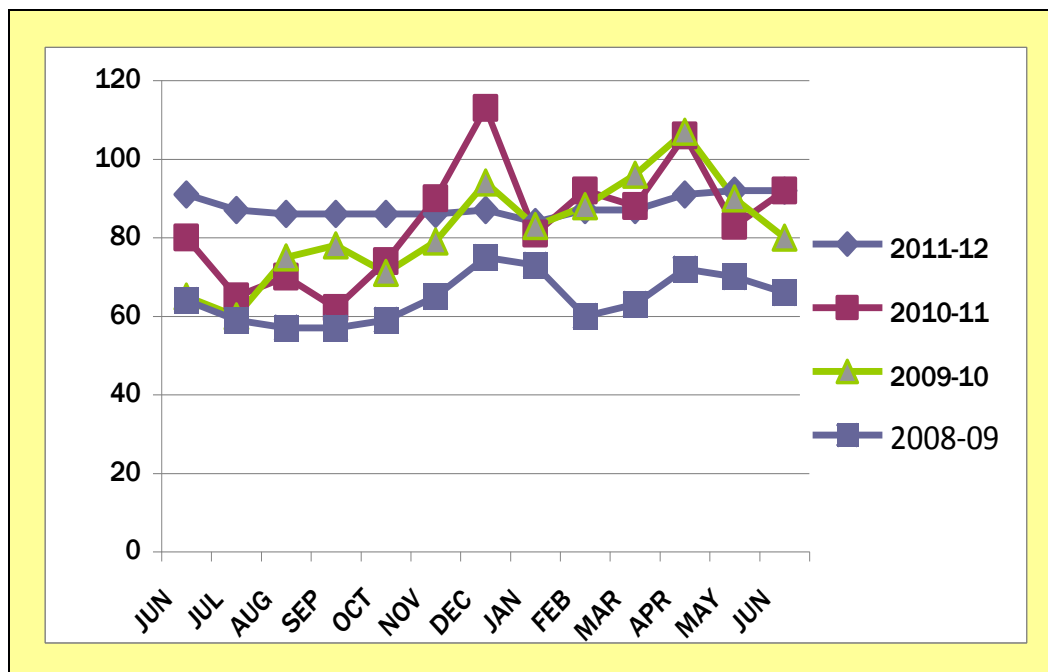
Tricia Hartzell

During the 2011-2012 year we held two new member Sundays:

- April 8, 2012 when we welcomed 13 new members into the church, and
- June 10, 2012 when we confirmed and brought into membership five of our youth.

*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
YOU are welcome here!”*

AVERAGE MONTHLY ATTENDANCE



WORSHIP

Candace Frawley for Annette Cook

This year the worship committee planned vibrant and meaningful worship services as we continued on our journey of mission-focused worship. Using our new mission statement as a foundational element, we gathered twice this year for day-long planning sessions that helped us begin to design, in broad strokes, how each season would come together.

The fall was a Season of Discovering what it means to follow Jesus. We used the imagery of our futuring oak tree, displaying beautiful handmade banners each week of our tree in various stages of growth. Our theme culminated into a special service of blessing for all of our futuring goals at the end of November.

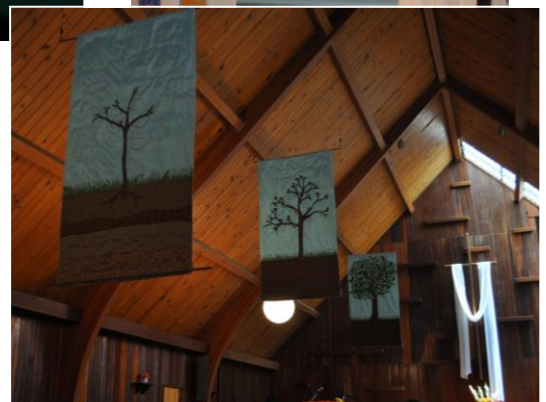
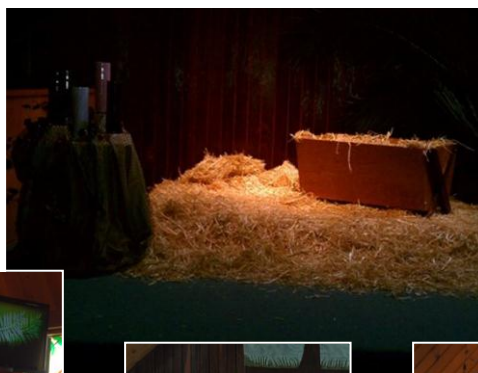
Advent was a Season of Discovering how we might get back to the basics of the true meaning of the Christmas story. A wonderful manger scene was built over the entire season, with each week bringing a new element until the whole nativity scene was complete on Christmas morning.

Epiphany was a Season of Discovering God's call in our individual and communal lives. We used the image of a large red telephone booth and cell phone mobiles to emphasize listening to God and discovering where we might be called to serve.

Lent and Easter led us through a Season of Discovering just what it takes to follow Jesus. We moved through the Lenten season turning inward and then celebrated the joy of Easter by bringing in thirteen new members on Easter Sunday. We also added a Sunrise Easter service this year and celebrated Holy Humor Sunday for the first time. As always Pentecost Sunday was spectacularly led by our dynamic youth group.



It takes a community to plan worship. Consider being a part of this inspiring ministry in the coming year. It is work that is creative, energizing and lots of fun and all are welcome to join.



HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Jim Lessenger, Archivist / Historian

The highlight of the past year was the entry of a large number of documents and artifacts into an exhibit at the Benicia Historical Museum. Entitled, "Archiving Church History," the exhibit featured nine Benicia churches, including ours. Materials from the Port Chicago Explosion damage claims were exhibited along with ancient bells, communion sets, and pewter communion cups. I also provided a lecture, copies of handouts on church archives, and a copy of our history outline. It was very well received.

We continue to add to the archive on a yearly basis. Several people have donated photographs and documents from past years. Documents from the Futuring program are now archived in a file along with those with the re-Visioning program of 2004. I provide a lecture to the confirmation class every year on the history of the religion and the church. We continue to have the history box every week and encourage the children of the church to select and prepare a theme.

There is only so much room in the archives closet. So, beginning next year we are going to review the files, discard any duplicate materials, and consolidate. We plan to maintain the outline and perhaps integrate photographs of various individuals.

We are still missing files from entire years, so check your cabinets.

Remember that the 150th anniversary of the church will be in four years. I have started collecting representative photographs, histories and documents to integrate into a book. It should be fun.

If anyone has any further documents or artifacts, please bring them to me at any Sunday service. When submitting photographs, be sure to write in pencil on the back the names of the persons in the photo and the year the photo was taken.

WEEKEND IN THE TREES



HOLIDAY HOUSE

Kim Osborn

Holiday House has continued on without its founder and leader, my mom, Jean Osborn. I think she would like how it has evolved. Our annual bazaar in November was a huge success. We are using the funds to build a labyrinth and garden on the 2nd Street side of the church. The garden will be named in honor of my mother and the group she created. We are also going to put up a Peace Pole which has on it the saying "May peace prevail on Earth" in eight languages. And as if that weren't enough, we are also setting aside money to help kids go to camp. Along with preparing for our up-coming sale in November, we decided to try a booth at the Benicia Farmer's Market once a month. Despite the miserable weather we had during our first market adventure, we made a nice amount.

Thank you, everyone, for making our new Holiday House a success.



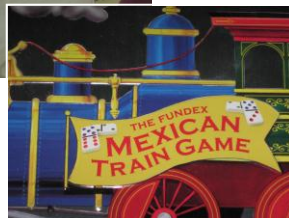
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP / COFFEE GROUP

Kim Osborn



Our new women's group has been meeting for just over a year. We gather in Fellowship Hall and talk about any subject from hangnails to forgiveness. But mostly we play Mexican Train dominoes.

Over the year we have seen over 20 women and children come to our meeting. Our players have been as young as 3 years, and our oldest ... well, I won't tell. Our regulars are all CCCUCC members, but we have had visitors from other states. We meet Tuesday mornings at 10AM. And you don't have to drink coffee.

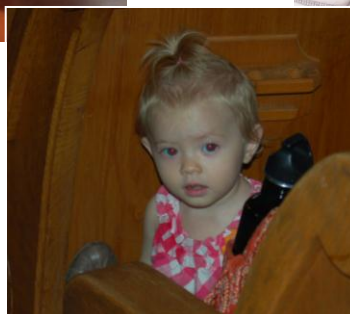
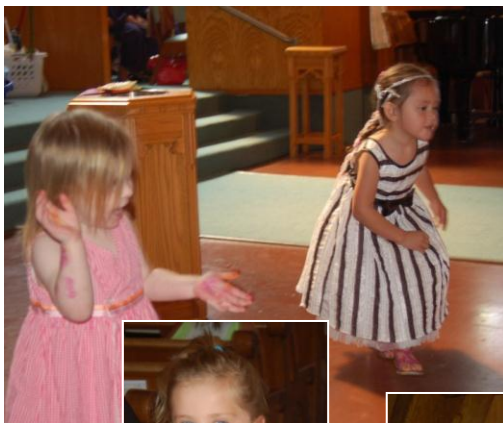


NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Larry Schaffer (Chair), Nora Gauger, Dale Olm

Council nominations for Church year 2012–2013:

Position	Name	Term Completion Date
Council Officers		
Moderator	Larry Schaffer	June 30, 2013
Vice Moderator	Nancy Gilman (Moderator 2013 -2014)	June 30, 2014
Clerk	Shelby Riddle	June 30, 2013
Financial Secretary	Karen Hanna	June 30, 2013
Treasurer	Dale Olm	June 30, 2013
Council Standing Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs		
Building & Grounds	Jim Lessenger	June 30, 2013
Christian Education	Veronica Ensminger	June 30, 2014
	Janet Murrell	June 30, 2014
Congregational Care	Penny Taylor	June 30, 2013
	Jackie Lawrence	June 30, 2013
Fellowship	Nancy Aldritt	June 30, 2014
	Susan Stofan	June 30, 2014
Mission & Outreach	Leslie Beatson	June 30, 2014
Stewardship	Michelle Cavagnuolo	June 30, 2013
Welcome & Growth	Dale Stanley	June 30, 2014
	Debi Stanley	June 30, 2014
Worship	Priscilla Lane	June 30, 2013
Members at Large	Natalie Daffern	June 30, 2013
	Mike Hill	June 30, 2014



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2012-2013

STAFF

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

OFFICERS

Moderator	Larry Schaffer
Vice-Moderator	Nancy Gilman
Church Clerk	Shelby Riddle
Financial Secretary	Karen Hanna
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry	Jim Lessenger
Christian Education Ministry	Veronica Ensminger & Janet Murrell
Congregational Care	Penny Taylor & Jackie Lawrence
Fellowship	Nancy Aldritt & Susan Stofan
Social Outreach Ministry	Leslie Beatson
Stewardship Ministry	Michelle Cavagnuolo
Welcome and Growth	Dale Stanley & Debi Stanley
Worship Ministry	Priscilla Lane

Member-At-Large	Natalie Daffern
Member-At-Large	Mike Hill