

God is still  
speaking,

at  
the



United Church  
of Christ of  
Annapolis

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### From the Pastor's Desk

#### On Being *Open and Affirming*

In UCCA's congregational meetings and surveys during the summer of 2010, in the Congregational Survey just completed by the Pastor Search Committee, and in numerous other settings, a strong and consistent desire has been made known that UCCA pursue becoming an officially designated *Open and Affirming* congregation. And, at the February 2011 Church Council Retreat it was agreed that we would address this desire in the fall of this year.

Here's what it means to be *Open and Affirming* (from our United Church of Christ website): To say that a UCC congregation is *Open and Affirming* means that it has publicly and specifically declared that those of all "sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" (or "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender" people) are welcome in its full life and ministry (e.g. membership, leadership, employment, etc.). A congregational vote is required.

Some have questioned the need to pursue the matter since our congregation already is, in practice, open and affirming—welcoming and inclusive of all people. But UCC policy requires that we declare that we are, by congregational decision, after a study of pertinent issues.

Several weeks ago we distributed a congregational survey seeking to determine our readiness for addressing the matter, to ascertain where the congregation really is on the issue, and to find out what you need to know to help with your decision.

Of the 48 surveys returned (a great response for our size congregation), 46 said they would vote "yes" if a vote were held today; two said they would like more information. When asked if there had any concerns, the majority of respondents said they had none—and of the concerns listed the one receiving the most checks (at 8) was that fearing that addressing the subject might be divisive.

We all understand how past history might raise such a concern, but if the past months are an indication, you've made great strides in your speaking and listening skills, your "holy manners." I'm confident you'll handle this with great civility and respect. In fact, the survey indicated your desire that we make certain *all* voices are heard.



Of the things you'd like to hear about, almost all of you said that while you've heard what some say the Bible says about homosexuality, you'd like to find out for yourselves. And, you said that while you're generally familiar with UCC policy, statements, positions and actions on the matter of the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the life of the church, you would like to know more.

So, here is the plan. On these dates we will address:

Sunday, November 13. *What does Hebrew Scripture really say about homosexuality?*

Sunday, November 20. *What does the Apostle Paul really have to say about homosexuality?*

Sunday, November 27. *What LGBT persons need from the church*—Vicky Hesse, guest presenter.

Sunday, December 4. *What do you think Jesus would say?* And, a personal word from our own Enid Wakeman.

Friday, December 9. A viewing of the award winning documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So*—through the experiences of five very normal families, including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, we'll see how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child and reconcile their faith with the reality of homosexuality.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**The Council met on Sunday, September 25, 2011.** The Council approved the minutes of the September 4th Council meeting. The Council received and accepted both the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's report, there were no concerns or issues raised. The overall financial condition of the Church is sound.

Reverend Glaze and Shirley Mack noted the upcoming meeting with the ushers to go over procedures for opening and closing the church each Sunday.

The Nominating Committee was fully formed with the inclusion of Kelly Boehringer. The Committee consists of Shirley Mack, Lydia Morrow, and Kelly. Please contact these individuals if you wish to participate on the Council or Committees, or know of someone who may be interested.

Our Stewardship Campaign theme is "Count Yourself Blessed". We have ordered the pledge cards and plan to expand the pledging to include time and talents. Look forward to more in November when we start our campaign.

Nancy brought to our attention the Hoffman Homes for Youths is having an emergency funding need. We agreed with the recommendation to meet this need and place mission funds there instead of the planned contribution to Hospice. We found this to be a greater need that would be more impactful to the Hoffman Homes for Youths.

Bob has volunteered to chair our annual egg-making event. We look forward to having volunteers help out making the eggs and pretzels. Please sign up to help.

The Board of Trustees has begun the annual budget process. Bob noted the Board's budget is a little more aggressive from last years, though we still need the congregations input to where we should spend our resources. It is also noted that the budget will be including further capital expenditures to replace one of our four air conditioning units for the church building. We will also need to replace the other three within this budget year. We have the funds in our building fund accounts for this purpose and the purchase will be on a monthly payment basis to lessen the cash drain from these accounts. However the budget will need to incorporate a replenishment program that will span three to five budget years. Also, like the improvement we made to the Cornerstone and Church office for heating and air conditioning, we hope to have additional support through donations and fund raisers to help replenish our reserves or pay down the costs.

Lastly, Bob noted that Hope House has merged with another group which will allow them to provide more patients to Cornerstone, which is reflective of the good care and services this mission of ours provides.

The meeting ended with the closing prayer from the Moderator.

**The Council held its regular meet on October 30, 2011;** however, the Council is not scheduled to formally meet again until January 8th due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. I would like to take this time to give you a brief outline of what was discussed so that everyone is current on the Council meetings.

The Council received and accepted both the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's report, there were no concerns or issues raised. As of October, the overall financial condition of the Church is sound.

We discussed the results of the survey for becoming an Open and Affirming Church (ONA). Reverend Glaze stated we will have some guest clergy and other speakers discussing being ONA, the first on November 7th and then on December 11th. We will also plan a "Movie Night" on this topic showing the film "The Bible Tells Me So" on December 16th. In January, we as a congregation will begin writing our own UCCA ONA statement. We would appreciate having volunteers work with Reverend Glaze to begin creating a statement framework to bring to the congregation in January.

We also discussed thoughts on the Stewardship campaign and are considering posting a list of various jobs that need to be done around the church. This is an opportunity for you to apply your time and talent to a specific task at your own schedule. We have done this in the past but hope to have more success this time. We are always stewards of our church. Please take a look and see how you can help.

The Nominating Committee is progressing very well, and some of you have expressed an interest in taking a lay leadership role. Thank you to those the committee is talking to, and I hope there are others that would like to talk to the committee too!

The Heifer Project will begin on November 20th and 27th with the children raising funds. Also the children will perform a Christmas show in December. We have a wonderful Christian Ed program and we look forward to your continued support of our children.

Budget cuts for the state and local governments in Maryland are having a negative impact to Cornerstone as government funded services are being cut back or eliminated. Cornerstone, like many other organizations, rely on these services to provide low cost and no cost services to people in real need. In these more difficult times the demands on Cornerstone have only increased. Continue to pray for Cornerstone, their patients, and their staff, as well as our elected leaders to find ways to get much needed help to our people.

## Worship Volunteers

### Greeters

**November 6:** Mathilde Smallwood and Bob Basil

**November 13:** Barbara Bickel and Jean Reantillo

**November 20:** Enid Wakeman and Angelika  
Burgermeister

**November 27:** John and Bonnie Roschy

### Ushers

Mike and Lynne Ansara

Bob Basil and Michelle Cooper

June Watson and Sharon Flowers

Jim and Cindy Nowe

### Liturgists

Enid Wakeman

Carl Fogle

Bob Basil

Peggy Kidwell

**November 6:** Communion Preparation—Bread: Jean Eger, Wine: Cathy Sanders

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### November Discoveries for Our Children. I wonder...

The children ended October with a lesson on the ark of the covenant and when Moses experienced God's presence in the tent of meeting. November continues with a lesson on the ark and the temple. When the temple was finally built it reflected a new way of thinking about the experience of God's presence. The nomadic transitoriness of presence becomes a cultic presence of proximity. God no longer sojourns but abides. Meeting with openness shifts to an expanding need for certainty about God's presence. When King Solomon prays at the temple's dedication he gives voice to this tension, but the tendency to think of God as being only in the temple will grow and distort the people's search for the true, living God.

Next, we explore the exile and return. We hear about Abraham and Sarah who traveled away from their home, a land where people thought that gods were in each thing - such as in the sky, in a river, or in a tree. The understanding that all of God might be everywhere sustained Abraham and Sarah as they finally made their way to Canaan, where Isaac was born. And God was there. Even though this journey is forced onto God's People, the same astounding discovery is made. God was not just in one place, in the temple in Jerusalem. God was also in a foreign and strange land. God's presence is not here or there, but everywhere, waiting. To be found. To find us.

And each lesson ends with the same wondering time...time to pause, reflect, and absorb.

Now, I wonder what part of the story you liked best?

I wonder what part of the story is most important?

I wonder where you are in the story?

I wonder what part of the story is about you?

I wonder if there is any part of the story we could leave out and still have the story?



Please feel free to share in our lessons and learn along with us -- whether by joining us during lesson time, reading the lessons independently, working with the materials in the classroom, and/or by helping to make our materials. But above all, we hope that you will ask the children about their lessons to give them the opportunity to share what they have learned.

Teacher: Anita Rizek will teach in November.

Missions Committee

November UCCA Local Giving  
Maryland Food Bank

In keeping with Mission: 1, UCCA's recipient for our November local giving is to the Maryland Food Bank. This agency has been working to address the issue of hunger in Maryland since 1979. With a focus on the food needs of the poor, ill, needy and homeless, they strive to access all possible sources of support including industry, government, agencies such as churches, and individuals. They use both donated and purchased food and have a broad network for distribution. Workers include paid and volunteer staff. To learn more, please contact:

Maryland Food Bank  
P.O. Box 17369 (located at  
2200Halethorpe Farms Road)  
Baltimore, MD 21297-1369  
410-737-8282

[www.mdfoodbank.org](http://www.mdfoodbank.org)



Help Stock the Light House Pantry

UCCA has accepted the responsibility to help stock the Light House Pantry each November and it is that time again. Throughout November, please bring your donations to church and place the non-perishable foods and other household items on the collection table at the front of the sanctuary.



If you would like more information regarding specific needs, there is a list of most needed items on the Missions bulletin board in Caton Hall.

Thank you for your help!



HEIFER IS EMPOWERING WOMEN IN INDIA



Amka Village is one village where Heifer's Adharshila-Empowering Women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Livelihoods and Community.

Mission: 1  
11.1.11 – 11.11.11

A special UCC effort to to alleviate hunger:

Here's what we're doing here at UCCA, under the leadership of our Missions Committee:

- On November 6th, **sending letters to our Maryland U.S. Representatives and Senators** urging their support of legislation to address fairly and compassionately the needs of the poor and hungry. This coming Sunday, November 6, volunteers with laptops will take your home address and email address and electronically send letters to your congress-people.
- **Collecting hundreds of pounds of food for Light House Shelter.** Please bring non-perishables with you to worship during November and put them on the collection table at the front of the Sanctuary. **And, UCCA youth, please go throughout you neighborhood and collect from your neighbors!**
- **And, look below for a way our children will help us meet the needs of the world's hungry.**

UCCA CHILDREN COLLECT DONATIONS FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL Following worship on November 20 and 27

About Heifer: To End Hunger & Poverty

Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, we empower them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope.

With gifts of livestock and training, Heifer helps families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways. Heifer refers to the animals as "living loans" because in exchange for their livestock and training, families agree to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need. It's called Passing on the Gift – a cornerstone of its mission that creates an ever-expanding network of hope and peace.

Please help provide livestock, seeds, or training to a family struggling with hunger and poverty. If you would like to designate your gift for a particular animal purchase, please indicate as such in the memo section of your check (made out to UCCA). Below is what your dollars might buy:

Heifer.....	\$500	Milk Menagerie .....	\$1,000
Sheep .....	\$120	Flock of Chicks.....	\$20
Llama.....	\$150	Flock of Ducks.....	\$20
Water Buffalo.....	\$250	Flock of Geese .....	\$20
Goat.....	\$120	Trio of Rabbits.....	\$60
Camel .....	\$850		

(Pastor's continued from page 1)

Sunday, December 11. *Let's hear from the UCC*—where our larger church has taken its stand. Led by Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund, scholar in American church history and retired President, Hartford Seminary, a seminary historically-related to the UCC.

After our presentations and discussions, and after all voices are heard, we'll need to take a congregational vote and, if positive, approve an *Open and Affirming* statement crafted by the congregation and reflecting our position.

I look forward to walking with you through this process. And, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, I, or our Moderator, Jim Nowe, would be glad to hear from you.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joe

### November's Highlights

- BBBS** meets every Tuesday at 12:30
- November 1:** **Choir Rehearsal** meets at 7:30 p.m.
  - November 5:** **2nd Fall Workday Rain Date** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
  - November 6:** **Communion Sunday. Congressional Emailing Campaign** following the church service for the worlds needy
  - Search Committee** meets at 12 noon
  - November 13:** **Trustees** meet at 12 noon
  - November 20:** **3rd Sunday Luncheon** following the service, Missions Committee meets at 12 noon 10:00 noon—6:00 p.m.
  - November 25:** **Newsletter articles** are due

### More Mission : Pumpkin Patch Pumpkin Patch (supporting the Light House Shelter)

On Sunday, October 23, the UCCA partnered with St. Mary's to help with the Pumpkin Patch at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. Alex and I represented the Nowe family at the Pumpkin Patch. We helped to measure the pumpkins. Alex worked at the arts and crafts stand and helped carry the rotting pumpkins to the bins. Many thanks to the Rizeks, Bob Basil, Mathilde Smallwood, the Kidwells, and of course Graham Check and, also for the beautiful day we know whom else to thank. We made over \$3,975.00 that day.



Pictures by Anita Rizek

### 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 September 31, 2011

	Actual	Budget
Income.....	\$131,103.....	\$125,566
Expenses.....	\$125,497.....	\$123,988
Net Income .....	\$ 5,606.....	\$ 1,579
Cash Flow.....	\$ 24,042	

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS STEWARDSHIP

**NEXT WORK DAY:** Our next work day is set for this Saturday -- November 5 from 10 to 2 -- with lunch provided by our UCCA Brownbag Book Study group.

Some of the projects for our work day include:

- Sanctuary -- ensure batteries in and working and replace drip catchers for wax Christmas candles
- Caton Fellowship Hall closet -- sort candy making supplies, clean skillets, move boxes of chocolate to refrigerator in CFH
- Church Office -- Shorten mini-blinds to fit windows
- Kitchen -- Check labels and contents of cabinets and drawers and clean our refrigerator
- Sunday School room - ensure materials in order according to book

Outside:

- Replace flood lights on both buildings and one road sign bulb
- Steeple tower -- sand and paint ceiling and beams and check and repair mortar on brick column
- Gardens - last weeding for the year
- Rake and bag leaves
- Continue clearing fence line
- Paint 6x6 railroad ties by front church sign
- Clean up playground of leaves, limbs, and weeds
- Spread light covering of mulch on all flower beds
- Drain hoses and store in shed

As you can see, there is much to be done. If most of us can give even just one hour -- our work will be done. We do not need a lot of your time -- but we do need YOU!



**2012 CAMPAIGN FOR THE DUCTLESS AIR AND HEATING SYSTEM FOR CCO:**

In 2011, we collected \$5,701 -- enough to cover 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 AND OCTOBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Thank you to Bob Basil for:

- coordinating and overseeing installation of a battery back-up sump pump for CCO
- repair of closures on Church front doors
- shampooed CCO waiting room carpet
- reset clocks for daylight savings time
- monthly maintenance and upkeep of both of our buildings
- and all of our 3 plus acres

Thank you to Barry Dey for hauling away bulk trash in his big red truck!!!



Pictures by Anita Rizek

**Greater Annapolis Area Interfaith Network (GAIN)**

**International Interfaith Speaker and Dialogue**

**Thursday, November 10, 2011, 7-9 p.m.**

**At St. John Neumann's Catholic Church  
620 North Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD 21401**

Dr. Harriett Nettles is a college educator whose experiences have led to her deep concern over the Christian/Muslim divide that erupts into violence around the world. Her mission is to build bridges of understanding. She has taught conflict resolution, organized youth forums, and facilitated dialogue for various organizations in Nigeria, Liberia, Nepal, and Ghana. In February, she will travel to Pakistan to offer teacher training in how to promote religious tolerance with youth. She honors the work of individuals such as Mazhar Mallouhi and Mark Siljander who look deep into scripture and language to find our common ground.

How does international interfaith dialogue translate into Annapolis interfaith dialogue? What role can you play? Where can we each offer our gifts? Come and share your experiences. Let's find the common ground together.

In Harriett's own words, "I was invited to offer mediation

training at the Nigerian Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution in 2010. I was co-facilitating with members of the Interfaith Mediation Center, described in the film *The Iman and the Pastor*. The second day we were there, violence broke out in Jos and we huddled around the radio to see if the Interfaith office was burning. I watched on the news as a woman who had just given birth left her home in flames, with her belongings on her head.

This is the real human cost of religious division. For me, it is not a matter of doctrine, but of needless human suffering. I later found out that the youth in Jos responsible for the hundreds of dead were armed by a mainstream US Church who were convinced that they should send guns to protect the churches. This kind of thinking, based in fear, rather than love, poses a threat to global security."

We look forward to seeing you,  
Barbara Thomas, Chairperson,  
Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN)  
[Bthomas60@comcast.net](mailto:Bthomas60@comcast.net), 410-867-2473

**Sunday, October 30—Our children dressed for Halloween and displayed an important message to their congregation.**



God loves everyone—so everyone's welcome here!



Our faith grows by learning and Helping!



We're a family that loves, cares and forgives!  
(Who is this creature above?)

Worship is our joyful gift to God.



Because the UCC stands for:



Justice, respect, welcome and belief that "God is still Speaking!"



Lucy as acolyte

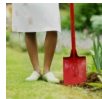
Pictures by Barbara Bickel

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

Chloe Sanders ..... 02	Jessie Brogan ..... 15
Merle Schreurs ..... 07	Peggy Kidwell..... 19
Joe Glaze..... 07	Chris Rizek ..... 24
Marc Sanders..... 11	

*Host a Coffee Hour  
Please Sign up*

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





**UCCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Day November 5**  
 Rain date from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
 Lunch provided by the BBBS group.



**UCCA November 2011**



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
Change on  
November 6**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Note: Nov. 6, UCCA will write letters to members of our Congress confronting food-related injustices around the world. This is part of the UCC Mission:1—"That they may all be 1" campaign from Nov. 1 through Nov. 11.</p>		<p><b>1 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH)</b> 5:45—7:00 p.m.: MT (CH) <b>7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal (S)</b></p>	<p><b>2 9:15 a.m.—12:30 a.m.:</b> MT (CH) (4:15—6:30 p.m.: MT (CH) (Reflects Monday's 5:15 pm class change)</p>	<p><b>3 9:15—10:45a.m.:</b> MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.:</b> Rain Date for 2nd Fall Workday</p>
<p><b>6. Daylight Savings time change</b> 9:00 a.m.: Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship, Communion (S), Sunday School 11:30 a.m.: Fellowship (CH) 12:00 p.m.: Letter writing to congressional delegates see note above</p>	<p><b>7 4:00—6:15 p.m.:</b> MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>8 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH)</b> 5:45—7:00 p.m.: MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>9 9:15 a.m.—12:30 a.m.:</b> MT (CH) 4:15—5:30 p.m.: MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>10 9:15—0:45a.m.:</b> MT (CH)</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Veterans' Day</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13 9:00 a.m.:</b> Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship (S), Stewardship Sunday, Sunday School, 11:30 a.m.: Fellowship (CH) 12:15 p.m.: Trustees (CCO)</p>	<p><b>14 4:00—6:15 p.m.:</b> MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>15 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH)</b> 5:45—7:00 p.m.: MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>16 9:15 a.m.—12:30 a.m.:</b> MT (CH) 4:15—5:30 p.m.: MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>17 9:15—10:45 a.m.:</b> MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20 9:00 a.m.:</b> Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship (S) 11:30 a.m.: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Luncheon (CH) 12:00 p.m.: Mission Committee (CCO)</p>	<p><b>21 4:00—6:15 p.m.:</b> MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>22 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH)</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thanksgiving</b></p>	<p><b>25 Newsletter Articles are due</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27 9:00 a.m.:</b> Choir Rehearsal(S) 10:30 a.m.: Worship (S), Sunday School 11:30 a.m.: Fellowship (CH)</p>	<p><b>28 4:00—6:15 p.m.:</b> MT (CH)</p>	<p><b>29 12:30 p.m.: BBBS (CH)</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>		