

God is still  
speaking,

at  
the



United Church  
of Christ of  
Annapolis

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## From the Pastor's Desk

### *A UCCA Church Covenant*

This year we've been working on items related to our church identity. This past spring, based on work begun by the Council in their February retreat, we articulated our congregation's **Core Values**:

As followers of Jesus we value:

*God's love for all people*—conveyed in our welcome and inclusion of all persons, whatever their age, race, gender, orientation, condition or faith.

*Worship*—expressed in joy.

*Faith*—nurtured by learning and expressed in deeds of ministry and service.

*Community*—known in fellowship and care, forgiveness and grace.

*The United Church of Christ*—especially: its commitment to justice; its openness to all people and its respect for other opinions, voices, and faiths; and, its conviction that “God is Still Speaking!”



A second congregational identifier is a church covenant—a set of promises we make to each other for our life together. Often such statements flow down from church leadership, from a church council or consistory. But, for the promises to have a ring of authenticity, a more appropriate direction might be a flow up from the pews. This direction fits well, I think, with our Council's commitment to help our people find their own voice—rather than, as some feel, that everything comes down from just a few.

With this in mind, three weeks ago I visited our Tuesday Brown Bag Book Study—a group more identified, I suppose, with people in the pews than with those in leadership. I shared with them that I thought the Epistle for the previous Sunday, Romans 12:9-21, sounded like good advice for congregational life—and asked if they'd be willing, with Paul's advice in mind, to fashion a draft of covenant that they thought would fit our church.

They said, yes—enthusiastically. And, here's the result of their work:

#### **UCCA Church Covenant Draft** (prepared by the *Tuesday Brown Bag Book Study*)

As followers of Jesus Christ called together as the *United Church of Christ of Annapolis*, we covenant together to love each other genuinely—not in words only, but by the ways in which we speak and live with each other. We promise to listen to one another and to learn to place ourselves in the other's place—and knowing their hopes and fears, joys and troubles, to offer our solidarity and help.

We promise to be a church that never gives up on ourselves or others when times are hard. We will seek to learn patience and faithfulness in prayer—and, even more so when times are difficult. When we think ourselves always right or better than the other, we will pray for humility and for correction. And, for those we consider our enemies, we will pray God's blessings on them and seek to repay mistreatment, not with like behavior, but with kindness and mercy.

We promise to be a church that follows Jesus by living in peace, working for justice, serving those in need, and by being a welcoming home to everyone, without exception, who comes our way. We will express our faith by being joyous in worship, open in learning, compassionate in ministry, strong in fellowship, and loving in witness.

And, above all, we promise to be grateful for the grace that is ours through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for the gift of being a part of this community of faith.

*(The Pastor's Desk continued on page 3)*

**MODERATOR'S REPORT ON THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING**

The planned Council meeting of August 28<sup>th</sup> was rescheduled to Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, due to the hurricane. The Council approved the minutes of the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council also received and accepted both the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, there were no issues or concerns raised. The overall financial condition of the church remains sound. The Board of Trustees will be kicking off the budgeting process in the coming weeks as we begin to prepare for the next fiscal year. The budget is a reflection of our vision, hopes, and desires for our church, I encourage everyone to express their ideas, thoughts, and recommendations to the Trustees.

Reverend Glaze gave his Pastor's Report. He noted the Tuesday Brown Bag Bible Study Group had discussed a church covenant to express, in writing, our commitment to each other as a church family. Reverend Glaze encouraged the Group to develop a draft of such a covenant that he would bring to the congregation for their review and acceptance. He shared a passage from Romans to use as a guide. The Pastor's report also discussed the Search Committee's completion of the congregational survey and they are working on analyzing the results. It is clear from the Committee that our vision for our church is coming together. Based on the last years discussion and this survey Reverend Glaze noted we should be able to answer the questions, What do we want our church to look like? What is the vision of our church?

Reverend Glaze's report went on to address the desire of the congregation, based on prior year's survey and this survey, to move to become an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church. Reverend Glaze proposed a careful, well-thought out process to address that issue. The Council discussed how to proceed and the importance of going through a process to help congregants become comfortable and welcoming of such a designation. Our plan would take several steps during the month of October (e.g., guest from UCC church life, someone from Lexington Seminary), with an eye toward becoming ONA by December. The Council unanimously agreed to move forward.

This years Nominating Committee was established with Lydia Morrow, Shirley Mack, and subsequent to this meeting Kelly Boehringer, serving to find people to fill the following positions: Moderator-elect, Secretary, Parish Life, and Missions. I encourage all of you to consider participating in the lay leadership of our church and contact Shirley, Lydia, or Kelly to express your interest or suggest a candidate. Of course, the Committee will also be reaching out to you! One more thing on this topic, we are empowered as members of the United Church of Christ of Annapolis to be stewards, if you will, of our congregation through official Council and Committee Chair positions as well as participating on existing committees, forming small less formal, or informal, groups to address a need or task, or individual actions such as volunteering for coffee hour, participating in "work

Saturdays", candy making or sales, straightening out the pews after service, or driving people to service, the list could go on. It is both the big things and small things we do that makes us good stewards of our congregation and community.

The Council has agreed to streamline the process for the Mission Committee to select and disburse funds to local mission needs they identify. The Committee will now make their selection and disbursement without having to go through a formal Council approval process. It was decided that because we have approved and allocated funding for Missions, the Committee should be empowered to make their informed selections. The Committee Chair will keep the Council informed and, when they deem necessary, bring issues and/or requests to the Council.

The Godly Play curriculum begins anew as our Children's Sunday School program kicked off on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have an interest in helping support our Sunday School program as a teacher, helper, or in any other way, feel free to contact Michelle Cooper or Anita Rizek.

The UCC of Annapolis does not currently have any representation in the Greater Annapolis Inter-Faith Network (GAIN). We have had to decline participation in the upcoming October GAIN event, but have communicated that we hope to be able to participate in future activities. Rev. Glaze mentioned that the Pastoral Search survey revealed a strong desire to be involved in ecumenical events. If you have any interest in learning more about GAIN and how we can become, again, a participant, please contact Reverend Glaze.

The last item of business was addressing the question: Does the UCC of Annapolis Council have relevance to the congregation? We are concerned with the past lack of interest in participation in the lay leadership of this church evidenced by several the long time vacant positions the Nominating Committee is trying to help fill. Is this because the congregation has the perception of a dysfunctional leadership structure, or the perception your hopes, desires, and aspirations for this church are not being heard, or the Council is focused on the day-to-day, or month-to-month, and lacks vision or planning for the future of this church? I believe the relevance of lay leadership is in the effectiveness of moving the church in the direction the congregation wants, being able to address the big things, little things, and everything in between, and the full participation of all of our members in our leadership. Tell us what you think.

The Council will meet again on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Council meets in the church office and, as always, you are welcome to attend and we will always make time for any comments you may have.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer from Reverend Glaze.

**The UCCA Council will meet October 30 at 7:30 p.m.**

## Worship Volunteers

<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgists</u>
<b>October 2:</b> Mathilde Smallwood and Bob Basil	Mike and Lynne Ansara	Mary Bossé
<b>October 9:</b> Barbara Bickel and Jean Reantillo	Bob Basil and Michelle Cooper	Bill Mitchell
<b>October 16</b> Enid Wakeman and Angelika Burgermeister	June Watson and Sharon Flowers	Mark Kidwell
<b>October 23:</b> John and Bonnie Roschy	Jim and Cindy Nowe	Nancy Mallory
<b>October 30:</b> Shirley Long and Margit Fox	Jean Reantillo and Jean Eger	Cherry Krueger
<b>October 2:</b> Communion Preparation—Bread: Lydia Morrow, Wine: Margit Fox		

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### OCTOBER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL GODLY PLAY LESSONS

In Sunday school for the month of October, we move from the story of creation to the re-creation of the world. God promises to Noah, to God's family, and to us that God will never again destroy the world with a flood. In Godly Play presentation for the flood, children watch as the rains fall and waters rise, while God keeps Noah and his family safe in the Ark. We continue to seek the elusive presence of God. Abraham and Sarah discover that God is present everywhere, putting their lives on the line to test the promises of God.

We continue with God accompanying his people as they "went out"(exodus) from slavery into freedom through water. The people of God look back to this time to sustain themselves when God is hidden and they feel lost. Especially for the Jews, the Feast of the Passover keeps alive this core event. For Christians, Baptism reawakens this event.

We continue to witness God's elusive presence with God's people on three occasions at Mt. Sinai. First, in the burning bush when God revealed to Moses the name of God. Second, when God gave the ten commandments to the people through Moses. Third, when, after breaking the tablets in anger, Moses climbed up Sinai to receive the ten commandments a second time.

Teacher. Michelle Cooper will teach in October.



*(From the Pastor's Desk, page 1)*

I could not be more pleased with, and grateful for, their work—but that's just me. What do you think? I'd be interested in hearing your impressions, and if you think these promises fit well our congregation and are worthy of our saying them together.

Grace,  
Pastor Joe

## GAIN

**Fifth Annual Celebration of Annapolis Faith Communities and Good Works  
Sponsored by the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN)**

*Sunday, October 23, 2011, 2 to 5 p.m .  
'Pip' Moyer Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane,  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403*

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Missions Committee**

**Local Mission Giving**

UCCA gave \$250. to Hoffman Homes for Youth in June and included an article in our Summer 2011 newsletter which told of their history with UCC and their current primary mission which is to provide comprehensive psychiatric care, treatment and education to emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families. (For more information about this agency, see [www.hoffmanhomes.com](http://www.hoffmanhomes.com)). We subsequently received a thank you letter.

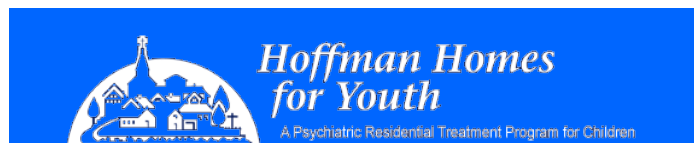
Then recently, we received another letter from the Hoffman Homes CEO, C. Mitchell Snider, indicating that this agency has an emergency and the following has been excerpted from that letter:

“The water lines leading from our main water supply tower are severely corroded and need immediate replacement.

Unfortunately, we were unaware of the level of corrosion when making our financial plans for this year, and the \$20,000 replacement cost was not factored into our budget.

If 100 churches would commit to sending an extra \$200 this year, we can raise the \$20,000 that is needed and fix the problem. Will you be 1 of the 100?”

The UCCA Missions Committee has therefore chosen Hoffman Homes for our October giving and we will be one of the one hundred to help with their emergency.



**Special Offerings:**

One Great Hour of Sharing.....	\$655
Strengthen the Church.....	\$477

**October 9, 2011—Neighbors in Need Offering**

The NIN offering supports:

- The UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.
- Our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries.

**Neighbors in Need** helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously.

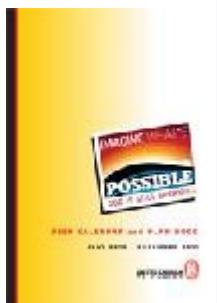
**More Mission : Pumpkin Patch**

**Pumpkin**

*(Continued on page 5)*

**United Church of Christ’s Desk Calendars are here!**

Please see Kathy Walker to receive your UCC Desk Calendar. The cost is \$15:00. Please give your money or check to Graham Cheek.



**United Church of Christ**

Mission: 1

11.1.11 – 11.11.11

This UCC November mission will be focused on feeding the hungry and confronting food related injustice. From November 1 – November 11, we are asked to make an extra special effort. Nationwide, UCC plans to collect \$111,111 through online contributions in order to better address hunger in the United States. They also will offer more than 11,111 letters to Congress asking our government to reform foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide.

Our UCCA Missions Committee, with Pastor Joe, discussed this mission and encourages each and every member to join us in our proposed activities to support this mission. These will include:

Increasing our effort to fill the pantry of Light House, a homeless prevention support center in Annapolis, throughout November and to keep a count of what we collect

A Youth canvass of the Wilelinor community to invite them to join us in our pantry collection for Light House

Volunteering to prepare and serve meals at Light House

A Letter Writing Sunday on November 6<sup>th</sup> after church.

You will be hearing more about this as the dates, 11-1-11 – 11.11.11, come closer. For more information now, go to [ucc.org/mission1](http://ucc.org/mission1).

**October's Highlights**

- October 2:** Blessing of the Animals  
World Communion Sunday  
Search Committee meets at 12:00
- October 4:** Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- October 9:** Trustees meet at 12:00 p.m.
- October 16:** 3rd Sunday Luncheon following the service
- October 23:** Pumpkin Patch at St Martin's from 10:00 noon—6:00 p.m. See Mission's page.
- October 26:** Newsletter articles are due
- October 29:** 2nd Fall Work Day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 30** UCCA Council meets at 12:00 a.m.

*(Missions: Pumpkin Patch continued from page 4)*

**Patch**  
**(supporting the Light House Shelter)**  
From October 8-31, 2011

On Sunday, October 23, the UCCA will partner with St. Mary's to help with the Pumpkin Patch at St. Martin's Lutheran Church at the corner of Spa and Hilltop Roads. Our time frame is from 10:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. in shifts of 2-hours or more. We need money collectors, pumpkin measurers, baked goods and sales persons.

Also, you can help by contributing baked goods. These baked goods can be left in the church kitchen on Saturday or brought directly to the pumpkin patch on Sunday.

The sign-up sheet with more details is on the Mission's bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Cindy Nowe. Thanks.



Last year's  
Pumpkin  
Patch



**Brown Bag Book-Study**

The Brown Bag Book Study group meets on Tuesdays from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.



The usual process for our BBBS group is to enjoy lunch or perhaps just a beverage together from about 12:30 until 1 o'clock. From 1 p.m. to about 1:30 we catch up with each participant's recent activities as well as their prayer concerns. Then our hour of study begins with prayer and we finish our session by 2:30. If you are available during this time frame, we would be happy to have you and we encourage you to join us. If you have questions, feel free to call either Carl Fogle or Nancy Mallory.

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**UCCA Financial Report**  
**Y.T.D. as of August 31, 2011**

	Actual	Budget
Income .....	\$119,512	\$111,615
Expenses .....	\$105,507	\$110,196
Net Profit .....	\$ 14,005	\$ 1,418
Cash Flow .....	\$ 33,030	

*(GAIN continued from page 3)*

Please join with us in the fifth annual gathering and celebration of Annapolis faith communities and service organizations to share information about what your group is doing to benefit our community.

**ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- Learn what other faith communities are doing and share information about your faith community outreach programs
- Identify opportunities for partnering and networking to increase the impact of each faith community project
- Meet and get to know members and leaders of other Annapolis-area faith communities
- Identify areas on which our community needs to focus, and explore ways to make our Greater Annapolis Community even better

For more information, or if you wish to have a table, please contact:

- Dianne Crews ([dmackcrn@verizon.net](mailto:dmackcrn@verizon.net))  
410-268-9741 or Sandy Solomon  
([annapolissandy@gmail.com](mailto:annapolissandy@gmail.com)), 410-263-2471

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS STEWARDSHIP**

**HURRICANE IRENE.** A huge thank you to Bob Basil for his nearly round the clock coverage of the CCO basement flooding (many, many gallons of water removed). Thanks to Bob's tireless efforts and vigilance, UCCA suffered only minor damage. Some of Bob's pre-Hurricane preparations included:

- installed 7 green extensions to the downspouts to allow rain water to flow away from the buildings
- put concrete blocks on dumpster to keep lids down
- took grate off of drain by front parking lot
- secured playground equipment
- elevated all items off the floor in CCO basement



**DUCTLESS AIR AND HEATING SYSTEM FOR CCO:** Installation was completed this summer and UCCA immediately experienced the benefits of our new system: lower electric bills and a quieter and more comfortable work environment for our pastor, secretary, and counselors. A huge thank you to all of those who donated toward the project. We collected \$5,701 which covers every payment through 2011. Now we need your help again to cover the 2012 payments (\$10,500 needed). Please consider making a designated donation toward this project -- simply write "CCO Mini-split" in the memo section of your check.

**SEPTEMBER WORK DAY CHURCH ANGELS:** Bob Basil; Barry Dey; Lee Dodson; Rev. Glaze; Mark Kidwell; Gary Peresta; Anita, Chris, Lilian, Meredith, and James Rizek; and Kathy Walker.

Accomplishments: Cleaned out and organized Nursery and Sunday School rooms; moved tile and table to CCO basement; weeds, weeds, weeds pulled; cleared out dirt and re-sloped area in front of CCO so water drains away from basement

**SUMMER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Thank you to Bob Basil for:

- installation of exhaust fan in CCO upstairs bathroom
- replacement of CCO rear door entrance
- disconnecting of CCO attic fan
- cleaned mildew from ceiling of Ladies bathroom in Church building, sealed and repainted ceiling
- painted electrical room floor
- coordinated with BG&E in their tree/brush removal to 15 feet of all power lines

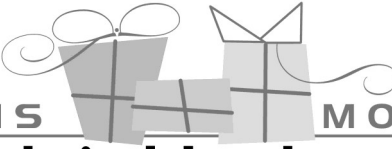


Thank you to Bob Basil and Lilian, Meredith, and James Rizek for adding a rainbow of color to our playground equipment with new paint.

**NEXT WORK DAY:** Our next work day is set for **October 29 from 10 to 2**. Our work days are a wonderful opportunity to learn more about your fellow congregants and give your time and talents to our church. Please consider giving even one hour of your time. If we have 5 people give us one hour each -- that's five hours of help! We do not need a long commitment from you, we just need more church angels to help with the stewardship of our buildings and grounds.



Pictures by Anita Rizek



**\* THIS MONTH'S \*  
birthdays**


**October**

Linda Pittelli ..... 04	Andrew Peresta ..... 12
John Williams ..... 05	Michael Ansara ..... 25
Nancy Mallory ..... 09	Lori DeBoy ..... 25
Portia Hutton ..... 10	Spence Gulick ..... 28
Shirley Long ..... 10	Kaitlin Krueger ..... 30

*Host a Coffee Hour  
Please Sign up*

**Remember Fellowship Time snacks can be as simple as cookies and/or cake with coffee and juice**

**Missing Dish**  
Perhaps, a dinner plate was borrowed after our August's 3rd Sunday Luncheon and not yet returned. Please return the plain grayish/white dinner plate to Kathy Walker. Thanks.



**UCCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Day October 29**  
from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



**UCCA October 2011**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 a.m.:Choir Rehearsl (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship Communion (S), Sunday School 11:30 a.m.: Fellowship (CH) 12:00 a.m.: Search Comm. 4: 00 p.m.: Blessing of the Animals (Memorial Garden) World Communion Sunday	3 4:00—6:15 p.m.: MT (CH)	4 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH) 4:30—7:00 p.m.: MT (CH) 7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal	5 9:15 a.m.—12:30 a.m.: MT (CH) 4:15—5:30 p.m.: MT (CH) 6:15—8:00 p.m.: MT (CH)	6 9:15—11:30 a.m.: MT (CH)	7	8 Yom Kippur
9 9:00 a.m.: Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship (S) Sunday School, 11:30 a.m.: Fellowship (CH) 12:15 p.m.: Trustees (CCO)	10 4:00—6:15 p.m.: MT (CH) Columbus Day	11 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH) 4:30—7:00 p.m.: MT (CH)	12 9:15 a.m.—12:30 a.m.: MT (CH) 4:15—5:30 p.m.: MT (CH) 6:15—8:00 p.m.: MT (CH)	13 9:15—11:30 a.m.: MT (CH)	14	15
16 9:00 a.m.: Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship (S) 11:30 a.m.: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Luncheon (CH)	17 4:00—6:15 p.m.: MT (CH)	18 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH) 4:30—7:00 p.m.: MT (CH)	19 9:15 a.m.—12:30 a.m.: MT (CH) 4:15—5:30 p.m.: MT (CH) 6:15—8:00 p.m.: MT (CH)	20 9:15—11:30 a.m.: MT (CH)	21	22
23 9:00 a.m.: Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship (S), Sunday School 11:30 a.m.: Fellowship (CH) 12:00 p.m.: Council Meeting (CCO) 12:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.: Pumpkin Patch at St. Martin's	24 4:00—6:15 p.m.: MT (CH) Newsletter Articles are due	25 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH) 4:30—7:00 p.m.: MT (CH)	26 9:15 a.m.—12:30 a.m.: MT (CH) 4:15—5:30 p.m.: MT (CH) 6:15—8:00 p.m.: MT (CH)	27 9:15—11:30 a.m.: MT (CH)	28	29 10:00 am—2:00 p.m. 2nd Fall Workday
30 9:00 a.m.: Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship (S), Sunday School 11:30 a.m.: Fellowship (CH)	31 4:00—6:15 p.m.: MT (CH)					

BBBS= Brown Bag and Book Study, MT = Music Together S = Sanctuary, CH = Caton Hall, CCO = Cornerstone/Church Office Building