

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

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UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

CHURCH COUNCIL MODERATORS

2018-2019 has been another year of transition; the first complete year of a new Senior Pastor, as well as several other staff changes. The Council's activities have been a combination of keeping existing programs working and looking to the future, as we pick up the strategic planning process that was put only hold when the Edens announced their retirement. The following lists a few of the highlights coordinated by your Church Council during the past year.

- In August, we approved a revised Position Description for a new Organist and Assistant Music Director, approved modifications to the roles and responsibilities of the several of the existing office staff and approved hiring Ministry Architects to help us evaluate and optimize our children and youth programs.
- In September we participated in Cameron Barr's installation as our new Senior Pastor and developed an aspirational budget for the 2019 calendar year.
- On November 7, the Congregation approved the Aspirational Budget and authorized Council to adjust it based upon the results of the stewardship campaign. Council also establish a designated fund for emergency assistance for immigrants and decided to close the existing immigration fund when it is depleted.
- In December, the Council approved a preliminary operating budget for 2019 that was equivalent to the 2018 budget, while continuing to evaluate which budget increases were most critical and were compatible with expected revenue. Council also helped to organize a farewell for Susan Steinberg as our Associate Pastor.
- Council finalized the 2019 operating budget in January and approved adding a full-time Church Administrator and a part-time Parish Associate to assist with pastoral care and preaching. We also participated in a planning retreat to identify areas of special interest to be emphasized in the Strategic Plan.
- During our February meeting, the Council met with representatives of the IFC and agreed to ask the congregation to support IFC's Food First Capital Campaign. (This effort raised over \$80,000.) Council also agreed to a plan by which Nick Carter will support Cameron and the Council in structuring the strategic planning process and authorized Nick and Cameron to select a Coordination Committee to pull together the "Environmental Scan" (a description of existing UCCH programs, recent trends, and societal factors that should be considered in our planning, etc.) and to help facilitate other aspects of our Strategic Planning Process.
- In March Council approved draft position descriptions for the Church Administrator and Parish Associate, approved search committees for each of these positions, and distributed a UCCH Archive Policy that had been developed by the Trustees.
- The April meeting focused on coordinating nominations of board members for the 2019-2020 program year and discussing appropriate follow-up to concerns expressed during a Congregational Meeting on April 9, which focused on re-examining the existing UCCH governance and how budgets are developed and then finalized.
- During the May meeting, Council approved a Creation Justice Covenant and a slate of candidates for UCCH boards and committees, for presentation at the June 11 Annual Congregational Meeting. Council also discussed ways of accelerating the budget development and review process and discussed the draft Environmental Scan. Orientation of new Council and Board members was scheduled to occur after the June 11 Congregational Meeting.

Once again it has been a wonderful year for our church and its works in the community. We are ever grateful for your support and assistance as we continue to do God's work!

Alecia Brower – Moderator

Gaylen R Brubaker – Assistant Moderator

2018 Church Register

01-01-2018 870
ADDED 29
REMOVED 16
12-31-2018 883

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

12 month average 1,353

ADDED (29)

Liz Sloan 1/21/2018
Tony Zimney
Stephanie Segar
Wil Heflin 3/4/2018
Charlotte Crittenden 5/13/2018 Confirmation
Patricia Eskenazi
Ann Marie Knight
Kylie Limerick
Ler Ba Noh
Zion Verinder
Maya Vermeer
Hsa Eh Paw Wah
Nathan Wang
Gary Boorman 5/20/2018
Jeff smith
Rex Mercer
Eh Pay
Paw Eh Moo
Cameron Barr
Jackson Den Herder
Alan Dickinson
Jan Humphry
Maribel Ceiza
Soteria Shepperdson 3/4/2018
Walter Fehr 5/20/2018
Pat Grimwood 9/9/2018
Brian Grimwood
Jodi Harrell
Phillip Harrell

REMOVED (16)

Death (6)
Marjoree Vaiden 2/11/2018
Stanley Peele
Hubert Cadle 4/25/2018
Fred Meier 5/3/1926 – 7/14/2018
Marilyn Patrikis
Marie Summers

TRANSFERRED BY REQUEST (10)

Ralf Schmid
Sue Baker
Mary Beth Pedersen
Laura Lane
Greg Lane
Richard Tarr
Kay Tarr
Miriam Jernigan
Patricia Cadle
Nancy Jones

TRANSFERRED TO INACTIVE (0)

BAPTISMS (3)

Simon Blake Fairman-Stokes 1/24/2018
Theodore Jay Sorensen 11/25/2018
Gabriel Spencer Sorensen 11/25/2018

MARRIAGES (0)

Board of Adult Education

Throughout the program year, the Board of Adult Education coordinate a wide range of offerings focused on deepening UCCH members' faith and supporting members' witness in the world. The Board worked with multiple internal and external groups, creating a rich mosaic of opportunities to aid our individual and collective Christian journeys. In an effort to work with the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry in Faith Formation, we began work with Ministry Architects. This is an ongoing effort that is a work in progress. There was a change in the Sunday Adult Forums as they included the new Pastor's Forum, led by Rev. Cameron Barr, with discussions of the Lectionary and current topics.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum topics and intergenerational events:

- Social Justice and Outreach Issues:
 - Voting Issues in a 4-part series; Faith and Citizenship, presented by Dianne Robertson (NC NCAAP), Ian McPherson and the Youth (gun legislation), Tye Hunter (NC threats to the judiciary), Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Slaveholder Religion)
 - Montgomery Pilgrimage Reflections led by Susan Steinberg, Jenna Kolling, Fred Joiner and Barbara Walburn
 - Church World Service preparing for the Alternative Gift Market
 - Guatemala Mission Trip, led by Rev. David Mateo
 - Pastor's Forums, (many Sundays) led by Rev. Cameron Barr, discussion of readings and current issues
 - “A Red Record,” investigating lynching in NC, presented by Prof. Seth Kotch
 - Debriefing “The Talk,” led by Sherick and Megan Hughes
 - Common Life Church & Farm, led by Sarah Horton-Campbell
 - Creation Covenant, a three-part series with discussions led by Alan Reed, Herman Green and Phil Wilson
- UCCH Congregational Issues:
 - Decommissioning O’Kelly’s Chapel, presented by Henry Lister and Rollin Russell
 - Celebration of Ministries (Adult Education) held in the Library
 - Intergenerational Workshop led by Cely Chicurel, making ornaments
 - Intergenerational Carol Sing w/Pick Up Orchestra
 - Intergenerational Letter Writing, Youth and Adults, Bread for the World
 - Souls to the Polls, panel discussion
 - Reception for Rev. Susan Steinberg

Sunday Morning Small Groups:

- **Faith and Family Class** is led by Toby McCoy and others. The theme of this class is how to create and celebrate faith in the context of family, however family is defined. This year topics came up about diversity; trauma; connections between belief, trust and faith; nurturing a sense of wonder and gratitude; teen issues; extended family members influence in our families; practical aspects of vacation planning, etc. The class ended with reading and discussing the book *Cleaning House: A Mom's 12-month Experiment to Rid her Home of Youth Entitlement*.
- **Spiritual Growth Class** is led by Cely Chicurel, read and discussed *On the Brink of Everything, Grace, Gravity and Getting Old* by Parker Palmer and *The Book of JOY, Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.

Board of Adult Education, cont.

Weekly Programs:

- **Monday Noon Book Group** is led by Nancy Duffner. Books read and discussed this year are *Stony the Road We Trod: An African American Biblical Interpretation* by Cain Hope Felder (editor), *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Tenacious Solidarity: Biblical Provocations in Race, Religion, Climate and the Economy* by Walter Brueggemann, and finally Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*.
- **Monday Evening Women's Group** is led by Barbara Wildemuth and Cindy Johnson. The group engages with books and other activities (such as walking the labyrinth or viewing a movie) intended to promote the spiritual development of the participants. Most often, we read a book and discuss it at our weekly gatherings. The books the group has discussed in the past year are:
 - *Way of Love: Recovering the Heart of Christianity*, by Norman Wirzba
 - *The Mother of All Questions*, by Rebecca Solnit
 - *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*, by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer
 - *No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters*, by Ursula K. Le Guin
 - *Shalom Sistas: Living Wholeheartedly in a Brokenhearted World*, by Osheta Moore
 - *The Home that Was Our Country*, by Alia Malek
 - *Sharp: The Women Who Made an Art of Having an Opinion*, by Michelle Dean
 - *This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female, and Feminist in (White) America*, by Morgan Jerkins
 - *Talking Taboo: American Christian Women Get Frank about Faith*, edited by Erin S. Lane and Enuma C. Okoro.All women of the church are invited to participate. The group meets at 7:15 each Monday in the UCCH Library.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** Join us for a one-hour study of God's Word in the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday.

Wednesday Evenings 6-4 Week Programs

- **Wednesdays Together series in the fall**
 - Words for and from Our Times: Poetry of Injustice, Healing and Hope, led by Associate Pastor Steinberg.
 - Separation of Church and State, presented by Rev. Rollin Russell.
 - Sojourning the Path of Grief, led by Rev. Mike Shannon.
 - Sacred Conversations to End Racism, led by Wanda H. and Debby Stroman.
 - Quilting: led by Denise Laux (6 weeks)
 - Collage: (4 weeks) led by Fred Joiner, creating collage in the style of Romare Bearden - Pottery:)2 weeks, led by Cely Chicurel
- **Light Up Your Winter Wednesday series in January & February**
 - Sacred Space Art Studio: Painting with Claudia Galvez and Rinnie Orr, and Children's pottery, winter painting and pillow sewing.
 - "Reconstructing the Gospel" led by Bill Murray.
 - The Gospel as Story Telling led by Mike Shannon
 - Peacemaking Close to Home led by Jack Denniston and members of the UCCH Peacemaking Scholarship Committee.
- **Lenten Series**, Unlearning the Habits of Slaveholder Religion by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove
- **Other Weekly Small Groups:** Spanish Conversations (Mondays, 6:30 pm), Quilts of Love (first Thursday 9:00 am in the Art Studio), Yoga (Fridays at 9:15 am), Meditation (Fridays at 11:00 am)

Board of Adult Education, cont.

Special Friday Evening and Saturday/Weekend Events:

- Pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL, to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum. The Racial Justice Institute shared a presentation with the group and on the way home pilgrims attended a worship service at the Ebenezer Baptist Church.
- Empty Bowls Ash Wednesday dinner, fundraiser for IFC, Cely coordinated bowl making, raised \$1,400!
- Blowing Rock Retreat, what brings you joy in these unsettling times? Using the book, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a changing World* by his Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, led by Rev. David Mateo, Rev. Ian McPherson and Rinnie Orr.



UCCH Library Activities: Barbara M. Wildemuth

The Library currently holds over 4600 items in its adult, children's, and audiovisual collections. Since May 2018, 532 items have been added to the collection. As items are added, other items (e.g., those that are older or have less appeal for UCCH users) are removed from the collection and donated to the PTA Thrift Shop.

Library materials are available for borrowing and can be located through the online catalog in the Library. Volunteers staff the Library on Sundays during the program year, 10:00-11:00. During the past program year, we have had enough volunteers to staff the library for less than 60% of the 36 Sundays. As might be expected, circulation is not as strong when there is less support for users. Thus, since May 2018, only 272 items have been borrowed; on average, 23 items per month (compared with 32 items per month last year). During the coming year, more effort will be put into recruiting additional volunteers, so that the Library will be staffed every Sunday during the program year.

The Library budget is used for new materials, but also provides support for the online catalog. Planning is underway to hold a book sale during the Celebration of Ministries in September 2019; any funds raised will be used for special items in the library.

Board of Children's Ministry

Working with our Director of Children's Ministries, church staff and wonderful congregation we focused on supporting the faith formation of our children and families.

Staffing: Anita Grove continued to serve as Director of Children's Ministry throughout the year.

Program content: Our Sunday School curriculum focused on following the Revised Common Lectionary using the Spark Lectionary Curriculum with a focus on opportunities to put faith into action. The VBS theme was Children are Welcome in Worship and was offered during the 9:30am worship hour with support from Pastor Ian McPherson.

Special Events-Saying Thank you and Goodbye to Pastor Susan: Children's Ministries offered a special Children's Church on November 18, 2018 to recognize Pastor Susan. We also supported a warm farewell for Pastor Susan Steinberg on December 2, 2018 along with Youth and Young Adults. There were many appreciation gifts and a reception following the 8:45am service. Children's Ministries collaborated with the Visual Arts Committee and Trustees to paint over the mural in the children's wing to create a Susan Steinberg Children's Art wall.

Core Programing:

- **Weekly Sunday School**, September to May, for an average of 29 children in 4 different age groupings. 13 teachers were recruited and trained. Meetings were held to review curriculum and exchange ideas. Teachers use the Spark Lectionary Curriculum with support from Anita Grove for supplemental literacy activities and additional insights into the lessons.
- **Children's Church:** Sunday School programming included three Children's Church services this program year. These services were led by each Sunday School age grouping with support from the Music Director, Pastoral Staff, Deacons, and with additional music support from Kathy Pause and Bea Price.
- **Weekly Sunday School offerings** totaling around \$600 are being donated to Transplanting Traditions Community Farm, <https://www.transplantingtraditions.org/>. Sunday School children also donated supplies and/or letters to IFC, Project Home start, the Refugee Support Center, Prison Ministries, and congregational members that are homebound.
- **Weekly nursery care** was provided for infants, toddlers and young children, staffed by a director, assistant director and three attendants for all three Worship services as well as for additional programming on Wednesday nights, Congregational Meetings, and Listening Sessions.
- **Weekly Faith and Family Class:** The group, facilitated by volunteers, focused on issues and current topics related to parenting.
- **Worship bags and book cart** are offered for weekly worship services in the Sanctuary. Worship bags were created for La Mesa complete with children's bulletins and books in Spanish.
- **Worship services** include a children's component; children's message, musical offering, or involvement in the service by children.
- **Professional Development:** Anita Grove, Director of Children's Ministries, has completed several professional development opportunities including; Godly Play training, REI training, Darkness to Light Training, and is currently participating in the Ministry Architect's Children's Ministry Cohort and on the renovation team for Ministry Architects.
- **Annual Events:** Vacation Bible School; Welcome Back Cookout; Blessing of the Backpacks; Pumpkin Party; Advent wreath-making; Christmas Giving Tree Outreach Project; Christmas Dinner; Christmas Eve service; Mystery Pals; Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service; Good Friday Stations of the Cross; Teacher Appreciation Brunch; Ice Cream Social and End of the Year Cookout.

Board of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

In June 2018, Acting Youth Director Katherine Henderson concluded her ministry at United Church of Chapel Hill and Associate Pastor Ian McPherson (who was Minister of Youth and Young Adult Initiatives until his ordination in January 2019) was hired. In the program year 2018-19, Pastor Ian and the Board of Youth and Young Adult Ministries ministered to the youth of UCCH (grades 6-12), offering education, worship, spiritual formation and care, and recreation. Pastor Ian also worked closely with volunteer leaders of the Young Adult Ministry to launch new programming for the 20s/30s group. Youth, parents, and volunteers have also contributed significantly to a Christian Education strategic planning process with Ministry Architects, which launched November 2018.

Youth Group

Attendance during this program year averaged 19 middle and high school students over the course of about 21 regular gatherings (11am on Sundays). Attendance for special events sometimes exceeded 40 students. The youth led about five church services this year: one in celebration of Pastor Susan Steinberg, one Youth Church in the spring, one special 11am service featuring youth liturgical leadership (with Youth Choir leading worship), and two services led by the Confirmation class.

Programming & Worship Highlights

LATE SUMMER/FALL 2018:

- 5 youth attend youth-focused “Race Matters” Racial Equity Institute training with Ian
- Rising 6th grade donut breakfast with Ian and Anitra
- Annual Celebration of Ministries: youth registration and parent outreach
- Fall Kickoff: “Midnight” Lock-In at the home of Lisa and Elaine Andrews-Lanier (over 40 youth in attendance)
- Fall program kick-off in recognition of Bi-Visibility Day (with ONA Ministries)
- Pumpkin Party
- Listening Session weekend with Ministry Architects
- Youth- and children-led worship in celebration of Pastor Susan Steinberg’s ministry at 8:45am on December 2
- Alternative Christmas Market—Poinsettias, coffee/hot chocolate/cider/soda, baked goods sold to raise money for youth program scholarships

WINTER/SPRING 2019:

- Blowing Rock UCC Youth Retreat (11 youth, 3 chaperones)
- Bread for the World letter-writing campaign
- Youth-led worship during 11am service on March 17th
- Youth Ministry Visioning Summit with Ministry Architects
- Youth Beach Retreat at Ft. Caswell (12 youth, 4 chaperones)
- Recognition and blessing of graduating seniors
- End-of-Year Cookout and Ice Cream Celebration (with Children’s Board)

SUMMER 2020:

- Christian Formation Summit with Ministry Architects
- Launching weeklong VBS + Music Camp experience with Children’s and Choral Ministries (with youth providing program leadership)
- John’s River Valley Camp attendance is down this year, but with the JRVC Director joining the BYYAM, we hope to increase attendance in summer 2020.

Board of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, cont.

Sunday School and Confirmation

- Maintained strong teaching teams
- Shifted Confirmation to 5pm Sundays with Pastor Ian and Laura Krull co-leading
- Launched new Confirmation curricula (*Confirm not Conform*) and High School Sunday School curricula based on Rob Bell's book, *What is the Bible?*—Middle School class continued using Re:Form from Sparkhouse
- For the program year, attendance averaged around 11 students in the Middle School class and 5 students in the High School Class. Confirmation had strong attendance throughout the year and resulted in the confirmation of 22 students.



Young Adult Ministry (20s/30s group)

- Launched monthly Pub Theology series
- Launched Queer Bible Study with 4-month “Queering the Gospels” series in spring 2019

Leadership Development

- BYYAM leaders took increasing ownership of youth ministry this year, from sharing chaperoning responsibilities to helping design/lead programming
- BYYAM has prioritized young adult representation for next year's cohort, hoping to strengthen the growing outreach to 20s/30s members.

Fellowship Board Ministry

The Fellowship Board is at the forefront of the extravagant welcome promised by the United Church of Chapel Hill (UCCH). The Fellowship Board organizes the dinners, potlucks, coffee hosts, coffee hours and major fellowship events of the church. This work is critical as many new members relate that the extravagant welcome is the reason they came back and eventually became members.

During the year the Fellowship Board organized the coffee hours at 10 am. A Fellowship Board member is responsible for a month of Sundays and the Fellowship Board member works with the coffee hosts. The goal is to have two coffee hosts if possible each Sunday and when there are no volunteer hosts a reserve of snacks and cookies are served. One of the goals of the Fellowship Board is to recruit coffee hosts for each Sunday.

Activities for the 2018- 2019 year include:

- Welcome back cookout and potluck. The Fellowship Board grilled chicken and everyone was invited to bring potluck fruit, salads, vegetables and vegetarian dishes. This occurred on the same weekend as the church cleanup (Saturday, August 26).
- Coffee hours at 10 am every Sunday
- Wednesdays Together Dinners (6 sessions) in September/October; dinners included fundraisers for Guatemalan mission trip, UCCH Sanctuary Committee, Prison Ministries, ONA Ministries, Music Ministries and UC Preschool.
- Light Up Your Winter (4 sessions) in January/February; dinners included fundraisers for Guatemalan mission trip, Chapel Hill/Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship, UCCH Sanctuary Committee and UC Preschool.
- Stone Soup Sunday in November
- Popcorn Sale at the Alternative Gift Market in November
- Christmas dinner in December
- Easter Sunrise Breakfast with extravagant coffee hour at 10 am. This varied from previous years with the sunrise breakfast in the assembly hall and the coffee hours in the assembly hall, outdoor tables (which were used very little because of the cold) and the fellowship hall. One table of snacks was left for after the La Mesa service. It was estimated that more than a hundred participated in the sunrise breakfast.

A new effort by the Fellowship Board is to make UCCH more environmentally friendly by improving recycling and reducing landfill waste. This effort is being lead by Susan Warwick. She is working with Alan Reed and Jon Haebig from Earth Ministries. Susan has met several times with members from Binkley Baptist congregation who are actively recycling and composting. Members of the Fellowship Board and Earth Ministries discussed this plan with Pastor Cameron in March and received his approval to move forward.

The effort will require education of the congregation, changes in some kitchen practices and a lot of effort. The goal is to begin education of the congregation in the coming year and to acquire recycling bins. The Fellowship Board has already purchased reusable plastic cups to replace the disposable plastic cups previously in use. Decreasing landfill waste is the goal. Eventually composting much of the waste including paper products by utilizing the facilities of Orange County Solid Waste Management is envisioned.

The Fellowship Board is a critical part of the extravagant radically welcome value of the UCCH. Members who want to be part of this fun group need to contact Lee Sorenson or Gary Boorman as Co-chairs of the Fellowship Board.

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons consists of twelve members and is responsible for supporting and enhancing all worship experience for our congregation. We oversee committees responsible for: Ushers, Music, Visual Arts, La Mesa Y Café, Sound, Taizé Worship, Faithfully Accessible, Health and Wellness Committee, Members in Discernment, Bereavement, and Laity Sunday.

Worship Services

- The Board prepared communion for the 8:45 services throughout the year, at the 11:00 for the first Sunday each month, and at the 9:30 summer services throughout the year. Communion also provided at children's church and youth church services throughout the year.
- Board increased the number of communion stations from 3 to 4 (one in the back) when personnel available.
- La Mesa meets Sunday at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Instead of having La Mesa separate in the budget and life of the church, we are working towards La Mesa to be considered another service on Sunday. Budgetary items reflect this change in thought.
- Board collected offering at the 8:45 and the summer 9:30 services in baskets at the front to reduce time during those services. After a trial period, Board returned to "passing the plate" at all services.
- Board changed the gluten-free bread to gluten-free vegan bread to be more inclusion of vegan diets.
- We assisted with Children's Church, Youth Church and Taizé Services.
- The Board supported the sound committee which continues to provide service recordings, hearing assists, a T-loop and sound in the narthex, family parlor, and Fellowship Hall.
- Usher scheduling is coordinated by Rinnie Orr, Director of Hospitality Ministries. Signup Genius is used to schedule ushers. Rinnie was available for assistance with the signup process on Sunday at the Welcome Table. The Board assisted Rinnie in putting together an Usher brochure. She is also publishing and mailing a monthly newsletter. Usher recruitment and training is conducted by the Board.
- The Board provided healing prayer during communion at all services.
- American Sign Language services were provided at the 11:00 service; Spanish/English translation was provided at the 11:00 La Mesa service.

Special Worship Services and Experiences

- The Board supported memorial services provided at UCCH.
- The Board, with assistance from Claudia Galvez, produced the annual Advent Devotional booklet. Contributions were made by the congregation.
- Laity Sunday is coordinated by the Board.

Members in Discernment

The Board approved the request of the following members in discernment:

- Angel Collie and Jesse Sorrell

Other

- The Board participated in the All Church Workdays, concentrating on the church sanctuary, sacristy, and narthex.
- Assisted in maintaining and updating the list of active members.
- Signup Genius is now being used for Healing Prayer during communion.
- Hymnal racks were installed on the back pew for use by those sitting in chairs.
- Board participated in the Celebration of Ministries as well as an informational 10:00 session.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Harrison and Kathy Neas, Board of Deacons 2018-2019 Co-Chairs

Visual Arts Committee

Members of the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) and areas of responsibility:

Natalie Boorman, Chair

Nick Carter, Advent and Easter Decorations

Cely Chicurel, Sacred Space Studio Classes

Dick Hill, Interior Decorations

Fred Joiner, Assist with Art Classes

David Taylor, Art Exhibits and Alternative Gift Art Show

Diane Whitney, Altar Flowers

Highlights of 2019:

- Ongoing classes in the Sacred Space Studio, organized by Cely Chicurel. This year we had a quilt making group who made a quilt out of T-shirts. This T-shirt quilt will soon be hanging in the church. Watch for it! Also, Fred Joiner taught a class in collage. Other classes included painting and pottery.
- We had new themes for our Advent Season decorations, this was led by Nick Carter. Many people helped including Jackson Herder, Diane Whitney, Denise Laux, Andrea Vizoso, and others. We hope to include more folks next year.
- Diane Whitney creates most flower arrangements on Sundays. She and Cely put the Flowering Cross together on Easter Sunday.
- Cely and a group of potters created the Empty Bowls project which resulted in a significant donation made to IFC.
- We've had several Art Exhibits throughout the years, thanks mainly to David Taylor, with help from Natalie
- The Art Show at the Alternative Gift Market moved the Assembly Hall this year. We made good adjustment and many artists had successful sales, resulting in another donation to IFC.

We look forward to some new folks joining our committee in the coming year. We thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Boorman, VAC Chair

Music Committee

A NEW ORGANIST, WORSHIP GROWTH AND AN EXPANDING TEAM OF DIRECTORS

After eight months as our primary interim organist and Chancel Choir accompanist, United Church thanked Julie Mitchell for her service and presented her with a framed photograph of her with the Chancel Choir. We also thanked Renée McBride for her leadership from the organ bench several Sundays. Our new Organist and Associate Director of Music, Robert Brewer, began his tenure on October 22. His skills as organist and harpist, expansive knowledge of liturgy and repertoire, exceptional abilities as a choral trainer, and long experience working with all ages and abilities of choirs make him a prized colleague for the music department and great resource for the church.

With the large growth in attendance of La Mesa worship at 11am in the Fellowship Hall, we realized the need for music leadership in order to remove this responsibility from Pastor David Mateo's shoulders. We began with summer worship in 2018 with several leaders, and then appointed Milo Fryling as the ongoing leader, beginning in the fall. The La Mesa band has grown in numbers and in amount of repertoire under Milo's leadership. A budget line was added in the 2019 budget which partially covers the La Mesa Music Director's salary. This will be supplemented with funds from other budget lines to ensure that this is funded through the end of the fiscal year.

In addition to the La Mesa Music Director position, funding was added in the current budget for two other adjunct music director positions, Director of Handbells and Chamber Singers Director. Half-funding was added for one choral scholar position for the Chancel Choir. These positions were funded through other music lines before they were added to the budget for the current year. They join the Director of United Voices of Praise and the Assistant Director/Pianist for Youth Choir positions.

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE: IN SONG, IN WORSHIP, WITH INSTRUMENTS

Children's Choir attendance ranged from 15 to 20 in Sunday morning 9:00 a.m. rehearsals. The diverse choir was made up of White children and Karen children and ranged in age from 4 years through 5th grade. The Children's Choir was directed by Jenny Anderson, and accompanied by Barbara Wildemuth. Mary McMillan and Helen Hoenig served as choir helpers.

On May 4 at 6pm and on May 5, during the 8:45am service, the Children's Choir performed the musical "It's Cool in the Furnace" by Buryl Red. The cast included 20 children, ages 4 through 5th grade. Jenny Anderson served as director and 10th grade Youth Choir member Olivia Ingledue as assistant director.

Youth Choir had 39 on the roll this year, and averaged 30 in attendance. They ranged in age from 5th to 12th grade. Four new robes and six new stoles were purchased in the fall to accommodate larger numbers. Gillian Fields served in her second year as Youth Choir Assistant, and Bob Brewer assisted, particularly with sectional rehearsals. In addition to her musical contribution, Gillian taught candidates in Voice for Life and coordinated lunches. The choir rehearsal schedule continued on Sunday afternoons, with lunch (provided by parents) from 12:00-12:30, rehearsal 12:30-1:45; Voice for Life sessions were held 1:45-2:45. The choir sang led the 8:45 service 9 times (including Palm Sunday and Easter) and the 11:00 service 4 times (including Confirmation Sunday). They also led 7pm service on Christmas Eve. Choir attendance was strong for both the Christmas Eve and Easter services, both firsts for the Youth Choir.

Music Committee, cont.

Chancel Choir served as the anchor choir primarily in the 11:00 service. In the spring they led worship a number of times at the 8:45 instead of the 11:00. They also led the 9pm service on Christmas Eve and the Maundy Thursday service. The biggest change this year was in the rehearsal day – a move to Thursday evening. A second change was the addition of choral scholars. In the fall the sopranos were joined by Julianne Vance and the altos by Madeline Lillich. Dale Bailey sang tenor or bass on an on-call basis. It was determined that the biggest need for choral leadership was in the soprano section, so with half-funding in the budget and a private gift Julianne's contract was renewed for 2019.

United Voices of Praise (UVoP) sings African American Gospel music. UVoP rehearses about twice a month and sings once a month at United Church, usually at the 8:45 service on the 3rd Sunday of the month, and at Fisher Church at the 10:00 service on the 5th Sunday of the month. We also sing at community events. Charles Bradshaw is the musical director and pianist. Brad Kintner (bass) and Odessa Shaw (percussion) also play for the choir. Vera Bennett conducts. The Bradshaw Quartet, with some UVoP members, presented the annual New Year's Eve concert, to benefit the Interfaith Council.

Karen Choir United Church was fortunate to have members of the Karen community, dressed in their colorful Karen clothing, share music with us at the 8:45 service twice this year. The Karen choir, which numbers around 30-40 singers, is a multi-generational group, from pre-school to grandparents. They are led by Paw Yeh.

The Commas formed out of love of close harmonies from various traditions, including old-time hymns, gospel, shape note, Appalachian and bluegrass music. This June marks the 5th anniversary of our first performance, conceived by Julie Mitchell, along with Jody Forehand and Kathy VandenBerg. The group has expanded to include Matt Rosamond, Craig Smith, Doug Zabor; and this past year, Katherine Henderson and her talented boys Owen and Baxter. Various combinations of the Commas sang and played at sanctuary services in June, September, November, December and March; at the Good Friday family service in April; and twice at La Mesa during the summer.

Chamber Singers provided music for worship during the 2018-19 church year in 10 services: eight Sunday morning services, the Ash Wednesday service and one service on Christmas Eve. The group's sacred music literature ranged from the 16th century to the present and included a wide variety of music styles. 13 members sang with the group throughout the year. Larry Triplett is musical director and has been since the fall of 2016.

La Mesa Band consists of drums, bass, guitar and keyboard, usually with trombone, and occasionally with trumpet, saxophone or flute. In addition, we have 4 singers using mics, situated with the band on the east side of the fellowship hall. Milo Fryling is the band leader, responsible for setting up and leading rehearsals, preparing sheet music and lyrics, coordinating personnel, and playing keyboard. La Mesa's music format has been to have a "welcome song" and a "worship song" that remain the same for a month at a time, a "solo" or "special music" that is different every week and aligned with the sermon's theme, and 5 other songs that are always the same. La Mesa Band offers about 2/3 of the songs in both languages, the remainder are either Spanish only (e.g. Pan de Vida) or English only (e.g. Day by Day).

Sanctuary Music – Summer For the first time, United Church went to one service in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. Music was provided by the summer pick-up choir and various individuals and groups throughout the summer.

Taizé For the 2nd year, Taizé services were held monthly from September - May, on the 2nd Sunday at 7:00 PM. Attendance ranges from 12-20 with an average of 16 people. Milo Fryling (piano), Dorothy Wright (cello), and Kelly Fairman (guitar) have provided instrumental accompaniment for most of the services this year, with Jack Mitchell (ministry

Music Committee, cont.

coordinator) serving as cantor. Over the course of the year, other instrumentalists have joined us for selected services, including Molly Barnes (violin), Erin Conn (French horn & recorders), Dean Herington (clarinet) and Chris Myers (bassoon). Taizé services were supported by Deacons Angela Daye and Debbi Carter.

Chancel Bells remained a three-octave choir this year, though with a brief period of four octaves, with members ranging from middle-schoolers to seniors. We started the year with a bell polishing session and performed on 6 Sundays, 5 for both services, and 1 for one service: Oct. 7, Nov. 11, Jan. 27, March 10, and May 19 for both services, and May 5 for the 11 o'clock service. On May 5 we joined with the Chancel Choir for a rousing version of "Dem Bones" arranged by Hart Morris and performed with a variety of sound effects by David Murphy. On May 19 we joined the Bronze Voices for a bell and chime arrangement of "Be Thou My Vision" by Cathy Moglebust. We were directed all year by David Murphy until the Sunday of May 5, when we said goodbye to David as he left for a new job in Ireland. The choir rang a surprise "Danny Boy" for David at that time. Sad news was that Bob Hotte, a long-time ringer, passed away in March in Chicago.

Bronze Voices handbell choir hit the ground running at the beginning of the current program year participating in Cameron Barr's installation service in September as well as monthly responsibilities during Sunday worship. Once again, the choir participated in The Raleigh Ringers Capital Bell Festival in Raleigh in November but represented UCCH in style as one of only 3 choirs that offered a solo during the concert for the event! In concert out in the community, Bronze Voices offered a Christmas Concert at Forest at Duke in Durham and will present an end-of-year concert in June at Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill. David Murphy, who has directed Bronze Voices for the past 2 years, will be relocating to Ireland in June so the group is in search of a new leader.

Handbell Camp The sixth children's handbell camp, "Camp-bells," was held July 9-13, 2018. Twenty-eight children from rising 1st to 12th grade attended the week-long camp, held from 9:00 to noon each day. This summer a handbell choir component will be incorporated into the VBS week, July 22-26.

UCCH String Ensemble held 14 rehearsals and played for 6 services including the tornadically altered Good Friday Service. The ensemble at present consists of 2 violins, a viola and 2 cellos. The members comprise a range of ages and experience. The Ensemble generally rehearses on second and fourth Sundays after the 11 am worship service at the church.

United Brass played in in several sanctuary services, La Mesa, and in diverse configurations as a quintet, quartet, trio, duet and solo. United Church is blessed with wonderful intergenerational brass talent including Henry Sallard, Rich Wilson, Derek Harrison (trombone), Annie and Patrick Curran, Doug Zabor, Esteban Gonzalez and even Larry Triplet (trumpet at Christmas), Tim Dyess, Natalie Boorman (french horn), Jack Denniston (tuba). Gaylen Brubaker often was called upon to join the group on timpani.

La Mesa Committee

Worship

La Mesa experienced tremendous growth in the 2018-2019 program year. In March of 2018, worship attendance was averaging 45 people per Sunday. In May of 2018, we are averaging over 90 people in worship every Sunday. We are much more than a worship service, we are a family.

La Mesa worship is also living out our Racial Covenant as we consistently have 40-45% minority in every worship service. There are several factors that contribute to our growth.

- **Preaching-** Pastor David always brings a challenging, relevant, and participatory message every Sunday. People are able to be a part of the message, rather than just sit and listen.
- **Pastoral Care-** Pastor David cares for the La Mesa family by;
 - ~holding Bible Studies in members' homes,
 - ~helping with immigration issues, homelessness, health issues and more
 - ~visiting those who are sick or bereaved
 - ~taking time to visit members in their homes to build relationships
 - ~and much more
- **La Mesa Band-** Our band leader, Milo, as well as many talented musicians and singers who make up the La Mesa worship band. La Mesa leaders feel the music is more expressive and those who are worshipping are able to participate in an energetic and joyful manner as there is frequent clapping and dancing.
- **Interpretation-** Having paid interpreters every Sunday allows Spanish speakers, and English speakers, the opportunity to truly worship together. It also sends the message that our Spanish community is valued.
- **Children-** La Mesa worship is also very child-friendly. We have a children's table with many activities in English and Spanish which they may go to at any point throughout the service. There are also worship bags in Spanish and English that they may take to their seats as well.
- **Hospitality-** Our ushers/greeters are intentional about greeting people as they arrive with a smile, and most of the time a hug, as well as offering to usher them to a seat. It is also a plus that worshippers can get coffee or water, as well as food, and bring it to their seat.
- **Simplicity of the service-** The service follows a very simple bulletin that is very "seeker-friendly," meaning that even if you are not familiar with traditional church, or are un-churched, it is easy to feel comfortable in the service.
- **Communion-** La Mesa worshippers gather around the table every Sunday as we participate in the breaking of bread together.
- **Projection-** Acquiring a laptop for La Mesa, as well as talented volunteers to create the slides and set up projection has allowed more freedom for Pastor David to be able to focus on ministry.
- **Fellowship-** Every third Sunday we have a potluck. The potluck is very well attended and many meaningful relationships have been formed due to this gathering. We also have a pizza party once a month at someone's house which provides further relationship building.
- **Ushers/Greeters & Communion Helpers-** With volunteers coordinating schedules for set-up for worship in these areas, it has allowed for clearer expectations and structure.

Board of Justice Outreach and Service

Sanctuary Team

June 2018 to May 2019

- Initiated the formation of the Emergency Assistance Fund for Immigrants to provide emergency assistance for Immigrants in deportation crisis.
- Held two Wed. night supper fund raisers to raise funds for the Emergency Assistance fund for Immigrants.
- Provided a breakfast meal to folks traveling to advocate for permanent stay status for immigrants under Temporary Protective Status.
- Raised funds to help an immigrant family that was flooded in the fall, 2018.
- Provide assistance to the Church of Reconciliation who provides sanctuary to Rosa del Carmen Ortiz-Cruz in the way of food, financial assistance, and hosting assistance.
- Held a showing of Rosa's jewelry here at the UCCH alternative market and raised funds for Rosa.
- Prepared a meal in March for Farmworkers Alliance/ Coalition of Immokalee Workers who were on the 4 for Fair Food Tour's March for Farmworker Justice.

ONA Report

Here is some of what we've been up to in the past year:

- Successful 25th Anniversary of ONA Pride t-shirt fundraiser in 2018.
- Represented UCCH at 2018 Pride parade and festival in Durham.
- Raised \$1,100 at our first Drag Brunch recently. About 70 people attended, including some families with their children.
- Partnered with Ian for a monthly Queer Bible Study which began in April 2019.

Just for fun, here is some stuff we have coming up:

- Another t-shirt fundraiser and will attend Pride again, this time potentially with a float!
- LGBTQIA+ Training for the congregation in September, led by Angel.
- Workshop with Rev. Harry Stock in September.

In addition to special events, we've adjusted our monthly 10:00 am meetings to include more fellowship and conversation, instead of solely event planning. It's been a really great change! We're really proud of what we've been able to accomplish in the last year or so and looking forward to what's next!

Prison Ministries

- Used funds from a fund raising dinner to provide a meal for Christ the King Church at Orange Correctional Center following a worship service with the sermon by Gates Vrooman.
- Held two drives, collecting almost 300 books, so kids could take books home following Parent Day events at Orange Correctional Center and assisted at these events.
- Continued to provide refreshments through August when refreshments were banned; attended weekly Yokefellow meetings, and a few male members served as sponsors.

Peace Making Scholarships

- 2019 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarships were awarded to Rosa Aguilar-Perez and Marissa Tocci- 11 years, 25 scholarships
- The Peacemaking Scholarship endowment fund is growing & we're taking steps to spread this scholarship model to other communities
- The Alternative Gift Market Friday night kick-off/Benefit Concert pilot was highly successful and will be repeated this year

Board of Justice Outreach and Service, cont.

Johnathan Wilson-Hartgrove:

- Bill Murray led a group of 25 on 4 Wednesdays to discuss Jonathan's latest book, *Reconstructing the Gospel, Freeing Ourselves from Slaveholder Religion*. We learned that slaveholders perverted the gospel by making it a sponsor of slavery. Aspects of that perversion persist today. We need to free ourselves from the perverted gospel and replace it with the true gospel. Jonathan then led 5 Wed. sessions himself deepening our understanding of the true gospel.

Voting

Kathy and Bill Murray stocked a table for several months with information on voting. They also led volunteers to phone and knock on doors to solicit people to register to vote. Several new people registered to vote.

2019 Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk

Kitty Dalton served as team captain for the 32nd Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk, an annual fundraising event to support IFC and Church World Service. She also served on the CROP Planning Committee. United Church of Chapel Hill has been a supporter of the walk for many years and Rick Edens was involved with the planning in the past. This year, United Church lent its Fellowship Hall for the walk's Team Captain Rally (Thurs., Jan. 10) with around 20 in attendance. David Mateo led the opening prayer. The church also provided a room for monthly planning committee meetings from Oct. 2018-April 2019. In addition, the church again paid \$120 for CROP Walk team sponsorship (i.e. the church's name on the back of the issued t-shirt) which helps to buy several hundred t-shirts for walkers to purchase. The walk took place on Sunday, March 24, 2019. UCCH raised over \$2,000 for IFC/CWS and fielded 10+ walkers. In the past Susan Steinberg joined the UCCH group, but no clergy or staff attended this year. In addition, youth attendance was low, most likely because the event was held the week-end before the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools break (the walk also unfortunately coincided with a UNC NCAA tournament game!) Kitty will be the UCCH team captain for next year's walk, which will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2020.

Habitat

- Finance - UCCH as part of the Building Hope partnership supported the costs of building two homes in Habitat's Tinnin Woods subdivision in Efland, NC
 - One for a UCCH Family from Myanmar – Per Ser and Mue Ju Paw
 - One for Gerado and Llail Tengono, a Colombia couple (They possibly attend Saint Thomas Moore Catholic Church)
 - Total \$\$ support from UCCH available from Duane
- Volunteer building– Volunteers from UCCH and other members of the Building Hope Partnership worked several Saturdays at both the Tinnin Woods and Crescent Magnolia worksites
 - Phill Wilson and Doug Call did much of the coordination of these events and lunches were provided by UCCH Church members Sharon Hanson, Cindy Johnson and Susan Warwick
- Furniture Donated - Some UCCH members donated furniture items to Per Ser and Mue Ju Paw for their new home. (Leigh Gosnell coordinated this collection effort. On 26 Dec, 2018, Doug Call rented a truck and with the help of Per Ser and some of his family and friends, picked up the furniture and delivered it to Per Ser's home.)
- Church Bulletin Board to chronicle progress on the two homes – Phill Wilson prepared a bulletin board for the Church hallway with facts and photos (supplied by Doug Call) that provides updates on the Building Hope supported Habitat homes.
- Vassar College - You may want to add that UCCH hosted 16 students from Vassar College University for a week of volunteer work at Habitat in March.

Board of Justice Outreach and Service, cont.

Feeding the Hungry through the Interfaith Council:

United Church continues our partnership with IFC in many ways:

- We collect a food offering on Sunday mornings that is taken to the IFC Food Pantry
- We serve dinner monthly on the 2nd Thursdays.
- We serve dinner monthly at the Homestart Shelter for Women and Children on the 3rd Thursday.
- We serve lunch at Community Kitchen monthly on the 4th Thursday,
- We roughly serve 30 casseroles a month.

We use signupgenius.com monthly to solicit volunteers for these activities. We need some new energy to recruit volunteers to this service opportunity to add to our email lists. Casserole baking and volunteers for the 2nd Thursday dinner are down the past few months. Ideas on how to solicit volunteers are welcome.



Earth Ministries

- Developed, and moved towards adoption by the congregation, a Creation Covenant, seeking to raise consciousness for the issues and concerns listed in the Creation Covenant and actions we can take as a congregation.
- Working in collaboration with the Board of Trustees we continued the preventive and routine maintenance of the ten commercial Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning units to maintain comfort levels in the building, maximize energy efficiency, and prolong the service life of the equipment.
- Explored recycling and composting in collaboration with the Fellowship Board, with agreement to start during Summer 2019.
- Working in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, we replaced the parking lot lights with LEDs.
- Participated in the working committee for the Creation Justice Network in NC which recently organized the Food & Faith Conference.

Board of Membership Engagement and Stewardship

Membership, Engagement, and Stewardship (MES), are key components in maintaining and sustaining a vibrant, productive church community. As the MES Board of the United Church of Chapel Hill (UCCCH), we are pleased to help ensure a welcoming environment to our members, friends and visitors, orient new church members; assist our members with matching their interests and talents with the church's needs; and support our annual stewardship pledge drive.

As the MES board, we have been impressed and humbled by the generosity and kindness of our congregation, a true testament of the value our church and its work, has on all our lives. The 2018-2019 annual stewardship drive resulted in a total pledge amount that was slightly under the goal for the campaign. This was also the case in 2017-2018. The total pledge for 2018-19 was a slight increase over 2017-18.

As a board, we continue to offer a welcoming presence in the church lobby that we call the UCCCH Visitor Welcome Center. An MES member is present on Sundays at our "Welcome - Got a Question?" table to answer visitors' questions and to facilitate their introductions to our pastors. Rinnie Orr has been of great help in organizing the welcome table and adding and encouraging signup opportunities. Another new engagement initiative that Rinnie has organized is the "Ministry Showcase." This is a monthly presentation of different areas of our ministry during the 10:00 hour. This is showing results, even among our longer-term members.

To encourage new members, we have experimented with various "meet the pastors" events. Most recently, this has taken the form of an informal "Pastors Luncheon," offered approximately every two months. At this event, interested persons can share their faith journey or testimony, and the pastors can welcome them to our community. This has been organized and supported by Rinnie.

The role of MES in equipping UCCCH to engage our members' time, talents, and financial resources applies to all our members. You can make a big difference by welcoming visitors and by inviting people to a deeper participation in the life of the church. We thank the staff, particularly Rinnie Orr, for their support of our various activities. Our board is pleased and honored, through our work to contribute to the service of our wider church mission

Respectfully submitted by,

Bill Siddall

MES Board chair

Board of Trustees

Members: Tim Gabel (Co-Chair), Ron Johnson (Co-Chair, Building/Property Lead), Derek Harrison (Treasurer), Austin Brown, Betsy Crittenden (Head Counter and Liaison to ICF Neighborhood committee), Chip Breisch, Kathy VandenBerg, Chris Brodie (chair, Edens Scholarship committee), Alan Dickenson, Nancy White, Cameron Barr (Sr. Pastor). Duane Gilbert (Business Manager) participates in most BOT meetings and is an important resource to the Board.

The Board of Trustees has the overall responsibility for supervision of the finances and the property of the Church. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the following activities:

- Oversight of the annual Church operating budget and analysis of the actual financial results with respect to the budget
- Counting and depositing weekly offerings and payments to designated accounts
- Reviewing the annual financial review by outside auditors and subsequently adjusting procedures
- Approving funds and contracts for major expenditures
- Planning for maintenance of the building and associated grounds
- Collection and management of the historical records of the church

Non-routine tasks this year have included:

- Oversaw replacement of UCCH parking lot lights with new energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Began exploring the replacement and repair of HVAC units that were starting to falter, with a focus on identifying minority-owned vendors.
- Led multiple church work/clean-up days.
- Created a church maintenance needs work team— a group that could be called upon to help with small maintenance projects like painting.
- Participated in budget discussion congregation meetings to help increase transparency to the UCCH operating budget process.
- Migrated the church financial recording system (ACS) to a cloud-based version, increasing both data security and church staff convenience.
- Began exploring ways in which Sunday morning offerings could be collected electronically via kiosk, tablet computer, etc.
- Transferred oversight of the Edens Scholarship fund and award processes to the Board of Deacons, since this is where the Members in Discernment process is overseen.
- Implemented (with congregational approval via the budget approval) a “handling fee” approach whereby the church will retain 5% of all pass-thru offerings to help offset the administrative costs associated with processing special offerings

The Board of Trustees continues to be blessed with the work of many church members who are not members of the board. Alan Johnson continues to organize outside projects on church work days and maintains the beautiful grounds of the church. Phil Wilson has been extremely helpful in working with maintenance of the HVAC system and the electrical system. Michael Pause serves as an authorized check-signer during the week. Gaylen Brubaker is replacing light bulbs and performing numerous minor maintenance tasks as needed.

Hospitality Ministries

2018-2019 chief accomplishments during the program year include...

September- December 2018:

- Coordination of Alternative Gift Market (AGM)
- Coordinated refreshments and kitchen crew for the Installation of Pastor Cameron Barr as Senior Pastor
- Co-led the annual fall retreat to Blowing Rock along with Pastors Ian McPherson and David Mateo. We had 45 attendees and explored the topic: "What brings us joy?".
- 29th Alternative Gift Market (AGM). The AGM moved from Sat./Sun. to Fri. Night/Saturday. We included the CH-C Peacemaking Scholarship Fundraising Concert on Friday night to open the event. The addition was a great benefit to both! A total of 10 artists, 19 non-profit vendors, and 17 UCCH groups reported that they all experienced a successful market. A crew of 20 volunteers assisted with the organization, set-up and clean-up. The God's Bidding Online Auction and Gifts of Time and Service combined raised \$12,000 allowing us to make significant contributions to Church World Service and the Inter-Faith Council.
- Created and began staffing a Welcome Table on Sunday mornings to welcome new visitors to church.



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

January 2019

- Worked with the Board of Deacons Met with Deacons and prepared for usher recruitment in February
- Created an usher monthly newsletter UCCH Usher News, for usher news and building of usher community
- Developed two new programs through MES
 - ~Ministry Showcase: a monthly themed program for new visitors and new members of the church to meet members of the church engaged in ministries at the church.
 - ~Luncheon with the Pastors: a bi-monthly program to provide fellowship and information to new visitors and to people thinking of joining the church, as well as time to get to know the pastors.

February 2019

- Oversaw development of Small Group program and created 14 groups for a 3 month pilot program.
- Met with/oriented small group team leaders- two meetings 50 minutes
- Developed monthly newsletter for small group leaders with a monthly devotions and FAQs
- Organized first Luncheon with the Pastors- met 26 new visitors, many of whom joined the church in March.

March 2019

- Led with MES the first Ministry Showcase "Faith in Action" with members from BJOS, Earth Ministries, ONA, Sanctuary Committee gave testimonies to their ministries.
- Organized new member reception with MES- 15 new members joined March 10

April 2019

- Ministry Showcase program "Worship at United Church" with members from Board of Deacons, Art Committee, Flower Committee, Ushers, and Music Committee
- Created publicity for Small Group Ministry program, now called Community Group Ministry Program
- Luncheon with the Pastors- we had 10 guests (new visitors and potential new members)

May 2019

- Ministry Showcase: Theme "Making Connections" - recruitment of small group leaders that meet at United Church, pastoral care committee, and had promotional materials for the Community Group Ministry Program
- Luncheon with the Pastors - we had 10 guests (new visitors and potential new members)
- Organized new member reception with MES - 9 new members joined May 19

In fellowship and with peace,

Rinnie Orr, Director of Hospitality Ministries

A PLACE *of* BELONGING
FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN