

# GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

WWW.GREENBELTUCC.ORG  
PASTOR: DANIEL HAMLIN  
MODERATOR: SUSAN BREON  
EDITOR: CAROL GRIFFITH

## **PASTOR DAN'S LETTER**

### Reunions

At the end of July I'll again make the 300-mile journey north to a rustic old cottage on the lake. I won't make the trip for the cottage or the lake. I'll go for the people.

For the last twelve years members of my extended family have gathered at the cottage for a week each summer. We've shared delightful days on the water, played fiercely contested games of *Trivial Pursuit* in the evenings, assembled jigsaw puzzles when it rained, and had a few spats. No family is free of friction. Over the years our summer gatherings have deepened the bonds of love among us.

Since 2006 there have been annual picnics at the cottage for my high school classmates. They've been occasions to renew old friendships and make new ones.

I've often marveled that people actually show up for worship on hot, sticky summer Sundays. Perhaps what brings people to church during the "dog days" is the same thing that causes me to drive 300 miles each summer. Every seven days we have a congregational reunion. Friendships are made and bonds of community strengthened. Sometimes it takes real effort just to show up. When we do Christ is present.

---

## **Calendar**

**September 6 – Luncheon-on-the-Lawn, following Greenbelt's Labor Day Parade**

---

## **DIRECTORY CHANGES**

Bobbi & Tony McCarthy: Change of address  
422 S. Shore Rd.  
Swanton, MD 21561  
240-460-5646  
tonybobbimccarthy@yahoo.com

Rena and Steve Shylanski – add son Matthew

Kateri and Matt Baker: New address and email:  
5 Lakeside Drive  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
KateriBaker@gmail.com

## **GCC SHOWS ITS HEART**

Greenbelt Community Church was once again among the top contributors to the Hyattsville CROP Walk this year! The Hyattsville 2009 CROP Walk raised over \$53,000 for CWS from 23 groups and churches.

Ninety three100 intrepid walkers and 8 brave dogs from GCC participated in this year's walk on a very warm day and raised \$17,142 for Church World Service/CROP! We had set a very ambitious goal of raising \$17,000 so it is quite a triumph for our church. That amount included \$1610 donated for the SOUPER Bowl of Caring, which includes \$261.00 from the children's CROP banks - another record!

Many thanks to all who donated to Palm Sunday's One Great Hour of Sharing. This project, which raises money for worldwide service projects, disaster relief, and refugee relief, raised \$2,853!

The Heifer Project, by which the children raise money during Lent to support sustainable agricultural development, was very also successful this year. The goal was the funding of bees for impoverished families. Grateful thanks to all who contributed, and to the Board of Christian Education for their assistance in this project.

Our members who have assisted the church by giving their time and talents to the Christian Education Program were recognized on Christian Education Sunday. A reception was held in the Social Hall after worship to honor their service. These members include: Krissy Beauchamp; Yolanda Burnett; Paula Clinedinst; Amy Hansen; Terry Henderson; Leeann Irwin; Alma, Jeff, and Laura Knutson; Sarah McCarthy; Marat Moore; Louise Piper; Barbara Ransom; Kathy Reynolds; Laurie Rodgers; Loriann and Samantha Scheff; John Transgrud; Doug Tull; and Diane Wogaman.



This cleverly crafted bee skep helped the children track their Heifer Project contributions.

### **YARD SALE AND BAKE SALE RAISED OVER \$4500** by Barbara Ransom

Wow! Even before we opened up we were packed with people looking and stacking up goodies they wanted to buy. As they say, one man's trash is another man's treasure! We stayed busy most of the day and sold a lot of the items donated including furniture. It was a great success with the yardsale making \$850; bake sale \$476; and the hoagie sales supporting the Youth Group making \$512 (before taking out expenses).

The remaining baked goods and hoagies were sold on Sunday after church. All told, it was a tremendous yardsale.

Thanks very much to all the members and Congregational Life team for all their hard work. Special thanks to Doug Tull for helping out with clean up.

### **CHRISTMAS IN APRIL 2010** by Mike and Carla Crompton

Our Christmas In April home this year gave us the opportunity to make a big difference in the quality of life for the homeowner Mr. Walter Nelson of Landover. Due to diabetes he had lost one leg and was in the hospital battling to keep the other leg during the time we started working on the home.

His daughter Elaine and her brother and sister took turns helping care for Mr. Nelson at his home. We coordinated the work that needed to be done with Elaine who was arranging for his care at the time.

Elaine told us a great deal about her father. She spoke of how he worked so hard all of his life to provide for his family, often working two jobs. He and his wife took in a nephew as a young boy who was on the wrong path and helped him get back on track. His nephew Larry now works at the Smithsonian. Larry was one of the first to arrive to help and worked hard all day. He said he owes his uncle so much for all he had done for him and that working with us was the least he could do.

Mr. Nelson loved to work on cars and would often do repairs for people knowing that they could not afford to pay him. Elaine told us that her father was a proud man and was reluctant to accept charity because he felt others were more needy. When the home was originally inspected by Christmas in April, the roof was leaking and damaged the bedroom ceiling and flooring. Mr. Nelson used what limited funds he had to repair the roof so that Christmas In April would not have to incur this expense.

Christmas In April Day was busy. Many hands were put to use dragging various odd items from the back yard. A rotted fence was torn down by brave souls obviously impervious to poison ivy, and an old shed was knocked down and dragged to the curb. The concrete side and back of the house was painted, the gutter was re-hung, and a downspout was replaced. The flowerbeds out front were refreshed and azaleas were planted. A handicap ramp that was pre-made in sections at the church earlier was put in place, not a moment too soon as Mr. Nelson lost his remaining leg the day before this event. Inside the home, the kitchen sink plumbing was overhauled and a new stove was installed. The ceiling in the bedroom that was damaged from the roof leak was repaired, and the room painted. New carpet was installed in the bedroom and hallway courtesy of Sherwin Williams Floor Covering of Beltsville.

At the end of the day, Elaine told us that the weight of the world had been lifted off her shoulders. She was so happy that her dad would be able to come home to a house rejuvenated and accessible.

Thanks again to all of the volunteers and everyone who contributed financially to make this another successful Christmas in April.

### **GCC SERVES LUNCH AT COMMUNITY PLACE CAFÉ**

Serving lunches at the Community Place Café, a church-supported soup kitchen in Hyattsville, has been very successful for GCC. Volunteers take sandwiches and chili to provide a good lunch to all participants with hopefully enough left over to feed the children in the after school program also.

GCC serves lunches on the fifth Mondays of the month, so our next dates will be August 30 and November 29. Marsha Voigt has been our organizer of this event and would like to find someone to replace her for next year. Please contact Daniel Hamlin or Marsha if interested in organizing this event for the church.

### **REPORT ON CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE** by Louise Piper

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual Central Atlantic Conference was held June 11-13, 2010, at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE. GCC representatives were Rev. Mark Granfors-Hunt and Louise Piper. The theme was "Who Are You Christians, Anyway?" The Covenant Baptist Church Drum and Dance choir joined us for worship. Dr. Diana Butler Bass discussed church and congregational vitality, including whether church practices change the community or members. Mr. Paul Montiero discussed his work in the White House Office of Public Engagement.

The 2011 Central Atlantic Conference budget was passed after much discussion of changing the OCWM percentage split from 65–35 to 70–30 between the conference and national church. The split is discussed each year in the budget process. The clergy compensation guidelines were passed with a 3% increase for this year after no increase was approved last year. The recommended changes for the UCC constitution and bylaws were approved. It was decided that the path to ministry now includes a "discernment" instead of a "call."

We are Christians

-with willing hearts, trusting and open to the presence of God!

-of joy!

-with inquisitive minds, always seeking more light and truth!

- of hope!
- with a relentless commitment to justice and peace.

## **REPORT ON THE POTOMAC ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING** by Louise Piper

The Potomac Association spring meeting was held May 1, 2010 at Amistad-St. Paul UCC in Lanham, MD. Rev. Mark Granfors-Hunt and Louise Piper were GCC representatives. Rev. Marvin M. Silver led the worship service and welcomed us. He is a son of the congregation who will be installed as their minister after serving at the national social action committee in DC. The Church and Ministry Committee would like to have more support for ordained ministers and continue to support the in-care process. The Christian Education committee has a new curriculum entitled "Faith Practices." Jessica Petersen, the committee chair would like to start a listserv in support of Christian Education. E-mail her at [jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org) if you are interested. The Higher Education Committee was pleased with the support for the fundraising concert and expressed concern for the continuing monetary support of the higher education ministries. The Local Church Development Committee would like to know about church anniversaries so we can all celebrate achievements! The Social Action and Mission Committee sponsored a successful mission fair to celebrate individual church initiatives and is planning another.

Dr. Kwame Osei Reed reported that there are many churches in transition. Fourteen to 16 churches out of 38 are or were looking for ministers. There have been many retirements and churches are busy with the search process. Covenant Baptist Church in DC is now jointly affiliated with the UCC. Welcome! Rev. John Deckenbach reported that OCWM giving has decreased. The ministry team has decreased from six to four ministers and the responsibilities have been accordingly modified.

Greenbelt Community Church received a certificate for being a 5 for 5 congregation in support of Our Church's Wider Mission, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church. Thank you!

Two resolutions were passed by the association. "Faith United Against Tobacco in Virginia" and "We Support the Maryland Health Care for All Plan!" were sent to the Central Atlantic Conference for consideration. The UCC by-law revisions presented at General Synod were distributed for review and discussion at the conference meeting. There was a presentation from the Unified Governance Working Group about the process.

## **ANOTHER AFTERNOON OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC BY OCTTAVA PIANO DUO**

GCC organist and choir director, Wei-Der Huang, and her friend and colleague Hsien-Ann Meng gave us another beautiful performance as the Octtava Piano Duo on April 25 in the sanctuary.

This year the concert included selections by Faure, Debussy, Satie and Franck. Many members of the community attended and one wrote a letter to the Greenbelt News Review, praising the concert!

## **PROGRESSIVE DINNER WAS A SCRUMPTIOUS MEAL** by Kristen Michaud

The Progressive Dinner was originally scheduled for February 14, but due to the massive amount of snow this area received the previous week, it was decided to delay the dinner until March 14. We started at the home of Jane Young and John Lippert, where we feasted on delicious appetizers and mingled with everyone in attendance. It is estimated that around 30 attended the first course. Next we headed to the Dixon home where Ken and Judy Dixon hosted a wonderful array of goodies throughout their house and beautifully set up areas for a suitable sit-down dining experience. Each place setting had a box of chocolates, an early start to the dessert course! The food was plentiful and it was all scrumptious! (Or at least everything I could fit onto my plate!) It was hard to count the number of people in attendance, but close to 45 seemed to fill the space. The evening quickly turned dark, but we knew the best was yet to come...dessert! Our bellies were full, but that wasn't stopping most of us, as we made our way to the home of Larry and Marsha Voigt for a sweet ending to the night. As this was my first Progressive Dinner, I was definitely impressed with the food, the company, and the adventure of traveling from house to house. We certainly made this year a success and I can't wait to do it again next year!

## **TWO GREAT POTLUCK DINNERS PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT** by Jane Young

Recently we enjoyed two pot luck suppers combined with great entertainment at our church. At the first dinner, Daniel Hamlin showed us his slides of his trip to Africa. First we saw some of the projects that we support through Church World Service, which was very inspiring. Then we got to experience Daniel's exciting safari.

Jon and Anne Gardner of "Trans Atlantic Crossing" gave a wonderful performance on guitar and fiddle at our second potluck dinner. Donations were collected for the Springhill Lake Elementary School arts program.

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR MEMBERS** by Jane Young

In order to get to know our church members better we're doing brief biographies based on a short questionnaire. We've started with our newest members and are working back. If you wouldn't mind telling us about yourself in the newsletter, please let anyone on the Communications and Membership Committee know, call me, or hit "Reply" and I'll send you the short questionnaire.

Theresa (Terry) Henderson said:

I started coming to GCC about 15 years ago when my children were pre-schoolers. I didn't officially join until many years later. I chose GCC for the welcoming atmosphere, commitment to community service, structured Sunday service, activities for children, and terrific music!

I was raised in the Catholic tradition and always loved the deeply entrenched ceremonies. For my First Communion I wore the same dress my mother wore when she was a child, I took my deceased aunt's name (Barbara) as my Confirmation name, I even studied Latin in high school because of my interest in the old school Mass of my youth. As an adult, however, I could no longer reconcile my beliefs with some of those held by the Catholic Church. It wasn't until I had children of my own that I decided I had to find a church where we could all be comfortable – and here we are!

My husband Steve, children Madeline and Steven, and I live in old Greenbelt in a GHI townhome. My son Steven has hemophilia A (a genetic blood clotting disorder) as do/did two of my brothers. As a result, we all have strong connections to the blood disorder community and HIV/HCV affected members.

I am a research biochemist by trade and have worked on projects that have taken me from nerve gas antidote development, premature infant nutrition, pediatric hematology/oncology, vegetable genomics, and finally back to human nutrition. I am currently employed at the USDA next door in Beltsville.

I like to read, watch movies, visit museums and nature centers, play tennis, fish, camp, take long walks, bird watch and, of course, volunteer with GCC and other organizations. I'm still trying to find my unique niche – but I'm having fun trying on different hats!

## **GREEN SANCTUARY** by Jane Young, with John Lippert

In Daniel Hamlin's inspiring sermon he stated that we are all to blame for the oil rig disaster because of our addiction to oil. "If we risk the sacred to support our way of life... what needs to change...is our dependence on fossil fuels." His "Fountains of the Deep" sermon will soon be on our church website, or is available by email, CD or paper copy. Best sermon I've ever heard!

An easy and cheap way you can really help is to purchase wind energy. Clean Currents, one of the two providers in Maryland, is now actually cheaper than dirty electricity. It will continue to get even cheaper as more people purchase it, and more windmills are built. And it's convenient. You still continue to pay through PEPCO, keep your same account number, and PEPCO continues to supply the electricity and handle outages. Moreover, if you indicate "Greener in Greenbelt" when you sign up online, Clean Currents will donate \$15 to the Greenbelt Community Foundation. For directions try [http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/green\\_steps/GreenEnergyFlyer\\_Greenbelt.pdf](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/green_steps/GreenEnergyFlyer_Greenbelt.pdf) or ask me. Daniel Hamlin, Carol Griffith, Larry and Rena Hull, and I, among others, purchase wind energy through PEPCO. Challenge: Please let me know if you or anyone from our church you know also buys wind, and I'll print the total in the newsletter.

Sustainable, plant-based diets also make a huge difference to the environment, and also our own health. Butch Norden said that Beth's cancer treatment involves a more vegetarian diet which the whole family is following.

We're recycling more at church. However, it would be much better to go back to using our nice ceramic dishes when possible. Reusing is almost always better than recycling. Ken Voigt and Judy Dixon said they'll set up either disposal or washable cups, as requested by those doing the coffee-hour cleanup. Kudos to the Board of Missions for washing dishes in April. Ask extra helpers: Abigail, Elizabeth, Clare, Emily, and Jan (youth); Lynn and Paula Clinedinst, Carla Crompton, Leeann Irwin, and me (adults). Anyone else? Why waste our hard-earned money and earth's precious resources on disposable cups, etc., when we could just share a little more work?

We had a "green" course for the Progressive Dinner at our house. It was easy using the dishes and cloth napkins. For me, getting my house ready for company is more difficult than the actual hosting or clean-up. Running the dishwasher and washing machine was simpler than having lots of trash and recycling.

In a Sunday School class we discussed greener living. Wow, are these kids on the ball! They are knowledgeable, involved in being more environmental, and interested in learning about and improving the environment. We talked about some sustainable things we are doing in our families and we measured electrical output. I'm looking forward to working more with them.

How are we doing environmentally? Daniel Hamlin agrees that we are recycling more. Leeann Irwin put up recycling posters [the red side has things that can't be recycled, and the green side has recyclable items] and recycling labels on trash cans. A number of us are trying to keep a recycling bin next to each trash can, and making sure that we're recycling properly.

Some of us are following Doug Tull's example and reusing the bulletin inserts which are not just for the current Sunday. Linda Edwards and Daniel Hamlin agreed that reusable inserts left in the pew can be collected by the ushers for reuse.

Would you like to come to a potluck or other session with Greenbelt's sustainability coordinator, Luisa Robles? How about a sustainable living circle? Or a green team? Would you like this newsletter emailed to you? Leeann Irwin and I would welcome any ideas, questions or comments you have on greening our church or your own lives. Group hug to everyone who is making an effort to conserve resources.

Greenbelt Community Church  
1 Hillside Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

