



2019– 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

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COUNCIL

The 2019-2020 program year has been quite unusual, in that the stay-at-home conditions necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic have caused us to change many of the ways that we worship, learn, and share fellowship together. Several of the year's highlights are summarized below.

Quarter 1 (July-Sept):

- Approved the establishment of a small food pantry and gift cards (to be distributed by the pastors) to help those in need purchase food or gas.
- Supported the strategic planning process through participation in a half-day strategic planning retreat.

Quarter 2 (Oct-Dec):

- Designed a more goal-oriented process to develop the 2020 budget and balance requests from various Boards and Committees.
- Supported the launch of the stewardship campaign, which resulted in achieving 95% of our pledge goal.
- Finalized a preliminary budget and presented it to the Congregation for approval at its Annual Budget Meeting on October 28.
- Discussed the possibility of holding a joint worship service (combining La Mesa and the 11 am sanctuary services) to provide Pastor Barr an opportunity to share a draft Vision Statement and initiate follow-up discussions. (This service and the associated discussions were deferred until 2020.)
- Improved the church governance section of the church's website and installed several "Idea Boxes" in the building to increase engagement between the congregation, Boards, Committees, and Council.

Quarter 3 (Jan-March):

- Council adjusted the 2020 budget including a \$29,000 reduction in the personnel budget and a 4% reduction in all non-personnel costs, while retaining all La Mesa-related program additions.
- Following the announcement that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee could not continue its process, Council discussed potential next steps relative to the strategic planning process, including:
 - Further clarify the roles and responsibilities of Boards, Council, and staff for various decisions and activities;
 - Identify ways to build trust and facilitate more meaningful and constructive discussions between individuals or groups with divergent views;
 - Further define what it would mean to be a welcoming, affirming, anti-racist, bilingual church.

Quarter 4 (April-June):

Council focused on proactively addressing issues triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. We:

- Modified all UCCH programming to virtual meetings and participatory worship services while restricting building use;
- Applied for and secured a PPP/SBA loan/grant under the federal CARES Act to support our programs and those of United Church Preschool;
- Approved a fund drive to support lunch distribution for Chapel Hill /Carrboro children who normally receive free lunches at school;
- Approved the "Spreading Justice" initiative to support those within our congregation needing financial assistance during this period. 20% of funds raised will be distributed to a local African American-led church or organization with whom UCCH seeks to build a partnership.

Special thanks to our Clerk (Karen Demby), Treasurer (Derek Harrison), our at-large members (Ingrid Schmidt, David Tanner, Angel Collie and Helen Hoenig) and our Board Chairs for their continued service as we strive to do God's work.

TREASURER

We are happy to report that we finished 2019 with an operating surplus of \$21,445. The approved 2019 budget contained an operating deficit of -\$22,723, but due to the strong giving of UCCH members and personnel dynamics (see below), we far exceeded those budget expectations. Building and grounds was overspent by \$20,000, primarily due to contributing \$15,000 more than budgeted to our Capital Expense Reserves (formerly called maintenance reserves) at year end, as we do opportunistically in most surplus years in order to be better prepared for future major capital expenses.

At the end of each calendar year the final surplus or deficit is automatically rolled into our Fund Principal account for future uses. Our Fund Principal (emergency funds) were \$124,618 as we entered 2020. The final Revenue/Expenses report shows we received 99% of our combined income goal. Our expenses were underspent by \$56,864. One of the major factors in our underspending was that staffing for the new Church Administrator and Parish Associate for Pastoral Care were funded but not filled for the entire 2019 fiscal year. All UCCH boards either underspent their budget or were within a range that Trustees were aware of budget challenges or projects requiring additional funds.

The Capital Expense reserves, which are in place to cover any capital expenses, started the year at \$30,787 and ended the year at \$71,012 at year end. Below is a high level 2019 summary of the Capital Expense Reserves Account.

\$30K beginning balance

- + \$7.5K Original Budgeted contribution
- + \$15K Contribution beyond budget
- + \$50K Portion of unused remainder from Capital Campaign allocated to reserves
- \$32K Replaced one Full HVAC, several HVAC heat exchangers, 1 hot water heater

= \$71K ending balance

Our auditor's annual visit was completed during summer 2019 and no major issues were reported. A copy of the auditors' report is always available for review if requested from the church office.

2019 Designated Funds Report (January-December 2019)

We have included a full list of all UCCH designated funds in the Annual Report *see page 8*. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about a specific project or fund.

We want to highlight a few projects to show the extra special support given by UCCH members to support our program of ministry and our community.

1. IFC Food First Campaign: We are so pleased that UCCH raised \$82,210 for the IFC Building Campaign.
2. Church World Service: Gifts received in 2019 from the Alternative Gift Market and the auction raised over \$9,000.
3. Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship: Over \$6,600 was given to support our own high school scholarships.

Our balance sheet continues to remain strong and healthy. We do not have any debt, which allows us to fully focus on our Program of Ministry and our physical structure. Your Board of Trustees has and maintains a long term capital needs/replacement strategy.

TREASURER cont.

2020 Interim Update

We wanted to give a few updates on 2020. Gifts continue to fund our programs with current income meeting our planned budget goals. From January-May 2020, we have also had 3 special offerings and programs that were not part of our original planned programs.

1. Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Lunch Program: We raised and sent \$17,461 to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation to provide supplemental nutrition to students during school closure due to Covid-19. We also have over 40 volunteers helping with this program.
2. Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC 2020 Partnership: We received \$18,170 to support our 2020 partnership and provide additional support where needed.
3. Spreading Justice Initiative: UCCH members have given over \$39,000 to date (6/5/2020) to help provide local financial support to our local community. 80% of funds contributed will go to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. The four pastors will distribute funds to those members of our church community who need assistance with things like rent, food, unpaid bills, etc. The pastors have already given direct assistance of over \$3,600 to 8 families in need to date (as of 6/5/2020). 20% of gifts to the Spreading Justice fund will be given to a church or organization in our community that is historically black or led by people who have been marginalized due to their racial identities. The church or organization that receives these funds will be determined by the Racial Justice Ministries committee. \$9500 has been given to Liberation Station to date (6/5/2020).

Thank you for your kind generosity and stewardship in 2019 and to date in 2020.

Note about the Summary of Restricted Accounts 2019 Annual Designated Funds Report January to December 2019 on pages 8 & 9:

Designated Funds are used for projects and events for which UCCH collects offerings, gifts, and payments for the specific restricted use of the payment. All ending year balances roll over to the next year for use. It is important to note that designated funds are not part of the UCCH annual operating budget.

TREASURER cont.

**United Church of Chapel Hill
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
2019 Income/Expense Statement-Annual Report
January to December 2019**

Accounts		Actual (2019 Year)	Annual Budget (2019 Year)	% of Annual Budget Used	% of Total Actual Expenses
REVENUES					
	Notes:				
Contributions	*1)	\$966,726.36	\$970,000.00	99.66%	
Other Income	*2)	\$21,261.12	\$30,683.00	69.29%	
Total Revenues		<u>\$987,987.48</u>	<u>\$1,000,683.00</u>	98.73%	
EXPENSES					
Board of Justice Outreach Serv		\$39,694.03	\$50,000.00	79.39%	4.11%
Board of Children's Ministries		\$6,015.65	\$11,550.00	52.08%	0.62%
Board of Youth & Young Adult		\$7,019.09	\$9,000.00	77.99%	0.73%
Board of Adult Ed Ministries		\$1,237.12	\$2,550.00	48.51%	0.13%
Deacons					
Music	*3)	\$19,535.62	\$22,485.00	86.88%	2.02%
Worship & Programs		9,516.66	\$15,480.00	127.05%	0.98%
Spanish Ministries		\$10,150.00	\$7,000.00	145.00%	1.05%
Total Deacons		<u>\$39,202.28</u>	<u>\$37,965.00</u>	103.26%	4.06%
Board of Fellowship		\$4,293.20	\$4,955.00	86.64%	0.44%
MES Board		\$4,306.97	\$6,500.00	66.26%	0.45%
Church Council		\$31,130.18	\$32,800.00	94.91%	3.22%
Board of Trustees		\$69,853.87	\$71,000.00	98.39%	7.23%
Buildings & Grounds		\$87,518.17	\$67,694.00	129.28%	9.05%
Mortgage Service	*4)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Personnel Salary & Benefits	*5)	<u>\$676,271.45</u>	<u>\$729,392.00</u>	92.72%	69.97%
Total Expenses		<u>\$966,542.01</u>	<u>\$1,023,406.00</u>	94.44%	100.00%
Net Total		\$21,445.47	(\$22,723.00)		

*1) Includes pledge, non-pledge, & cash offerings.

*2) Includes payments received for building use.

*3) The Music Committee is part of the Board of Deacons.

*4) UCCH has no mortgage or other type of debt.

*5) Church Administrator & Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care were filled in summer and fall but had full year budgets.

TREASURER cont.

**United Church of Chapel Hill
Balance Sheet
Annual Report for 2019
January - December 2019**

Notes:

Accounts

Assets

Checking

1-1011 - First Citizens-Main Operating Account: \$476,907.73

Total Checking **\$476,907.73**

Other Receivables

1-1202 - County Sales Tax - 2.0% (Wake) \$353.55

1-1203 - County Sales Tax - 2.0% (Orange) \$271.42

1-1204 - County Sales Tax-2.0% (Durham) \$58.94

1-1265 - State Sales Tax - 4.75% \$1,678.65

1-1298 - Other Receivables \$782.00

1-1299 - Credit Card Clearing (\$4,511.36) *1)

Total Other Receivables **(\$1,366.80)**

Total Current Assets **\$475,540.93**

Foundation Fund Investments

1-1301 - UCF Mission & Outreach Fund \$334,966.19

1-1302 - UCF Buildings & Grounds Fund \$225,942.90

1-1303 - UCF Ministry Fund \$12,488.04

1-1305 - NCCF Endowment Fund \$57,898.07

1-1306 - NCCF Building and Grounds Fund \$97,246.82

Total Foundation Fund Investments **\$728,542.02**

Fixed Assets

1-1400 - Land \$262,500.00

1-1401 - Building \$7,506,073.55

1-1402 - Furniture & Fixtures \$295,256.77

1-1403 - Equipment \$7,186.47

Total Fixed Assets **\$8,071,016.79**

Total Assets **\$9,275,099.74**

Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

1-2010 - Prepaid Pledges \$113,274.31 *2)

1-2020 - Building Use Deposits \$550.00

1-2021 - Payroll Liabilities \$94.40

1-2023 - Insurance Liabilities \$2,026.21

Total Current Liabilities **\$115,944.92**

Total Liabilities **\$115,944.92**

Fund Principal

1-2998 - Fixed Asset Cost, less Loans \$8,069,239.79

1-2999 - Fund Principal - Church \$103,172.80

Excess Cash Received \$21,445.47 *3)

Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received **\$8,193,858.06**

Restricted Funds

Total Designated Funds \$236,754.74 *4)

Total Foundation Funds \$728,542.02 *5)

Total Restricted Funds **\$965,296.76**

Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds **\$9,275,099.74**

- *1) Staff credit card statement is paid upon receipt and then posted to expense line.
- *2) Prepaid Pledges paid in 2019 are for 2020 pledges and transferred monthly to pledge income.
- *3) Excess Cash is current (2019) operating surplus. This amount plus the Fund Principal becomes the starting balance for emergency funds for 2020.
- *4) Designated funds are gifts and payments received that are not part of the operating budget and
- *5) Funds invested with the United Church of Christ Foundation and NC Community Foundation.

TREASURER cont.

Accounts	Notes:	Beginning Balance	Restricted Gifts/Payment	Restricted Distributions	Ending Balance
Designated Funds					
Mission & Outreach Funds					
1-8114 - Endow. Fund - Mission and Outreach		\$10,194.23	\$4,786.24	\$800.00	\$14,180.47
1-8128 - Endow. Fund - Build & Grounds		\$2,063.82	\$1,419.09	\$0.00	\$3,482.91
1-8129 - Endow. Fund - Ministry		\$1,897.83	\$178.43	\$0.00	\$2,076.26
Our Church's Wider Mission Funds (National UCC Offering)					
1-8010 - One Great Hour of Sharing		\$3.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$103.00
Board BJOS-Community Groups					
1-8101 - Church World Service	*1)	\$8,539.00	\$6,080.00	\$8,843.00	\$5,776.00
1-8103 - IFC FoodFirst Campaign	*2)	\$0.00	\$82,210.29	\$82,210.29	\$0.00
1-8104 - Inter Faith Council (IFC)	*3)	\$4,045.00	\$8,062.00	\$12,107.00	\$0.00
1-8105 - Prison Ministry		\$932.90	\$4,069.00	\$5,001.90	\$0.00
1-8106 - Habitat Fund		\$1,977.39	\$3,145.00	\$4,134.00	\$988.39
1-8113 - Health Ministry		\$3,172.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,172.47
1-8116 - Peacemaking Conference		\$1,567.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,567.91
1-8117 - Chapel Hill Peace Scholarship	*4)	\$5,691.00	\$6,608.00	\$2,790.88	\$9,508.12
1-8118 - Seminary Scholarship Fund		\$170.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$180.00
1-8119 - United Voices of Praise		\$1,449.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,449.46
1-8123 - Still Speaking		\$919.40	\$478.00	\$0.00	\$1,397.40
1-8126 - Faithfully Accessible		\$1,066.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,066.00
1-8133 - Earth Ministries		\$237.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$237.00
1-8134 - Prison Death Row Holiday Package		\$866.81	\$4,299.35	\$5,166.16	\$0.00
1-8135 - Refugee Fund		\$5,642.09	\$0.00	\$559.89	\$5,082.20
1-8149 - Temporary Fund #1	*5)	\$100.00	\$2,512.40	\$2,612.40	\$0.00
1-8152 - Emergency Immigration-Sanctuary		\$1,800.00	\$2,464.00	\$1,054.00	\$3,210.00
1-8170 - Emergency Relief-Triangle Masks		\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
1-8171 - Yolkfellows Meal Vouchers	*6)	\$1,303.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,303.98
1-8172 - Special Events & Programs		\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
1-8316 - Sacred Space Studio		\$1,233.12	\$0.00	\$59.99	\$1,173.13
1-8620 - NC Pride/ONA		\$850.06	\$1,068.96	\$488.81	\$1,430.21
Board of Fellowship					
1-8607 - Fellowship Events		\$1,791.51	\$85.00	\$68.28	\$1,808.23
Board of Deacons					
1-8501 - Altar-Flowers	*7)	\$3,021.87	\$2,175.00	\$2,694.90	\$2,501.97
1-8514 - Library Fund		\$1,043.04	\$2,123.25	\$155.00	\$3,011.29
1-8615 - Visual Arts Group		\$1,331.97	\$104.00	\$1,384.13	\$51.84
1-8614 - American Sign Language Fund		\$1,259.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,259.00
1-8611 - Liturgical Art Sales		\$1,654.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,654.27
1-8617 - Sound System		\$4,051.44	\$0.00	\$1,904.81	\$2,146.63
Pastor Discretionary Funds					
1-8115 - Pastor's Discretionary Fund		\$2,440.68	\$3,556.00	\$1,445.58	\$4,551.10
1-8511 - Barr Discretionary Fund	*8)	\$1,219.82	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$2,569.82
Trips & Camps					
1-8150 - Youth Mission Trips		\$6,633.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,633.98
1-8154 - Chancel Choir- Trips		\$3,287.27	\$6,388.25	\$7,700.38	\$1,975.14
1-8158 - Columbia Mission Trip 2020		\$577.09	\$9,848.00	\$9,052.67	\$1,372.42
Children & Youth Ministry Fund					
1-8153 - Confirmation		\$865.93	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$1,265.93
1-8305 - Youth Blowing Rock Conference Ctr	*16)	\$1,276.56	\$1,000.00	\$2,334.99	(\$58.43)
1-8311 - Youth Scholarships		\$1,290.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,290.00
1-8314 - German Youth Exchange		\$989.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$989.72
1-8315 - Johns River Valley Camp		\$0.00	\$203.74	\$203.74	\$0.00
1-8317 - Youth Program Scholarships		\$4,225.20	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$4,375.20
1-8641 - Childrens Ministries		\$2,888.16	\$299.00	\$147.99	\$3,039.17
United Church Preschool					
1-8310 - UCC Pre-School	*9)	\$0.00	\$158,457.67	\$157,999.42	\$458.25
Music & Worship Funds					
1-8121 - Taize		\$1,624.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,624.01
1-8500 - General Undesignated Music Fund		\$1,612.77	\$624.00	\$1,504.26	\$732.51
1-8503 - Music Production		\$152.01	\$593.00	\$593.00	\$152.01
1-8505 - Youth Choir		\$7,064.08	\$9,520.00	\$16,302.01	\$282.07
1-8506 - Chancel Choir		\$1,454.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,454.23
1-8507 - Chamber Choir		\$1,189.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,189.20
1-8510 - Children Choir Equipment Fund		\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45.00

TREASURER cont.

1-8513 - Music Concert Series Fund		\$810.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$810.66
1-8516 - Bronze Voices/Handbells		\$1,858.61	\$3,033.00	\$298.00	\$4,593.61
1-8517 - UCCH Music Camps		\$49.57	\$628.00	\$48.00	\$629.57
1-8519 - Sabbatical Grant		\$36.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36.89
1-8526 - Keyboard Fund		\$857.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$857.41
Centennial 2010 Funds					
1-8515 - Centennial Fund 2010	*10)	\$1,031.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,031.56
1-8518 - Centennial Bell Fund		\$1,854.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,854.43
Projects & Sales- Alternative Gift Market					
1-8601 - AGM- Auction/ Art Show/ Other Misc.	*11)	\$9,225.28	\$16,876.10	\$16,968.24	\$9,133.14
Vendor sales and expenses.					
Celebration Gifts					
1-8625 - Undesignated Gifts		\$628.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$628.00
1-8632 - Edenses' Seminary Scholarship Fund		\$10,438.00	\$875.00	\$2,500.00	\$8,813.00
Retreats & Activities					
1-8650 - Beach Retreat		\$620.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$620.24
1-8651 - Fall Retreat		\$1,863.92	\$5,970.00	\$6,279.66	\$1,554.26
1-8653 - Durham Bulls Game		\$433.81	\$756.00	\$0.00	\$1,189.81
1-8655 - Pilgrimage Mission Trip	*16)	(\$511.49)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$511.49)
1-8659 - Youth Beach & Ski Trips		\$1,010.57	\$2,600.00	\$2,501.08	\$1,109.49
Memorial Funds					
1-8120 - Memorial Garden Flower Fund		\$850.00	\$300.00	\$14.98	\$1,135.02
1-8801 - General Memorials		\$3,938.84	\$460.00	\$0.00	\$4,398.84
1-8802 - Memorial Plaques		\$777.48	\$1,500.00	\$1,310.00	\$967.48
1-8804 - Evarts Edens Special Project Fund		\$6,109.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,109.65
Reserve Funds					
1-8908 - Capital Campaign 2014	*12)	\$200,553.75	\$0.00	\$200,553.75	\$0.00
1-8911 - Invest in Our Future Fund	*13)	\$19,516.85	\$15,363.62	\$22,872.03	\$12,008.44
1-8920 - Capital Expense Reserve Fund	*14)	\$30,786.81	\$72,638.75	\$32,412.97	\$71,012.59
(Maintenance Reserve Fund)					
1-8921 - Sabbatical Reserve		\$612.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$612.67
1-8932 - Endowment Gifts		\$400.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
1-8933 - Christian Innovation Grant	*15)	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Total Designated Funds		<u>\$402,920.92</u>	<u>\$449,368.14</u>	<u>\$615,534.32</u>	<u>\$236,754.74</u>

- *1) Ending year balance was combined with final AGM Auction gifts and distribution made in 2020.
- *2) IFC New Building Campaign raised over \$82,000 in 2019 and was distributed to IFC.
- *3) IFC events include the New Years Eve Concert, Empty Bowls, CropWalk and other events throughout each year.
- *4) CH-Carrboro Peace Scholarship raises and distributes 2 -\$1,000 scholarship each year.
- *5) Temporary Fund #1 is used for one time events or prc Does not have a carryover balance for next year.
- *6) Yolkfellows meal vouchers are available for use with Prison Ministry lunches and snacks.
- *7) Altar Fund receive and pay out misc. costs and income for Sunday flowers and other altar/worship costs.
- *8) Pastors' Discretionary Fund (1-8115) is accessible by all pastors and used to provide aid to community members facing economic hardship. Barr Discretionary Fund (1-8511) is primarily funded by honorariums and is accessible by the Senior Pastor.
- *9) PreSchool Fund is our reimbursement fund for UCP salary's and other costs of the program.
- *10) Centennial Fund has restrictive use for UCCH archives.
- *11) AGM receives income from table rentals but has many other expenses such as Facebook Ads, mailings and other costs. AGM year ending balance after final distributions becomes the surplus for next AGM event. AGM Final Distributions were made from 2014 Capital Campaign. Closing balance was divided 75% to Building & Grounds Endowment Fund and 25% to our emergency building fund (Capital Expense Reserve Fund).
- *13) Invest Fund was created during the Edens transition to fund many projects including Ministry Architects & Susan Beaumont Consulting.
- *14) Capital Expense Reserve Fund is our building maintenance reserve fund to support major building additions
- *15) New grant received from Duke Divinity School to support our youth program called "The Hub".
- *16) Need to make a budget adjustment to zero out and close account.

Board of Deacons

Worship Services

- The Board prepared communion for the 8:45 services, at the 11:00 for the first Sunday each month, and at the 9:30 summer services, through the suspension of in-person services after March 8. Communion was also provided at children's church and youth church services.
- The Board has assisted the pastors and staff in the production of online services, starting March 15, as required.
- After much experimentation over the previous two years, the Board settled on having three communion stations at the front of the sanctuary.
- La Mesa meets Sunday at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The Board has been working closely with the La Mesa Committee and the Music Committee to ensure that the budgetary needs of La Mesa are being met. To ensure on-going coordination with La Mesa, Pastor David Mateo now participates in the monthly Board meetings along with Pastor Cameron.
- 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. The Fellowship Hall sound system has been extensively enhanced and reconfigured to better meet the needs of La Mesa.
- Usher scheduling is coordinated by Rinnie Orr, Director of Hospitality Ministries. SignUpGenius is used to schedule ushers. Rinnie was available for assistance with the signup process on Sunday at the Welcome Table. Usher recruitment and training is conducted by the Board. Recruiting of ushers for the 11:00 service in the sanctuary continues to be a challenge.
- Lay liturgists are now participating in the 8:45 and 11:00 services. The Board coordinates the scheduling of lay liturgists.
- The Board provided healing prayer during communion at all sanctuary 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 staff, produced the annual Advent Devotional booklet. Contributions were made by the congregation.
- Laity Sunday is coordinated by the Board.

Members in Discernment

- Member in Discernment Joey Honeycutt was ordained at UCCH on November 17.

Other

- The Board participated in the All Church Workdays, concentrating on the church sanctuary, sacristy, and narthex.
- The Board assisted in maintaining and updating the list of active members.
- The Board participated in the Celebration of Ministries as well as informational sessions.

Peter S. Schay, Board of Deacons 2019–2020 Chair

La Mesa

Worship

La Mesa experienced continued growth in the 2019-2020 program year. Throughout the year in-church worship attendance averaged a robust 75 to 110 people per Sunday with a peak of 155 congregants. With the onset of state-wide sheltering in place orders, this growth continues with the weekly online service during the COVID-19 pandemic with the La Mesa y Café (LMYC) online service obtaining 130 to 580 views.

La Mesa y Café continues to be the true embodiment of our United Church of Christ denomination, a worship service that continues to expand and be viewed by visitors and LMYC congregants as a big, expanding and incredibly happy family. La Mesa worship continues to embrace and demonstrate effective efforts in fulfilling UCCH's Racial Covenant by consistently receiving and hosting a congregant community consisting of 40-45% persons of color in every worship service. There are several factors that contribute to our growth.

Preaching

Pastor David Mateo always brings a challenging, relevant, and participatory message every Sunday in his sermons. As a mature, experienced, and compassionate man of God, Pastor David Mateo uses his intellect, compassionate heart and voice to provide pastoral care through the outlets of his weekly sermons, home-based Bible study sessions, community activism, and his never-ending heartfelt love for everyone he meets. Pastor David has distinguished himself during this program year with:

- Hosting a 12-episode television program called “En Confianza” that provides practical solutions for life problems, and comments for people in recovery and co-dependency processes.
- A forthcoming book to be published soon. This will be Pastor David's third publication in print.
- Sunday Service (In-Church and Online):
 - In Church Sunday Service
 - Congregants enthusiastically take part in the interactive La Mesa y Café (LMYC) Sunday service message.
 - Online Sunday Service
- The online Sunday service is maintained and produced under Pastor David's leadership and contributions by an established group of congregants that ensure an inspiring and consistent weekly Sunday service that is well produced and distributed via the La Mesa y Café Facebook page.
- Pastoral Care: Pastor David cares for the La Mesa family through Bible Studies in members' homes providing practical and spiritual support with:
 - Immigration issues
 - Homelessness
 - Health issues
 - Visiting those who are sick or bereaved
 - Taking time to visit members in their homes to build relationships
 - An extension of our community work is the weekly Spanish Conversation gatherings
 - Al-Anon Saturday morning meetings.
 - And much more...

La Mesa Band

- Our band director, Milo Fryling, as well as many other talented musicians and singers provide and share their amazing talents each week that make for an inspired musical component of the Sunday La Mesa y Café worship service.
- La Mesa leaders and congregants feel the music is more expressive, where those who are worshipping can participate in an energetic and joyful manner that, inherent in its nature, eliminates barriers to congregant participation.

La Mesa

Bilingual Interpretation

- Paid interpreters provide a bilingual service where Spanish speakers and English speakers can easily and comprehensively worship together.
- These efforts provide an environment where our Spanish and English-speaking community are exquisitely valued.

Children

- La Mesa worship remains very child friendly. In keeping with the desires of our LMYC parents, children remain in the Fellowship Hall sanctuary space and are organized at a children's table with an abundance of Spanish and English language activities. The children can go to this table and/or participate in the LMYC service as they wish throughout the time of in-church service. There are also worship bags in Spanish and English that they can take to their seats as well.

Hospitality

- Our ushers/greeters are intentional about greeting people as they arrive with a smile, and in most instances, this is a hug, as well as offering to usher them to a seat.
- An added convenience is that worshippers can enjoy 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 elegantly effective and "seeker-friendly," meaning that those familiar with traditional church, or whom are un-churched, are aided by our bulletin design that provides an effective, comfortable and joyous service experience.

Communion

- La Mesa worshippers gather around the table every Sunday as we participate in the sacrament of the bread and cup by intinction together.
- The Communion sacrament continues in our La Mesa online Sunday service experience.

Projection

- During in-church Sunday services we are blessed with the expert use of laptop projection equipment for La Mesa y Café. Our talented volunteers create presentation slides that aid the service experience. The physical set up of projection equipment by volunteers has allowed more freedom for Pastor David to focus his attention on ministry.

Fellowship

- Every third Sunday La Mesa has a potluck lunch. The potluck is always robustly attended and remains a magnificent catalyst for the development of meaningful relationships between congregants. With a smile on our faces, these events truly show the: joy, respect, love, companionship and true belonging of our LMYC congregants who, at times, enjoy the fellowship so much that these events have been known to extend to 2:00PM or 3:00PM. Again, a true testament to the sense of family and community. LMYC also sponsors a monthly pizza party at a congregant's homes. It remains a vibrant expression of our faith put into action.

Communion Helpers

- With volunteers coordinating schedules for worship and communion set-up, it has allowed for clearer expectations and structure.

Music Committee

The music program at United Church seeks to create music that speaks to the soul, uplifts the spirit, and deepens worship. Additionally, the music program seeks to provide diverse expressions of time, place, style and genre, so that all who attend worship and all who participate in the music program find meaningful ways to experience and to participate in the music of the church.

This year the Children's Choir program received a major renovation to better serve our pre-schoolers - 5th graders. After months of planning and preparation, we re-fashioned the program to enable us to provide a comprehensive, age-appropriate music education for all our children, with a focus on singing and serving as leaders in the church. To achieve this we made two major changes to the program: 1) We created two separate choirs to serve the full age range: the Grace Notes Training Choir for preschool - 1st grade and the Junior Choir for 2nd - 5th grade; and 2) We moved the rehearsal time from Sunday morning to Wednesday afternoons, giving us more time and greater flexibility. The expanded program enables us to include musicianship training sessions and fellowship time for choir families, in addition to our choir rehearsals.

With the expansion in the previous year of the music for La Mesa, and the establishing of the La Mesa Band, the music committee felt it important to provide full funding for the band's director within the music budget. This goal was achieved in the current budget. The Music Committee and Deacons continue to seek ways to provide program support throughout our extensive music program in an equitable manner.

Another change in the music department this year was welcoming new adjunct director, Nan de Andrade, to the team. Nan joined us initially as Director of Handbells, and then in mid-year agreed to become director of The Grace Notes Training Choir for the remainder of the year. Nan began worshipping at United Church in 2018 following her retirement as Director of Music from Aldersgate Methodist Church.

GRACE NOTES TRAINING CHOIR (pre-school - 1st grade)

The Grace Notes started the year with a team of volunteers, Kathy Pause, Julia Rinehart and Barbara Wildemuth, who provided leadership with Jenny Anderson. Mary McMillan, Helen Hoenig, Julie Mitchell, and many parents assisted them. In February we made the decision to shift to one primary leader and hired Nan de Andrade to direct the group for the remainder of the school year. Nan reports, "Our group of fourteen children, along with Julie Mitchell and a rotation of parent helpers, enjoyed working together to learn music and singing skills, preparing songs for worship, as well as focusing on worship and using music as a way to pray and praise and celebrate the seasons of the church year. We were having a wonderful time together, which was sadly cut short by the shutdown."

JUNIOR CHOIR (2nd - 5th grades)

A small but faithful group of seven children, led by Bob Brewer, Jenny Anderson and Barbara Wildemuth and ably assisted by singer-mentors, Susan Warwick and Linden Thayer, attained great musical growth over the course of the 6 months they were able to meet together this year. They were strengthened through the participation and example of two middle school Youth Choir mentor-singers. They worked on vocal and musical skills, and learned how best to serve as leaders in worship. They led worship on the second Sunday of each month at the 8:45 service as well as at the 4pm Christmas Eve service. They were joined for several of these services by the Grace Notes.

Music Committee cont.

The Grace Notes and Junior Choir members and their families enjoyed fellowship through sharing Wednesday night meals. They greatly enjoyed the December music and fellowship event, "Searching for Stars," with the Junior Choir and families of Chapel of the Cross. The event began with a procession of lanterns from Chapel of the Cross to the Planetarium and proceeded to a concert and star show in the Planetarium, followed by a meal in the Parish Hall. The Music and Children's Ministries staffs of the two churches planned the event jointly.

All involved with the Children's Choir program were very sad that the year was cut short by the shutdown. Since the shutdown, interested children have been meeting with their leaders via Zoom at their weekly rehearsal time to learn songs, share games, and simply care and stay connected to their small group.

JUNIOR VOICE FOR LIFE MUSICIANSHP TRAINING

The Voice for Life program of musicianship training, which has been offered to members of the Youth Choir for several years, was extended to the 1st - 5th graders this year and 100% of choir children elected to participate. A team of high school and adult mentors was paired with these children, and mentor-mentee pairs met together for 25 minutes before choir rehearsal. Learners were able to make progress at their individual rates. Many of them will soon be ready to receive the ribbon and medallion that marks their achievement.

YOUTH CHOIR (6th - 12th grades)

Youth Choir increased the frequency of their leadership in the 8:45 Festival Worship this year to first, third and fifth Sundays. They rose to the challenge and handled the increased expectations and amount of music with grace, dedication, and reliability. They often sang with United Voices of Praise on third Sundays. The church is grateful to this large group of 32 Youth singers and their singer-mentors, Jackson den Herder, Lisa Domby, Erica Tillman, Susannah Copland, and Jack and Jeanne Allen, for their selfless contribution to the worship of the church. They also led worship at the 7pm Christmas Eve service. Many youth choristers attended the Children's Choir "Search for the Stars" event.

Jenny Anderson directed the choir, with assistance from Gillian Fields and Bob Brewer. They rehearsed on Sunday afternoons, 12:15-1:30, and many took advantage of the offer of lunch during Youth Group café at 11am, particularly on Sundays when they were there for the early service.

Two Youth Choir members achieved their light blue Voice for Life ribbon this year, Cat Copland and Charlotte Carter.

Stay at home orders produced two major disappointments for the Youth Choir. The first Sunday of lockdown, March 15, the full choir was excited to be leading worship for the Duke Chapel Sunday service, and in June, eighteen Youth Choir members, along with parents and mentors, were due to travel to Germany. The group has been meeting regularly on Zoom at regular rehearsal times to play games, share joys and sorrows, and offer encouragement.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir added a number of new members this year, bringing its membership to 46. They greatly benefited from the installation by Bob Brewer of seated risers in the music room for rehearsals. They led the 11:00am Worship and the Word service weekly, and combined with the Chamber Singers to lead the 9pm service on Christmas Eve. The group was able to achieve significant musical growth with a lengthened rehearsal time and some exciting new repertoire introduced by organist Bob Brewer, and to get to know each other better with the inclusion of a fellowship break in the middle of rehearsal. Since the shutdown, the choir has met weekly at rehearsal time on Zoom for mutual support, singing, stories, recipes, and sharing of favorite hymns.

Music Committee cont.

LA MESA BAND

The La Mesa Band, now in our second year, continued the format established in the first year, with a slightly smaller band. We have the same rhythm section instrumentalists (drums, bass, guitar, and keyboard), trumpet some months, and typically two or three vocalists. Michelle Martin-Romero has joined the group and is often taking the lead on choosing and singing the special songs. Milo Fryling continues as director. Pastor Mateo has played guitar or bass with the band only occasionally, on some special songs, for example. He gives final approval for music choices, while frequently members of the band will suggest the specific pieces.

Grant Berry substantially upgraded the sound system and one mixer is dedicated to La Mesa band use only. A separate system has been added for spoken presentation. He has also substantially upgraded the two sound and storage closets with better equipment and custom shelving, and has maintained existing equipment.

We have continued to use the format established last year for worship: Welcome song (by month), Day by Day, and Sanctuary; Worship song (by month); Invocation (by Christopher Grundy); Special song (by week); Tú Has Venido a la Orilla; Pan de Vida; Closing song (reprise of either Welcome or Worship song).

We continue to project lyrics on screen in both languages. Michelle Martin-Romero and David Mateo have done many of the translations. Jeremy O'Conner has also provided some translations.

Band rehearsals have been Saturdays at 10:30, usually every week. Our last in-person gathering as a band before the quarantine was for the March 8 service. During the quarantine, we have made a few recordings by members recording their parts separately, mixing them, and using them in the online service.

(Submitted by Milo Fryling, director)

UNITED VOICES OF PRAISE

United Voices of Praise (UVoP) sings African American Gospel music. UVoP rehearses once a month and sings once a month at United Church, usually at the 8:45 service on the 3rd Sunday of the month, recently in combination with the Youth Choir. 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. During the pandemic lockdown, we have been meeting once a week on Zoom.

(Submitted by Bill Siddall)

THE COMMAS

The Commas formed out of love of close harmonies from various traditions, including old-time hymns, gospel, shape note, Appalachian, and bluegrass music. Together for six years, the group has expanded to 7-8 regular members plus occasional guests. In the 2019-20 season, various combinations of the Commas sang and played at sanctuary services in June, August (with a guest appearance by Pastor Ian!), September, November, December, January, and February. Very small groups have since recorded music for online services, and they are exploring the new world of laying tracks for bigger combos. They look forward to the joy and fellowship of making music together some day soon. They seek to exemplify the Gracie Allen quote that gave them their name, "Never place a period where God has placed a comma. God is still speaking."

(Submitted by Kathy VandenBerg)

Music Committee cont.

CHAMBER SINGERS

The 12-voice acappella ensemble, Chamber Singers, provided music for worship during the 2019-20 program year in 8 services before the season ended early in March: six Sunday morning services, the Ash Wednesday service, and with the Chancel Choir in the 9pm 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. Larry Triplett is musical director and has been since the fall of 2016.

SUMMER MUSIC

Music for the 9:30 summer sanctuary service was provided by the summer pick-up choir, which met for seven Sundays for rehearsal before the service to learn the day's anthem, and by various individuals and small groups.

TAIZE

Taizé services were held monthly from September - March, on the 2nd Sunday at 7:00 PM. Attendance averaged 14 people. Milo Fryling (piano), Dorothy Wright (cello), and Kelly Fairman (guitar) provided instrumental accompaniment for most of the services this year, with Jack Mitchell (ministry coordinator) serving as cantor. This year our Taizé Good Friday service and the regular service in May were both cancelled due to COVID 19. This was particularly disappointing since the Good Friday service had to be cancelled last year due to the tornadoes in the area that evening. That service generally has a significantly larger congregation and involves an instrumental ensemble of 10 musicians with John Yarbrough conducting. Over the course of the year, other instrumentalists have joined us for selected services, including Erin Conn (French horn & recorders), Dean Herington (clarinet) and Chris Myers (bassoon). Deacon Debbi Carter supported Taizé services. We look forward to resuming services when congregational singing is possible again.

(Submitted by Jack Mitchell)

HANDBELL MINISTRY

Our handbell ministry had a great year, leading worship eight times, attending the Raleigh Ringers Capital Area Festival in November, and playing a Holiday Concert in December at Carolina Meadows. We consolidated the two groups into one five-octave group, Chancel Bells. We added four new ringers this year, with several members taking leave for health reasons. The Assembly Hall was adopted as our new rehearsal space and the group enjoyed the dedicated storage space and spacious room.

Nan de Andrade was hired to direct the handbell ministry Fall 2019-Spring 2020. She attended several directors' workshops to revive her extensive experience (Raleigh Ringers and through American Handbell Association). Under her leadership, the ensemble, which has a variety of experience and skill levels, as well as a new constitution, successfully grew in technique, expressive playing, and ensemble playing, and offered seasonally appropriate selections for worship.

We have shared group emails through this shutdown, and continue to pray for our members with health challenges.
(Submitted by Nan de Andrade)

Music Committee cont.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kathy Pause and Jenny Anderson led music for our weeklong VBS. Our traditional summer handbell camp, which we have held for the last seven years, was combined with our VBS program. Children of all ages got a chance to try out ringing, from the color bells for the youngest to the choir chimes and handbells for the older children. The children presented music in worship on the Sunday following VBS.

UCCH STRING ENSEMBLE

The String Ensemble rehearsed regularly through early spring, and played several times as a quartet or quintet during Sunday morning worship, as well as for the Longest Night service in December.

UNITED BRASS

Our brass players had a quiet fall and unfortunately, plans to play on Palm Sunday were preempted by the shutdown. However, a large number of brass musicians, plus one violinist, added a festive touch to the Saturday morning Hanging of the Greens in early December, and to the church's Christmas party.

Visual Arts Committee

2019/2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing Art Classes in the Sacred Space Studio. Cely Chicurel, Diane Whitney, Cindy Johnson and others have taught various art classes throughout the year.
- Quilts of Love Ministry was led by Denise Laux
- Decorations for Advent let by Nick Carter, Jackson Den Herder and Diane Whitney
- Altar decorations every Sunday, coordinated by Diane Whitney
- New paraments woven by Jackie Bruce
- Empty Bowls project raised a significant donation for IFC, led by Cely Chicurel
- Art Exhibits throughout the year organized by David Taylor and Natalie Boorman. Some of the exhibiting artists were Shelly Hehenberger and art students from NCCU for Black History Month in February
- Art Sale at the Alternative Gift Market raised funds UCCH's World Service Project and Mission trip to Colombia
- Part of the VAC mission is to hang art throughout the church building all year. Please let us know if you have suggestions or comments.
- Assisted in redoing the downstairs children's art wall, which was repainted

We had hoped to do several more art activities. Unfortunately, due to the Corona Pandemic, we had to discontinue our activities. We hope you are all safe and well!

NATALIE BOORMAN, VAC Chair

Board of Fellowship

Many members of our congregation think of the Fellowship Board as the kitchen people. While it's certainly true that our Board maintains the kitchen and oversees events, we're also in charge of creating community in our church and supporting other boards as they sponsor events. We began this year with thoughtful reconsideration of our mission and ended with the drastic changes for COVID quarantine. This year the board added members Delia Barrick, Laurie Birdsong, Nubia Rivero Bello, and Lew Graham to replace outgoing members and fill some vacancies. The appointment of Nubia represents the first native Spanish speaker to our board.



2019/2020 Highlights

- Welcome Back Sunday – The Fellowship Board kicked off the year with the annual Welcome Back Cookout, co-sponsored with the Youth Board, serving between services and continuing until 1pm. We utilized the Assembly Hall, the choir room, and outdoors as predominant seating areas, with food service outside the office and Assembly Hall, reserving the Fellowship Hall for La Mesa worship. The Fellowship Board provided main grilled items and the congregation rounded out offerings. The Youth provided some funding and lots of help with set up, food prep, and serving. The addition of bilingual welcoming signage helped direct traffic and expand participation from both services. About 300 people were served.
- Coffee Hour - Developed large poster/sign-up and created bilingual host summaries. In January, we added a second coffee hour after the 11 service, with coffee offered in the family parlor.
- Recycling/composting Initiative. Susan Warwick spearheaded the continuing recycling program that matches as much as Chapel Hill recycling allows. Trial composting was initiated at the Wednesday night suppers. Clear labeling and recycling containers were provided.
- Supported Alternative Gift Market popcorn booth during one day of the market.
- Re-evaluated the traditional Stone Soup lunch for pledge Sunday. MES Board agreed to do a “desserts and coffee” event.
- Christmas party Dec 11 – The Fellowship Board continued this tradition of heavy appetizers, holiday sweets and Santa, with music provided by the Brass ensemble and carol singing. This event remained a stand-alone event and was a wonderful multi-generational fellowship time.
- Light Up Your Winter support Jan. 15 – Feb. 5. - Although the Fellowship Board does not sponsor this event, FB member Lori Carter represented the board with assistance to sponsoring groups.
- Quarantine adjustment - The shelter-in-place order for NC meant the pause of congregational gatherings. The Board instituted a Zoom coffee hour where members could join any one of several groups and chat just as they would during a post-service event. Post Easter, two hosts volunteered every week.

This June we say good-bye to three active members of our Board: Lori Carter, Lisa Gabel, and Betsy Taylor.

LEE SORENSEN, Board of Fellowship Chair

Hospitality Ministries

Community Group Ministries 2019-2020 Program

- Implemented training and monthly support to create a new ministry program at United Church: Community Group Ministries.
- Led 3 leadership training sessions in August 2019 shepherding in 28 Community Group Team Leaders and 15 groups throughout the triangle area.
- Supported the Community Group Team Leaders through monthly mailings, devotionals, and one-on-one meetings throughout the year.
- Hosted a December holiday get-together for leaders.
- Led a presentation/celebration on the one-year anniversary of the program for Team Leaders in February 2020.
- During pandemic quarantine:
 - Used time to study, read, and ground myself theologically in the continued development of the Community Group Ministries program
 - Weekly emails to Team Leaders and Participants
 - Weekly Zoom meetings to continue with Team Leaders and Participants to continue fostering community virtually

Hospitality Ministries 2019-2020 Programs and Projects

- Alternative Gift Market November 2019 Staff Support/Coordination of 30th Anniversary of Alternative Gift Market with Henry Lister/ Highlights include:
 - CH-C Peacemaking Scholarship Fundraising Concert on Friday night to open the event.
 - Participation in the market consisted of: 13 UCCH members/groups, 6 Artists from greater CH community, 9 UCCH Artists supporting “Artists for a Cause” contributing proceeds to UCCH mission with Church World Service, and 17 Non-profit vendors.
 - A crew of 20 volunteers assisted with the organization, set-up, and cleanup.
 - The combined God’s Bidding Online Auction and Gifts of Time and Service raised \$9,000, allowing us to make significant contributions to Church World Service and the Inter-Faith Council.
- In August 2019 - Traveled with and provided staff support for the UCCH Solidarity Team to Nicaragua, where we partnered with ANIT, the LBGTQIA+ Trans organization, painting, fixing up office, and connecting in solidarity with them.
- October 2019: Provided staff presence at Annual Church Retreat to Blowing Rock
- Assisted in the recruitment of new members through bi-monthly scheduled Luncheons with the Pastors, a team effort with the Board of Membership Engagement and Stewardship. Arranged for New Member receptions and connected new and existing members and friends with groups that feed their spirit and provide the sense of community they’re searching for.
- Supported fundraising and organizational efforts for 2020 Mission Trip program to Colombia, which was cancelled because of the pandemic.

Rinnie Orr, Director of Hospitality Ministries

Hospitality Ministries cont.



Board of Justice, Outreach and Service

In the 2019-2020 program year, the Board of Justice, Outreach and Service continued its mission to bring social, racial, economic and environmental justice issues before the congregation and partially fund social justice actions in the community through the UCCH Earth Justice Ministry, Prison Ministries, ONA:LBGTQIA+ Ministries, Racial Justice Ministries, Sanctuary Task Force, food insecurity and other efforts. The board's work is grounded in the mission of United Church of Chapel Hill, as well as the church's covenants for Creation; Economic Justice; Open and Affirming; and Racial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation.

BJOS support helped inform a robust adult education schedule featuring speakers on housing policy, Orange County Habitat for Elders, Benevolence Farm Women's Re-entry housing and Justice United affordable housing initiatives. Other topics included Homosexuality and the Bible, the Orange County Bail/Bond Justice Project (a recipient of BJOS funding), updates on the local Sanctuary movement and the history of La Mesa. BJOS board members also spoke at Ministry Showcase Faith in Action events in the fall.

ONA received funding for events to continue its mission of growing their advocacy and education efforts such as the Nicaragua Mission Trip. This support also helps facilitate programming such as Pride and Queer Bible Study, guest speakers, and the popular Gospel Drag Brunch (which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19).

The board again promoted the annual Alternative Gift Market (AGM) which benefitted the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) and a new three-year Church World Service project supporting long-term recovery for those in our state (often immigrants and refugees) impacted by climate crisis-caused natural disasters. The market's Friday night concert benefitted the Peacemaking Scholarship program which BJOS helped support. AGM pecan and stew sales benefitted Prison Ministries.

Through the Sanctuary Task Force, BJOS helped fund an inter-denominational statement on the growing worldwide Humanitarian Crisis which was published in the Raleigh N&O. Funding was provided to Racial Justice Ministries for the social, racial and economic justice march HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) and the local NAACP for its operations and voter registration efforts. Prison Ministries received BJOS support for the salary of the Senior Chaplain at the Orange County Correctional Center, who is also executive director of Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry. BJOS budgeted for the Earth Justice Ministries' "War, Peace, and Justice in a Time of Climate Change," a weekend-long event exploring the intersection of climate-shaped conflict and Christian ethics, which would have included invited experts for a workshop, preaching and adult forum. The event, scheduled in late March, also had to be cancelled because of COVID-19.

The annual Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk in March supported by BJOS was cancelled because of COVID-19, but individuals were encouraged to walk safely on their own. The UCCH team's online contribution even exceeded that of last year.



Board of Justice, Outreach and Service cont.

Prison Ministries

Prison Ministries worked directly with the staff of the Orange County Correctional Center in Hillsborough, along with the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministries and Yokefellows. The following support was provided this year:

- Provided 100 pieces of grilled chicken (prepared at the annual UCCH Welcome Back Barbecue) for the sold-out correctional center cookout on Aug. 25.
- Raised funds from pecan sales at the UCCH Annual Gift Market.
- Increased support for the salary of the Orange County Correctional Center chaplain who is also the executive director of the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry.
- Yokefellows meetings were held weekly with the men of the Orange County Correctional Center. (Note: the cookies that used to be provided at these gatherings are no longer allowed.)

Food Insecurity

Through its partnership with the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC):

- UCCH food donations deposited in the narthex basket were taken to the IFC Food Pantry each week.
- Congregation volunteers made casseroles and served lunch/dinner monthly at the IFC Community Kitchen, as well as at the Homestart Shelter for Woman and Children.
- UCCH members raised money from online donations and t-shirt sales in support of the annual Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk to benefit IFC and Church World Service hunger relief efforts. (Although the March 29 event had to be cancelled because of COVID-19, the UCCH contribution comprised 10% of the fundraising total.)

Habitat for Humanity Committee

Building Hope & Crescent Magnolia

UCCH is one of five local churches making up the Building Hope Partnership part of the Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. The partnership works at the construction site 8 or 9 Saturdays every fall. This year and last our construction efforts focused on Crescent Magnolia, a 24-home senior living community in Hillsborough, which is an innovative first-of-its-kind project and a template for other Habitat locations around the country.

Over the course of 4 Saturdays in fall 2019, we supplied volunteers from our church to work together on one shift. Those same Saturdays, a group of volunteers provided fabulous onsite lunches for up to 30 construction volunteers and staff. In addition to contributing time and effort as construction and lunch volunteers, members of UCCH donated funds to help with the cost of materials and certified contractors.

The Habitat for Humanity Committee is included in the Board of Justice Outreach and Service (BJOS), and it provides annual financial support out of the BJOS budget to help with overhead costs for Habitat for Humanity of Orange County.

Peacemaking Scholarships

- 2020 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarships were awarded to Hannalee Isaacs & Jordan Smith
- Awarded 26 scholarships over 12 years, - <https://unitedchurch.org/peacemaking/>
- The Peacemaking Scholarship endowment fund is growing & we're taking steps to spread this scholarship model to other communities
- BJOS, Alternative Gift Market, Benefit Concert, and individual donors were primary sources of scholarship funds

Board of Justice Outreach and Service, cont.

Sanctuary Committee

- Held a Wednesday night supper fundraiser to raise funds for the Emergency Assistance fund for Immigrants.
- Organized a forum on the status of immigrants who are currently in sanctuary in NC. Rachel Baker, the Immigrant Advocacy Program Coordinator for the NC Sanctuary Coalition of the NC Council of Churches, led the forum.
- Organized a forum on the current situation for undocumented immigrants in NC. Marco Cervantes, the staff attorney for the Immigrant and Refugee Right Project at the NC Justice Center, provided the update.
- Sponsored and manned a table for Rosa del Carmen Ortiz Cruz's jewelry at the UCCH alternative market. Rosa is in sanctuary at the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill.
- Approved funding from the Emergency Assistance Fund for Immigrants to provide: (a) food for immigrants who have lost jobs or work hours and (b) an application for asylum.

Additional support went to the following: UCC Retirement Homes, Southern Outdoor Ministry, Lancaster Theological Seminary, UCC Mission Scholarship, NC Council of Churches, Interfaith Power and Light, voter registration and other efforts.

Solidarity Trip to Nicaragua August 2019

"We came here to help. Not to preach or to convert, or to judge. We just came to help."

These were my opening words to the people at ANIT, the LBGTQ+ Trans organization in Nicaragua that was the focus of our 2019 Solidarity Trip this past August. Sadly, Pastor David was detained at the airport in Nicaragua, and was refused entrance. Our team of 11 members continued forth without him.

Some of us spent a lot of time in hardware stores and Walmart, driving around the city of Managua looking for materials, sheet rock, paint, supplies, glass...while others worked primarily at the clinic – painting and repairing things. A couple of us simply spent the time in conversations with members of ANIT.

As we were wrapping up our time at ANIT, Alex Cordova, UCCH church member, brought our team together in a circle with about 20 members of ANIT. We had a couple hours together, talking and sharing about our experiences that week. We were struck by the stories of people who simply want to live their most authentic lives and be true to their most authentic selves in a world that does not fully support them or acknowledge their existence.

We were moved by the love and care the members of ANIT have for one another. In the midst of living in a society that rejects them, they come together in love and form their own community. For a brief four days, we were warmly welcomed into this community and were able to hear the sighs and sorrows from members of this community. We had just come to help, but we learned and experienced so much more.

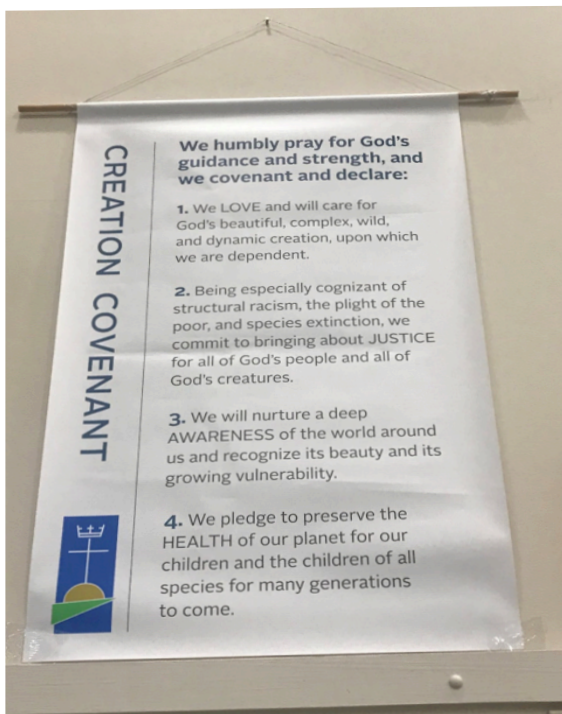
Much gratitude for the love of the UCCH congregation for the donations and support for this trip.

~Submitted by Rinnie Orr

Earth Ministries Committee

Activities from June 2019 - May 2020

- Unanimous adoption of our Creation Covenant by the UCCH congregation in June 2019, seeking to raise consciousness for the issues and concerns listed in the Creation Covenant and actions we can take as a congregation.
- “Light up Your Winter” educational series on The Green New Deal in Jan/Feb 2020 with internal & external speakers. Our conclusion from the series is that there is no contradiction between seeking a sustainable environment & a sustainable economy, but that communities of faith have an essential role to play in advocating for such policies.
- UCCH hosted a delegation of faith partners from UCC Southern Conference’s sister churches in Germany in August. We shared about the Earth Ministries and our social justice activities at UCCH, and how we were able to reduce our carbon footprint by 58%.
- UCCH hosted a meeting of Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation in January 2020 about Solar Energy for local faith congregations. Earth Ministries shared information about our solar energy project, and how well our system is working, producing 64% of our electricity need from the sun.
- Earth Ministries worked with UCCH Youth Ministries and the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) of North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light (NCIPL) on climate-related initiatives being driven by youth.
- Collaboration with the Fellowship Board on composting/recycling initiative.
- Working in collaboration with the Board of Trustees on future plans for HVAC replacements that will reduce our carbon footprint & save money.



Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee

2019 was a busy year for our group! Here is some of what we've been up to in the past year:

- Represented UCCH at 2019 Pride parade and festival in Durham. Last year we had a decorated Jeep and an awesome FLOAT!
- Since 2014, UCCH and a group of collaborators have established a coalition that empowers and supports our mission of solidarity with the LGBTQI communities in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Colombia. These collective efforts help them to fight for their human rights, obstructed spirituality, and basic health care resources. We raised \$1,100 at our first Gospel Drag Brunch, which about 70+ people attended, including some families with their children.
- In partnership with Pastor Ian McPherson, we facilitated an amazing TWO series (Spring/Fall) of monthly Queer Bible Study: a space for all Queer, Trans & Questioning people to explore the bible through an intentionally Queer lens. Stay tuned for another Queer Bible Study series hosted by ONA and Pastor Joey Honeycutt.
- Raised over \$600 with our annual t-shirt fundraiser. Special thanks to all who supported our cause!
- Guest speakers and workshops: LGBTQIA+ 101 by Angel Collie, September 2019 training for the congregation on why pronouns are important and what gender non-conforming means, The Scrolls Revealed! Homosexuality and the Bible by Rev. Harry Stock September 2019 workshop aimed to show that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality as some churches continue to teach.
- ONA hosted two dinners in the Fellowship Hall (Sep. 2019 and Feb. 2020) that raised funds for future event planning. Special thanks to all who came out and supported our group!
- Participated in UCCH's Celebration of Ministries event and Ministry Showcase program, which are themed gatherings for visitors and members to meet face-to-face with people engaged in the ministries of United Church.

Just for fun, here is some stuff we have coming up in 2020:

- Another PRIDE t-shirt fundraiser (announcements coming later this summer)
- We invite you to be a part of our monthly 2nd Sunday Zoom ONA meet-ups that include more fellowship and conversation, instead of solely event planning. It's been a really great change! Be sure to look out for future church announcements for dates/time and Zoom log-in info.
- In addition, we plan to host future Zoom presentations and discussion panels on Queer topics of interest.

We're really proud of what we've been able to accomplish in the last year or so and we're looking forward to what's next!



Racial Justice Ministries Committee

This committee works in collaboration with other groups both within and outside the church to identify and help implement ways that UCCH can live more fully into its Racial Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Covenant. RJM was launched in Fall 2019 to build on the early efforts of a similar committee in 2016, and to allow the SCOR class to focus on study and discussion rather than on coordinating or organizing activities for the church.

Recent RJM projects included establishing a new UCCH youth scholarship through the NAACP, launching the Spreading Justice initiative to help address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19, and developing a Racial Justice Guiding Questions tool, which will help all church groups apply a racial justice lens when making decisions.

Events that had been planned for spring were canceled due to COVID-19.

Board of Membership Engagement, and Stewardship

General Responsibilities

...to develop, plan, organize, and implement strategies to strengthen our congregation's ministries by recruiting new members, nurturing our members' UCC identity, and communicate opportunities that will engage their time, talents, and financial resources for Christian mission.

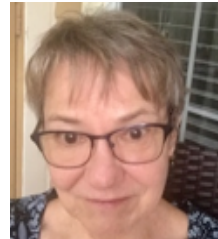
UCCH Bylaws <https://unitedchurch.org/organization/>

In 2019-2020

We collaborated on the annual stewardship campaign with many adults, children, youth, young adults, staff, and pastors to raise funds for the church mission by offering testimonials about why we love UCCH, writing thank you postcards, making reminder phone calls, designing stewardship mailings and slide shows in both Spanish and English, and offering pledges and gifts online, by check or cash. November brought Fellowship and MES Boards together for the Stewardship Sunday Gala with all manner of delicious pies, cakes, cookies, fruit, cheese and other treats, and comraderie.

Served at the welcome tables, greeting visitors and new members, orienting interested persons at lunches with Pastors and Ministry showcases, giving tours and receptions for new members, and hosting a photo shoot for the church directory update. While designing improved church signage and wayfinding directions, the MES Board sought out opportunities to extend a warm welcome to visitors, friends, and members.

MES Board Members: Alex Cordova, Regina Dozier, Dick Hill, Winkie LaForce, Andrea Vizoso, Julie Wagner, Elsa Huerta, Susan Renwick, and Jeff Smith



2019 Church Register

ADDED (59)

Joined in 2019

Priscilla Boomer
Amy Brown
Linda Cook
Marian Dilka
Alex Gregor
Stephanie Hardy
Phil Hardy
Derrick James Hensley
Karen Hensley
Holly Holder
Winkie LaForce
Ian McPherson
Megan Nashel
Nubia Rivero Bello
Austin Wadle
Katherine Albero
Delia Barrick
Megan DeMarco
Oscar Garcia
Morgan Maccherone
Mary Dodge-Smith
Nestor Escobar
Elsa Huerta
Erica Tillman
Matt Newton
Rebecca Newton
Jan Thornton-Irvine Associate
Julian Thornton Associate
Marcus Layer
Scott Jones
Tonia Jones
Miguel Angel Davila Reaffirmation
Kevin Davila
Stacy Gunter
Clair Jenne
Susan Denault
Nat Hollister
Katie Cretin
Sophia Rauda - Youth
Julie Costello

SUMMARY

01-01-2019: 883 members

Added: 59

Removed: 8

12-31-2019: 934 members

Worship Attendance

Weekly Average = 334

Monthly Average = 1415

BAPTISMS (6)

Sahmara Escobar Albero
Kate Lutz
Kristie Curran
Kyrn Paine-Heise
Dorian Rose
Annie Curran

MARRIAGES (0)

Confirmation 2019

Nate Chartrand
Nick Copland
Tatum Cubrilovic
Annie Curran
Kristie Curran
Camila Garcia-Brobston
Elizabeth Hall
Kevin Higgins
Micah Hughes
Olivia Ingledue
Kate Lutz
Langley Maciejewski
Evie Mount-Cors
Willow Neill
Kyrn Paine-Heise
Soren Potthoff
David Rinehart
Evan Rinehart
Dorian Rose
Gabby Sielken
Landon Williams
Claire Willoughby

REMOVED (8)

Transferred Out (3)

Tye Hunter
Wanda Hunter
Thangam Arumugham

Deaths(5)

Lucy Jo De Monchaux
Bob Hotte
Marjorie Denniston
Anna McCullough
Roz Lloyd

Board of Trustees

Members: Ron Johnson (Co-Chair), Nancy White (Co-Chair), Derek Harrison (Treasurer), Chip Breisch, Kathy Vandenberg, Chris Brodie, Alan Dickenson, Shu Wen Ng, Ben Sallard, Skip Polson, Cameron Barr (Sr. Pastor). Duane Gilbert (Business Manager) participates in most BOT meetings and is an important resource to the Board. With the hiring of Kati Ruark as Church Administrator in the fall, Kati has replaced Duane as the staff liaison 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:

- Replacement and repair of HVAC units that were starting to falter. The HVAC unit that serves the main office area was replaced
- Fixing a number of roof leaks including some over the sanctuary
- Replacement of a water heater
- Led multiple church work/cleanup days
- Facilitated budget discussions with the congregation 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

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 workdays and maintains the beautiful grounds of the church. Phill Wilson has been instrumental 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.

Special recognition also goes out to Dianne Bertsch, the Church Archivist, and Cindy Johnson who have spent numerous hours organizing church photos, documents, and historic resources. Bill Siddall, Linda Sellers, and Barbara Wildemuth support them.

Board of Adult Education

Jeff Hall led the Board of Adult Education this year, and invited church members and community organizations to present “Ted Talk” programs on Sunday mornings during the Adult Forum. This format, involving 15-20 minutes of presentation followed by about twenty minutes of conversation, helped to create a more reliable and consistent Sunday morning schedule in the busy 10 am hour between services. Featured speakers this year included Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt, President of the American Academy of Religion; Rev. Harry Stock, an advocate for LGBTQ inclusion in the church; and Jeff Hall, featuring local advocacy for bail reform in Orange County. Other forums were organized by the Board of Justice, Outreach and Service, and featured speakers from the NC Justice Center; Benevolence Farm, which provides housing and employment for women released from prison; Apoyo and other organizations working for the rights of undocumented immigrants; and Justice United of Orange County, a local community organizing affiliate.

Sunday morning offerings also included:

Faith & Family, led by Toby McCoy. This conversation-centered group is open to parents of children of all ages. Participants share recommendations for books, articles, podcasts, and other resources, and meet weekly with the primary intent of supporting one another through one of life’s most challenging and fulfilling journeys of faith: parenthood. The class has continued to meet virtually since we have not been able to meet in-person.

Spiritual Growth, led by Cely Chicurel. The Spiritual Growth class has engaged in conversation about a number of books this year. The class has continued to meet virtually since we have not been able to meet in-person.

Sacred Conversations on Race (SCOR), led by Fred Joiner and Ingrid Schmidt. Ongoing since 2008 and open to everyone, this class hopes to build a solid foundation of understanding and inspiration, so that participants can then take part in our congregation’s many racial justice activities, take action as a community of faith, and create positive change. Part of the year was spent together with the Adult Forum when topics related to racial justice were discussed. The class also discussed a variety of articles related to current events, and studied portions of the book, “I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness”, by Austin Channing Brown. Attendance averaged 15-20 participants. Classes were moved online as part of the pandemic safety measures, and met on Saturday evenings. To encourage the sharing of information through articles, events, and other resources, SCOR also maintains a listserv of approximately 90 members, and a Facebook page.

The Board of Adult Education also sponsored two regular series on Wednesday evenings, “Wednesdays Together” in September and October 2019, and “Light Up Your Winter” in January and February 2020. These forums provided opportunities for the congregation to come together over shared meals and learn together in small group formats. Some classes included UCC Polity and History with Cameron Barr, “The Theology of Fred Rogers” led by Jeanne Allen, healing prayer led by Bill Murray and David Mateo, “Depolarizing Within” presented by Better Angels, “Hospitality as a Spiritual Practice” led by Rinnie Orr, a Sacred Space painting classes taught by Claudia Galvez and Cely Chicurel, and “Are We Ready for a Green New Deal?” led by Alan Reed and Herman Greene.

The board also organized a congregational retreat in October 2019 to the Blowing Rock Conference Center. Pastor Cameron and Jeff Hall worked together to provide content for the retreat, which was focused on “Filling the Pitcher,” resources for spiritual renewal. Other adult education opportunities include the Monday Noon Book Group, Spanish/English Conversations, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Friday Morning Yoga, and Meditation. Many of these groups have continued to meet online since the suspension of in-person gathering. Some activities were canceled or postponed due to the suspension of worship caused by COVID-19. The pandemic required a Lenten series on “Renewal of Covenant” that involved practices of worship on Wednesdays to be moved into a virtual format. The congregation was also sadly required to postpone a much anticipated weekend series on ecology and theology featuring Presbyterian ministers and faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary, Mark Douglas and Lindsay Armstrong.

Board of Children's Ministry

We supported the faith formation of our children and families while working with our Director of Children's Ministries, church staff, and wonderful congregation.

Staffing

Anita Grove continued to serve as Director of Children's Ministry throughout the year under the leadership of Pastor Ian McPherson. Anita was part of a Sustainable Children's Ministries cohort led by the author, Annette Safstrom.

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 "Who is your Neighbor?" and was supported by Pastor Ian McPherson and Jenny Anderson. We offered it for the first time for an entire week from 7/22-7/26 from 9-3pm for preschool through high school aged children. It was well received from the children, families, and many neighbors in our community.

Core Programing

Weekly Sunday School, September - March 8, for 64 children in 4 different age groups. 12 teachers were recruited and trained. Meetings were held to review curriculum and exchange ideas. Teachers use the Spark Lectionary Curriculum with support from our Director of Children's Ministry for additional content. Sunday School programming included two *Children's Church services* this year. These services were led by our 4th/5th and 2nd/3rd grade Sunday School classes in collaboration with our Director of Music, Jenny Anderson, and Kathy Pause, with support from Pastor Ian McPherson and Pastor Mary Elizabeth Hanchey, and Judy Bruce from the Board of Deacons. *Worship bags* and book cart are offered for weekly worship services. *Worship services include a children's component*, children's message, musical offering, or involvement in the service by children.

Weekly Sunday School offerings went to TABLE. Sunday School children also created letters to congregational members that are homebound and/or with pastoral care needs. *Weekly nursery care* was provided for an average of 15 infants, toddlers, and young children, staffed by a director, assistant director, and three attendants. Childcare was provided for most church-wide events.

Weekly Faith and Family Class

The group, facilitated by volunteers, read the following books to guide their discussions: "3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family" by Patrick Lencioni and "The Gifts of Imperfect Parenting" by Brené Brown, listened two podcasts related to How to Get Your Kid to Finally Grow up and How to Stress Your Kid the Right Way, and also focused on issues and current topics related to parenting.

Annual Events

Vacation Bible School, Welcome Back Cookout, Advent wreath-making, Christmas Giving Tree Outreach Project, Christmas Dinner, Christmas Eve service, and Searching for the Stars event with Chapel of the Cross. Postponed activities for this year due to COVID-19 response: Teacher Appreciation Brunch, two additional Children's Churches, Good Friday Service, and End-of-The-Year Cookout and Ice Cream Social.

Response to COVID-19 Quarantine

A strong effort has been made to stay connected with the families and children during this time through weekly worship videos in collaboration with Pastor Ian; weekly office Zoom time availability; attendance on Zoom calls with Children's Choir, Youth Group, and Youth Choir; weekly emails with resources and activities as well as information on our UCCH Facebook page for Families with Young Children; and individual phone calls, FaceTime and Zoom calls with children and families as requested.

Board of Youth and Young Adult

Mission Statement: The Youth Ministry of UCCH celebrates youth, connects them to God, one another, and the community, and empowers them as leaders who act for equity and justice.

Program year 2019-2020 introduced a new Sunday schedule, with Youth Group meeting at 10 am and a new “Youth Café” (co-hosted with the Youth Choir) meeting at 11am. Confirmation continued meeting at 5 pm on Sunday evenings, and a new program called “The Hub” met monthly to connect youth with civic leaders. The Hub is funded through a generous Innovation Grant from the Lilly Endowment and has featured speakers from our congregation and beyond.

Fall 2019 Highlights

- Board of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (BYYAM) members revitalized our program space, focusing especially on our downstairs kitchen. This effort (let by Board Co-Chair Megan Hughes) set the stage for the kitchen’s now-weekly use through Youth Café and The Hub. This led to important conversations about environmental stewardship, providing recycling bins and a composting container for regular use.
- To kick off the year, Pastor Ian, Anitra, and Youth Board members introduced rising 6th graders and their families to youth ministries through our second-annual donut breakfast. Board member Elaine Andrews-Lanier (and her wife, Lisa) hosted our annual fall kick-off event.
- The Hub’s fall “Social Justice and the Arts” series featured Carrboro Poet Laureate Fred Joiner, artist and inspirational speaker I Am Soteria, pastor and activist Rev. Chalice Overy, and the drag nun troupe The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.
- Youth parent Mark Bumby led a youth baking and fundraising effort to deepen our congregation’s connection with the youth-led organizing work of Interfaith Power and Light (part of the NC Council of Churches). The youth raised \$743 to support NCIPL’s work with youth leaders.
- In partnership with youth and young adults of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, several students participated in DurhamCare’s Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope, reflecting on the racial history (and future) of our region and what our faith has to say about it.

Winter/Spring 2020 Highlights

- Students attended Blowing Rock’s annual Winter Youth Retreat (theme: “Love Who? Love How?”).
- The Hub’s “Movement School” spring series featured Poor People’s Campaign National Organizer, Rev. Erica Williams, DurhamCares Pilgrimage Coordinator Rev. Dr. Tammy Rodman, and Jubilee Baptist Church Ministry Intern, H.L. Holder-Brown.
- In response to feedback from our youth, the Board decided to limit the number of services for which youth were responsible. To combat the mid-year lull, we began an arts-focused, six-week preparation for Youth Church when we resumed programming in January. Youth were notably more engaged this year and led two beautiful services (“Hate Has Left the Chat”) on February 16.
- After this, Pastor Ian, Jenna Kolling, and Anne Stoddard premiered a new, lectionary-based, social-justice-oriented youth group curriculum from the United Methodist Church’s General Board of Church and Society.

Board of Youth and Young Adult Ministry cont.

A note on COVID-19

- In response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, UCCH suspended in-person assembly for worship (and began gathering online) beginning March 15. The Youth Board sprang into action immediately, leading a multi-phase, weeks-long outreach to all families connected to our ministry. The Board has been meeting weekly to check-in on outreach efforts, attend to new business, and care for one another.
- Pastor Ian, Anitra, and members of the Youth Board have been hosting “Youth Group Goes Virtual” weekly on Zoom, while Ian and Laura have been leading Confirmants in difficult conversations about how to finish the year strong and recognize their work without Confirmation Sunday (as planned). Several youth have contributed to a pen pal program with isolated residents of Covenant Place. We are currently working on special, innovative options for recognizing our graduating seniors, who are grieving the loss of so many anticipated rites of passage.

Excerpt from the Renovation Team’s recent report to Church Council

United Church contracted with Ministry Architects for a 12-month consulting process beginning November 2018 and continued through this program year. This work was guided by a “Renovation Team” that included chairs from all three Boards of faith formation: Jeff Hall (Adult Ed), Millie Brobston (BYYAM), and Christine Harding (Children’s Board), as well as their staff liaisons, Ian McPherson and Anitra Grove.

The Renovation Team helped us to reflect on United Church’s values, priorities, and dreams for Christian formation. In addition to these rich insights for our congregation (particularly as we have undertaken strategic planning for the whole system) there are specific impacts and ongoing projects worth briefly noting here:

- Within the youth ministry, the Renovation Team has worked to improve systems of communication, volunteer recruitment, attendance tracking, and event planning.
- Jeff Hall created a comprehensive communication plan for church leadership.
- Efforts are underway to reassess and maximize use of our building’s rich resources.
- All three faith formation Boards are now engaged in conversation about our congregation’s central rites of passage (throughout the lifespan).
- Anitra and Pastor Ian have led the entire staff in reflection on (and the publication of) their sustainable weekly rhythms at work.
- Perhaps most importantly, there is a team (including Pastors Mary Elizabeth and Ian, Anitra Grove, Kati Ruark, Christine Harding, and Saritha Vermeer) currently working to update and significantly bolster our church’s Safe Conduct Policy.

The BYYAM is already shifting toward a more sustainable model of ministry focused on increasing the number of youth ministry leaders and fostering deeper connections with young people. In late February, a “UCCH Youth Leader Summit” brought together BYYAM members, volunteers, parents, and other adult leaders to facilitate conversation about the future of youth ministry and foster greater cooperation among these different stakeholders.

Pastoral Care

I have been grateful for the opportunity to partner with so many of you in building and rebuilding the scaffolding for pastoral care at United Church during this program year. My responsibilities have included providing personal and individual care in the form of visitation, pastoral meetings, and a listening ear. But I have also focused on supporting the development of structures to support pastoral and congregational care. We met together for two Care Caucuses in which those gathered were encouraged to provide input about care-giving strengths and weaknesses at United Church, and to work together to think through implementation. Much of what we developed together came out of those discussions.

During this last season, expansions of pastoral care at United Church have included (but not been limited to!):

Pastoral Care Emails and Prayer Inserts in the Bulletin: hearing that folks desired more information about those for whom we are praying, and the opportunity to take a list of prayer requests home to use in devotional practices during the week, we began including a prayer list in the form of an insert in our Sunday Bulletins that is based on the information we provide in the weekly pastoral care emails. We also expanded efforts to make sure that folks who wished to receive pastoral care updates were signed up to do so.

Health and Wellness, and Community Care Committee: hearing that my work as a part of the staff team that would be supported by a committee of the Deacons, we re-energized the Health and Wellness Committee, which functioned in the past but had not been active in recent years. We expanded its mission and its title to include “community care.” This is a committee that rests in the Deacons. **Andy Short** is the Deacon liaison. We have begun to restructure this committee with the chairs of many of our newly created care-teams and with medical professionals from the congregation – though it is clear that much of our organizing work will have to be revisited in the new program year, once we understand more about what our life together will be like!

Wisdom Lunches: hearing that some of the retired folks in our community wished for more opportunity to gather during the day, we created a series of lunch-time gatherings that took place most months! This opportunity provided fellowship and the opportunity for folks to form deeper and more meaningful relationships in our congregation. And we had lots of good food. **Betsy Crittenden** is the lay-leader contact for this ministry.

Long-term Caregiver Support Group: hearing that many folks in our congregation bear the heavy weight of providing long-term care for a loved one, we created a support group that gathers once a month. This opportunity provided a place for these caregivers to share their wisdom, grief, and hope; to support each other through difficult times; and to form and strengthen meaningful relationships in our congregation. **Walter Fehr** is the lay-leader contact for this ministry.

Gift Card and Food Pantry Support: hearing that there were more needs for financial support and help with food insecurity than we were currently meeting, we created an opportunity to gather dried goods and gift cards to be made available to those who need them. The congregation showed tremendous support for this project, and this ministry has blessed our congregation.

Pastoral Care cont.

COVID-19 Call-Ministry: as the social distancing restrictions that accompanied COVID-19 were put into place in our communities, we worked to contact members of our congregation, making a special effort to identify who might need extra care and contact during this season of grief, challenge, and isolation. **Andrea Vizoso** and **Andy Short** helped to organize an initial round of contacting church members. **Vicki Gardner** and **Patricia Saylor**, who had agreed to help us organize our visitation ministry, pivoted quickly to help us organize the information we gleaned from the initial effort into a ministry of making contact and checking in. This opportunity provided a way for so many folks in our congregation to make a meaningful connection with others, and for us to determine needs of those in our community.

United Church is a congregation with deep resources for compassion and caregiving. I am grateful for the opportunity to walk with you all as we grow together in capacity and intention!

PASTOR MARY ELIZABETH HANCHEY

Pastoral Relations Committee

Personnel Committee

Pastoral Relations Committee

PRC is a standing committee reporting directly to Council, with the purpose of supporting a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregants in order to enhance the effectiveness of the church's ministry. PRC meets monthly and serves two primary roles: (1) an advisory group, sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the Sr. Pastor. (2) a support group for the Pastor's leadership, interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to the congregation. This year, the PRC developed a PRC Charter and Frequently Asked Questions and created an email address pastoralrelationscommittee@unitedchurch.org to facilitate communication among UCCH members and the committee. PRC also conducted a mid-term evaluation of the Senior Pastor in December 2019.

PRC Committee members: Midge Coward, Melanie Joiner, Sandy Polson, Dennis Pagano, Andy Short, and Doug Zabor.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is a standing committee reporting directly to Council with the purpose of assisting and advising Council and the Senior Pastor by providing input on the personnel budget and policies. The Personnel Committee meets monthly with the Senior Pastor. This year, we developed a Personnel Policy Committee Charter outlining the roles and functions of the committee. Key activities this past year included reviewing and providing input on the personnel budget and benefits for UCCH staff, reviewing letters of agreement in hiring new employees (Parish Associate, Office Administrator, and Communications Manager) and other staffing related issues.

Personnel Committee Members: Tim Gabel, Melanie Joiner, Matt Newton, Craig Smith, MJ Sorenson, Brian Southwell, and Gina Upchurch

A PLACE *of* BELONGING

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN