



**Annual
Report**

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PASTOR'S REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011

Vitality in Worship

The Spirit has been alive in our Sunday worship services! Young people have taken an active role in our Prayers of Joy and Concern, placing symbolic hearts in a basket to represent prayers offered to God. The choir has grown in number and has added accompanist, Andrea Duroy. Worship musicians have included a bi-weekly drummer, Ian Stambaugh and other instrumentalists for special services. Music has included traditional hymns and contemporary music from the UCC's new *Sing! Prayer and Praise* song book. The attendance average at Sunday worship was 140.

We've also offered plenty of alternative worship services, including our contemplative Taize service each month and Esperanza worship services, led this summer by Rev, Melinda McLain and this fall by Field Education Student, Casey Tinnin.

Hands-On Work in Outreach Ministry

We don't just share financial resources with those in need, we also serve with our hands, face to face, heart to heart. Our team of approximately 20 dedicated workers has perfected the operation of Inter-Faith Ministries on the fourth Saturday of each month, offering food and clothing to those in need in our community. Facilitator Linda Johnson has worked hard scheduling the team and coordinating with staff at IFM, no small feat considering her health challenges this year.

The PLACE has offered a safe place of support, fun, and learning to approximately 100 LGBT teens from across the county, as well as to their friends, and families. Highlights of the year included a Thanksgiving Dinner for over 80 young people and a Halloween Dance. The program has flourished under the passionate direction of Elizabeth and Ed Plata. This year Field Education Student, Casey Tinnin, has assisted Ed and Elizabeth, bringing great enthusiasm and great care for young people.

Our Mentors-in-Action have continued working with economically challenged students at Modesto High School, under the expert leadership of Sharon Froba and Sandy Sample. And many people from our church participated in Modesto High's Day of Respect, helping to raise consciousness about many forms of discrimination by sharing their own experiences.

Creative Integration of Student Ministries in Congregational Life

As I mentioned above, the participation of young people in Sunday worship has enhanced our services. Not only have young people played a role in our Prayers of Joy and Concern, but they have learned songs of praise to help open our worship, helped set the communion table, and acted in skits dramatizing the scripture reading. They have also served as ushers and greeters. And one of our young people, Pansy Plata, has joined the choir! Young people show us how important it is to plan worship in ways that include them. And they have much to teach us about worship itself: the need to engage all of

our senses, the need to include joyful and simple music, the need to include movement and humor, and many more important needs.

Our young people have served in other areas of congregational life. Our youth offered us coffee in Café Esperanza every Sunday morning before worship. Our children served our Thanks-for-Giving dinner. Children and youth joined adults in the fun-filled Sync and Drag Fundraiser for Student Ministries.

The force behind this student involvement in congregational life was our Student Ministries Director and Team. They planned and worked hard with an eye to building a community of faith that links the lives of young people to the lives of adults. Kudos!

Faith Deepening in Adult Ministries

Over fifty people explored their own spiritual journeys by participating in one of the two Enneagram series of classes this fall. Our new pre-worship classes on Sunday mornings were great opportunities for parents to learn and share their faith experiences while their children participated in Sunday Adventure. Two home Bible Studies on Sunday evenings created intimate settings for sharing and learning. Several leaders joined me in facilitating these classes: Monique Capp, Mark McKee, Field-Education Students Will Tanner and Timothy Gregoire-Pierson, and Rev. Melinda McLain.

Occasions for Congregational Reflection and Communication

Our six Church Chats provided forums to discuss current questions and tensions in our congregation. Besides Church Chats on finances and the budget, topics included: Who Has the Power at CACC? And “What Should Guide the Direction our Worship Takes?”

The Congregational Retreat in October allowed us to get to know each other, share our faith journeys, and deepen our understanding of our UCC identity and what it can mean for adding vitality as we live out our mission. It also gave us the opportunity to observe patterns in our church—like a growing need to tighten our connections to one another and deepen our faith.

Passionate Field Education Students

We were blessed this year with three students preparing for ordained ministry at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkley. They were attracted to the vitality of our ministries and wanted to contribute their own vitality here as a training ground for their pastoral work. Will Tanner helped lead Sunday Adventure, preached, led worship, and led a book discussion of *The Lemon Tree*. Timothy Gregoire-Pierson organized “Up Close and Personal,” a mayoral forum on our campus that introduced the mayoral candidates to our church’s history and values. Casey Tinnin focused on outreach to young adults, organizing meeting nights and a contemporary worship experience. Casey also shared his tremendous preaching gifts in worship. Thanks and welcome, Timothy and Casey!

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Another year has passed and I find myself feeling just as joyous and excited about membership in our CACC family as I did my first year here. As Moderator, there were certainly challenges. There was a lot to learn, but Pastor Michael was always there, as were the terrific people who served on the Executive Committee. My gratitude to Pat Roberts, Rich Jensen, Mark McKee and Charles Webber for their diligence and faithfulness.

I continue to see CACC as a vibrant spiritual community. I see God working through us, and I believe we are capable of accomplishing more than we might sometimes think possible. I remain positive and optimistic about what we can do in our church, our community, the nation and world. I believe this because I know I am surrounded by people with faith, talent, perseverance, and the willingness to work hard and hang in there when the difficult times come. We understand that difficult times are part of life, including the life of a church.

Our budget concerns may be seen as an opportunity to involve ourselves in the process and participate together in finding answers and moving forward. I believe God calls us to unite, to join in respectfully sharing our thoughts and opinions. I pray we do not get stuck in negativity and hopelessness when there is so much good and positive to be had here.

During this year we were blessed with the presence and talents of three Ministerial Field Education interns from Pacific School of Religion. The Sanctuary doors were replaced, Fellowship Hall was painted, and other updates and repairs were made to buildings and grounds. The children enjoyed our Festival of Gifts as much as the adults who provided the crafts. We housed a Mayoral Forum for the Modesto candidates. We held church chats that ranged in topics from "Are We A Gay Church?" to "Who Holds the Power in our Church?". We had special retreats, including one in which we explored our U.C.C. identity. We hired Howard Training Center to take care of our cleaning needs. Many people volunteered their time giving out food and clothing at Interfaith Ministries. We had a successful yard sale fundraiser. And, of course, we continued to enjoy our monthly potlucks, homecoming, Gather and Grow barbecues, Sync&Drag, and other times of being together. I'm not including everything here, but it's clear we've been active.

I appreciate my time as Moderator because it afforded me the opportunity to learn more about CACC and our UCC connection. It also gave me the chance to get to know more people in our church family. Each and every Sunday I look forward to attending services and being with folks I care about.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Brown, Moderator

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES' REPORT

*I wanna heal, I wanna feel what
I thought was never real
I wanna let go of the pain I've
felt so long
I wanna heal; I wanna feel like
I'm close to something real
I wanna find something I've
wanted all along
Somewhere to belong*

—Linkin Park's *Somewhere to Belong*

I love College Avenue Student Ministries.

From the amazing young people to the wonderful team leaders to all the wacky programming and intergenerational activities we experience throughout the year—I love it all, to the very core of my being.

There's one thing that all of the above share in common—one thing that Student Ministries requires to have any form of transforming power in the lives of those connected to any of its components.

And that one thing is...

Relationships.

Perhaps you've wondered *what* our ministries to young people look like. Perhaps you've wondered *where* these ministries occur. Or perhaps you've wondered *who* is qualified to work with our young people. The singular answer to those questions is simple—so simple that it seems unduly revolutionary. **Ministry (or transformation) happens wherever relationships grow and thrive.**

As a church, we know this. This is why we are so affronted by street preachers or fear-based altar calls that promise instant salvation. As a church, we see the futility in ministry without relationship. The Apostle Paul knew this, too. As someone who was very interested in effective ministry—in promoting The Way of Jesus—he would say that well-intentioned lessons or programs without relationships is a waste of time—just noise like a clanging cymbal (1 Corinthians 13).

In the 1940's, there was a massive shift in ministry to young people brought about by Pastor Jim Rayburn (who became one of my personal heroes simply for saying, “It's a sin to bore a child with the Gospel.”). Rayburn believed that true ministry happens *outside* the church walls. This “relational,” one-on-one ministry soon became the youth ministry norm and persisted into the early 2000's. Perhaps you experienced a youth ministry model such as this—I did. But, ministry to young people is shifting again. This new paradigm is still very much relational in nature—but relational within the context of a broader *community* of shared values—within the context of a close, caring family made up of all ages. Young people want to connect, young people want to *belong*—a sentiment voiced by the band Linkin Park at the beginning of this report. And this *belonging* happens in community.

I've always taught our young people that *salvation* means *wholeness*—the kind of wholeness that can only come from deep, meaningful connection to God (or existence), to one's self, and to others—the kind of meaningful connections that Jesus modeled so perfectly. In other words, *salvation* comes through *relationship*. There seems to be a beautiful interplay at work between *salvation, wholeness, transformation, ministry, relationship, and community*—and it's this interplay that is the crux of Student Ministries programming and activities.

So what do our ministries to young people look like? How have we been intentional about creating opportunities where community-relationships can grow and thrive? And where does ministry to young people occur? **Ministry happens wherever young people begin to understand their inter- and intra-connectedness.** College Avenue has provided young people with some phenomenal physical space where this connection can and does occur, but it has also occurred off-campus. Together, we have grown community by:

- sharing and listening during high school and junior U-Nite youth groups.
- acting out Bible stories during the Sunday Adventure children's program.
- watching the Super Bowl.
- walking during Crop Walk for Church World Service.
- picking cherries for Interfaith Ministries' food pantry.
- playing laser-tag.
- breathing life into lectionary readings with creative worship skits.
- making ice-cream sundaes and playing board games.
- splashing in pools and feasting on barbecue potlucks during Church-family Fun Nights.
- gathering with people of all faiths during the Peace/Life's Center Interfaith Peace Rally.
- cleaning the banks of our local Tuolumne River.
- guessing songs during Name-That-Tune.
- singing Christmas carols at the homes of church members.
- lip-syncing to love songs during “Sync & Drag.”
- celebrating the power of imagination as witches and wizards during the “Festival of Hogwarts.”

Who is qualified to minister to our young people? The long answer is anyone willing to be a listener. Anyone willing to participate in an intergenerational activity, specifically designed to create community. Anyone who loves to laugh. Anyone who believes we *can* make a difference in this world. Anyone who sees our church as a family and our young people as family members.

The short answer: you.

Please, join us by participating in a Student Ministries event or program this year—join us in helping young people see that here, at College Avenue, they belong.

In love,

Rob Brittain
Director of Student Ministries

TREASURER'S REPORT

College Avenue Congregational Church
 Treasurer Report
 Year Ended December 31, 2011

General Fund			
Income:	Budgeted	Actual	Percent
Pledged Giving	\$199,636	\$190,006	81.7%
Loose Giving	\$33,000	\$31,653	13.6%
Building Use	\$1,500	\$1,069	0.5%
MPPP	\$8,000	\$7,830	3.4%
Script	\$2,500	\$2,000	0.9%
Esperanza	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total Income	\$247,136	\$232,558	100.0%
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Expenses:			
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$182,306	\$174,912	73.1%
Personnel Expenses	\$9,575	\$5,485	2.3%
Plant & Property	\$45,705	\$45,307	18.9%
Local Programs	\$4,250	\$3,716	1.6%
Outreach	\$10,000	\$10,000	4.2%
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total Expenditures	\$251,836	\$239,420	100.0%
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Net Gain 2010	(\$4,700)	(\$6,862)	

Community Support from Special Funds

OGHS	\$1,281.00
Interfaith Ministries	\$4,116.00
Neighbors in Need	\$511.00
Special Offerings	\$3,325.00

Building - Phase I

Loan Balance \$183,289 Cornerstone

Comments for 2010

General Fund :

*Overall Receipts were at 94% of budgeted amounts. The pledges and loose giving were below budgeted amounts. Expenses were less than budgeted, primarily from salaries paid to our Office Administrator & Child Care. A detailed accounting is included on another page.

*We have borrowed \$6,500 from Special Funds to pay our bills. This money will need to be repaid from future funds.

Outreach to Conference - Has been paid in full this year.

Building Fund - The Building Fund balance due to Cornerstone has been reduced to \$183,289. We refinanced our loan with Cornerstone to lower the rate to 6 percent. By refinancing we lowered our monthly payment minimum from \$2,720 to \$1,203 per month.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

Dear Members and Friends of CACC:

As we approach 2012, we find ourselves blessed with many gifts. We have a strong congregation filled with energy and vitality. Our worship, youth program and outreach programs are making a real difference not only in our church, but well beyond our walls. However, even with all these gifts, it takes financial support to ensure Church staff is fairly compensated, buildings and grounds are properly maintained, operating expenses are funded and our commitment to our Northern California Conference and outreach are maintained.

The Council has reviewed the financial status of the Church and the pledges received for 2012. We find ourselves with nearly a \$49,000 deficit to maintain our ministry in its current status. The current status is a bare bones budget that keeps our staff at its current level, an outreach commitment at a low level, and local teams with some financial resources.

The Council is proposing a six month budget (Budget A). Our goal is to appeal to the congregation the need for additional funds to sustain our ministry and provide fair pay equity to our Minister and Staff. It is intended to provide time for the Congregation to increase pledged giving and/or find ways to increase income. While these cuts are drastic, they are necessary in order to present a responsible budget before you. Also attached are two other budgets, a no change budget and a yearly budget (Budget B) with very drastic cuts. Budgets A & B are detailed in the accompanying notes.

If having vital active church appeals to you, if taking care of our worship and youth programs appeals to you and if making a meaningful commitment to our Conference and outreach programs appeals to you, then say, "*Amen!*" and come to the Church Chat on January 25th ready open your hearts to finding new ways to raise funds and maybe even make a commitment to open your wallets and find that little bit extra so we can close the budget gap and move forward with this ministry.

CACC BUDGET NOTES

Budget A

Our goal is to appeal to the congregation the need for additional funds to sustain our ministry and provided fair pay equity to our Minister and Staff.

This is a six month budget to provide time for the Congregation to increase our pledged giving and/or find ways to increase income. Two months, January & February, expenses would be the same as 2011 and four months, March through June, with budget cuts proposed. The decreases in salaries and annuities, restoring funding to our local programs and commitment to our UCC Conference would hopefully be restored pending additional funds.

This would require another budget being passed at the June meeting.

- Minister and Director of Student Ministries: Reduce Salaries by 15%
- Director of Music: Delete the \$1,600 that we would pay the Piano Accompanist
- Office Administrator: Reduce to 25 hours per week
- Local Programs, Guest Minister & Musicians: Suspend
- UCC Share: Suspend

Budget B

- Minister and Director of Student Ministries: Positions reduced by having them off for one week per month
- Director of Music: Delete the \$4,000 that we would pay the Piano Accompanist, plus one week off per month
- Office Administrator: Reduce to 25 hours per week
- NCNC Annual Gathering Costs for Minister, Director of Student Ministries, & Lay People would be eliminated
- UCC Share: Deleted

CACC 2012 Budget Proposals

	Income	Budget 2011 Yearly	Adjustments See Notes	No Change 2012 Budget	Actual 2011	Six Months Budget A Adjustment	Full Year Budget B 2012 Budget	
1	Pledged Giving	Note 1	194,976		161,140	185,346	80,570	161,140
2	Prepaid		4,660			4,660	0	0
3	Loose Giving		33,000		31,600	31,653	15,800	31,600
4	Building Use		1,500		1,500	1,069	750	1,500
5	MPPP		8,000		8,000	7,830	4,000	8,000
6	Scrp		2,500		2,000	2,000	1,000	2,000
7	Esperanza Giving	Note 3	2,500	(2,500.00)	0		0	0
8								
9	Total Income		247,136		204,240	232,558	102,120	204,240
10								
11	Salaries and Wages							
12	Minister Cash Salary		32,760		32,760	32,681	14,742	27,720
13	Minister Housing Allowance		21,136		21,136	21,085	9,511	17,884
14	Minister Self-Employment Tax				0			
15	Bookkeeper		6,435		6,435	6,435	3,218	6,435
16	Director of Music		12,875		12,875	11,814	4,838	7,065
17	Student Ministries Director		38,968		38,968	38,873	17,536	29,975
18	Office Administrator		23,484		23,484	20,838	10,402	20,066
19	Child Care		2,500		2,500	1,108	1,250	1,100
20	Custodian	Note 2	2,500	(2,500.00)	0	1,803		0
21	Subtotal		140,658		138,158	134,637	61,496	110,245
22	Payroll taxes (Salaries x 7.65%)		10,268	(191.25)	10,077	9,320	2,922	7,941
23	Total Salaries and Wages		150,926		148,235	143,957	64,418	118,186
24								
25	Employee Benefits							
26								
27	Itemized Minister Benefits							
28	Annuity (14%of salary/housing)		7,545		7,545	7,545	3,395	6,384
29	Disability (1% of salary & group life)		765		765	765	335	765
30	Health and Dental Insurance	Note 4	5,953	(5,953.00)	0	3,969		
31								
32	Student Ministries Director Benefits							
33	Annuity (14% of salary)		5,456		5,456	5,443	2,455	4,197
34	Disability (1% of salary & group life)		592		592	0	259	592
35	Health and Dental Insurance	Note 5	3,548	868.00	4,416	4,063	2,208	4,416
36								
37	Office Administrator Benefits							
38	Medical and Dental Ins.	Note 5	7,521	1,923.00	9,444	9,172	4,722	9,444
39	Total Employee Benefits		31,380		28,218	30,956	13,374	25,798
40								

CACC 2012 Budget Proposals

	Budget 2011 Yearly	Adjustments See Notes	No Change 2012 Budget	Actual 2011	Six Months Budget A Adjustment	Full Year Budget B 2012 Budget
41	Other Personnel Expenses					
42						
43	Esperanza Musicians	Note 2 2,500	(2,500.00)	0	0	0
44	Guest Minister	Note 6 500	1,000.00	500	0	1,500
45	Guest Musicians	1,000		790	0	1,000
46	Livescan	25		0	13	25
47	Mileage Student Ministries Director	500		47	250	500
48	Pastor Conference	1,050		1,050	0	
49	Piano Accompanist	Note 7	4,000.00		2,000	4,000
50	SM Director Conference	400		511	0	
51	Student Ministries Director Expenses	300		132	150	300
52	Sub.Accompanist/Choir Director	300		150	150	300
53	Worker's Comp. Ins.	3,000		2,304	1,500	3,000
54						
55	Total Other Personnel Expenses	9,575		12,075	5,485	4,063
56						
57						
58	Plant & Property Expenses					
59	Advertising	300		300	35	0
60	Alarm Service	900		900	1,022	450
61	Buildings/Grounds Maintenance	Note 8 3,000	4,620.00	7,620	3,692	3,810
62	Choir Supplies and Music	500		500	381	250
63	Copy Machine	3,000		3,000	2,714	1,500
64	Custodial Supplies	700		700	459	350
65	Kitchen Expenses	600		600	537	300
66	Liability Ins.	7,875		7,875	8,220	3,938
67	Office Supplies	2,000		2,000	2,995	1,000
68	Organ & Piano Tuning	800		800	915	400
69	Paramount Pest Control	1,020		1,020	1,209	510
70	Pedro's Gardening Service	5,400		5,400	5,400	2,700
71	Postage	500		500	968	250
72	Professional Repairs	400		400	0	200
73	Telephone	1,500		1,500	1,586	750
74	Utilities	17,000		17,000	14,849	7,425
75	WebPage & E-Mail	210		210	325	105
76						
77	Total Plant & Prop. Expenses	45,705		50,325	45,307	23,938
						48,325

CACC 2012 Budget Proposals

	Budget 2011 Yearly	Adjustments See Notes	No Change 2012 Budget	Actual 2011	Six Months Budget A Adjustment	Full Year Budget B 2012 Budget
78						
79	Local Programs					
80						
81	Adult Education	200	200	150	0	150
82	Children's Ministries	200	200	208	0	200
83	Festival & Fellowship	200	200	0	0	0
84	Intergenerational Ministries	200	200	349	0	200
85	Lay Conference	1,000	1,000	1,022	0	0
86	Laycare	200	200	53	0	50
87	Membership & Calling	350	350	0	0	0
88	Field Education Intern Mileage	200	200	200	0	200
89	Outreach Team	300	300	100	0	100
90	Pastoral-Parish Relations Committee	500	500	1,002	0	500
91	Stewardship	500	500	396	0	500
92	Worship Materials	200	200	23	0	200
93	Student Ministries	200	200	212	0	200
94						
95	Total Local Programs	4,250	4,250	3,716	0	2,300
96						
97	UCC Share & Global Outreach	10,000		10,000	0	0
98						
99	Total Expenses All Categories	251,836	1,266.75	253,102	239,420	105,791
100						
101	Net Projected Deficit 2011	(4,700)		(48,862)	(6,861)	(3,671)
						(994)

CACC 2012 Budget Notes

Note 1 = Pledge estimates is 95% of pledged amount based on historical receipts.

Note 2: Esperanza – Delete both Income & Expense from the budget

Note 3: Eliminate Custodian – the work is now being performed by Howard Training

Note 4: Pastor Michael's health & dental - he is getting insurance through Steve's job

Note 5: Adjust for increase in premiums

$$\text{SMD} = \$265 + \$103 = \$368 \times 12 = \$4,416$$

$$\text{OA} = \$684 + \$103 = \$787 \times 12 = \$9,444$$

Note 6: Budget for Guest Ministers during Pastor Michael's sabbatical this year

Note 7: Add Piano Accompanist to this year's budget

Note 8: Add Howard Training to this year's budget \$385/month – They will clean all buildings

OUR MISSION AND MINISTRIES

OUR MISSION

We are called to be a welcoming, nurturing community of faith, gathered to celebrate and share God's love. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we struggle to live the teachings of Jesus Christ in our broken world, as we seek joy and justice for all creation.

OUR MINISTRIES

The Congregation's Work Carrying-out Our Mission

OUTREACH

Leadership Team:

Ken Schroeder, *Team Leader*

Sharon Froba, *Mentors-in-Action*

Linda Johnson, *Inter-Faith Ministries*

Ed & Elizabeth Plata, *The PLACE*

Julie Reuben, *Peace and Justice*

Doris Scanlon, *Special Offerings*

WORSHIP

Leadership Team:

Mark McKee, *Team Leader*

Cathy Lee

Donna Graber

Carol McMillan

Margaret Ritchey

Sandy Sample

Rob Brittain

Charlie Jensen

Dave Hoberg

David Bracerros

Janet Betcher

STEWARDSHIP

Leadership Team:

Andrew Lee, *Team Leader*

Dave Hoberg

Roy Larson

Anne Lowe

Sandy Sample

MISSION IN ACTION

Leadership Team:

Ed Plata, *Absentees*

Denise Judd, *Visitors*

Mark McKee, *New Members*

Judy Brown, *Longtime Members*

Nancy Howard, *Records, Hospitality*

LAY CARE

Leadership Team:

Patti Canoles

Charlotte Pizzo

Steve Nelson

Velma Tinkler

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS*

Leadership Team:

David Cerutti, *Team Leader*

Jorene Moratto, *Building Use*

OUR MINISTRIES (Continued)

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Leadership Team:

Rob Brittain, *Team Leader*

Brian Gibbs

Brian Kelleher

Merlys Larson

Didi Peterson

Pat Roberts

Linda Smith

ADULT MINISTRIES

Leadership Team:

Pastor Michael, *Team Leader*

Ed & Eliz. Plata, *Parents of LGBT Teens Group*

Judy Brown, *Women of Wonder Group*

Vince DeBow, *Gay Men's Group Group*

*The Buildings and Grounds Team is currently described as a "committee" in our By-Laws. Its work, though, falls between that of a "nuts-and-bolts" committee and that of a ministry team that engages members of the congregation in the stewardship of the church's property.

OUR COMMITTEES

Nuts-and-bolts Groups Working for the Congregation to Support Our Mission

2011 Executive Committee

Judy Brown, *Moderator*

Pat Roberts, *Moderator-Elect*

Rich Jensen, *Treasurer*

Mark McKee, *Clerk*

Charles Webber, *Financial Secretary*

Finance Committee (an Exec. Subcommittee)

Charles Webber, *Financial Secretary, Chair*

Rich Jensen, *Treasurer*

Andrew Lee, *Stewardship Team Leader*

Human Resources Committee

For hiring/evaluating/personnel issues

Jonathan Couchman

Ben Reuben

Buildings and Grounds Committee

For property maintenance

Dave Cerutti, *Chair*

Jorene Moratto, *Building Use and Rentals*

OUR COMMITTEES (Continued)

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

For facilitating communication between pastor and congregation

Merlys Larson, *Chair*

Vince DeBow

Roy Larson

Jorene Moratto

Sandy Sample

Nominating Committee

For electing committee chairs and members

Brian Gibbs, *Chair*

2012 NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

Moderator-Elect: Dave Hoberg

Co-Clerk: Mitchell Mesimer

HR Chair: Ben Reuben

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Guided by CACC's bylaws, the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee helps the Pastor and members and friends of the church "share ideas, hopes, dreams and interpretations of the church's mission. PPR monitors the quality of the relationship between the Pastor and the congregation." The staff of CACC is included in the mission of the PPR Committee. The committee "lets the Pastor know what the people of the church are thinking. It gives a framework for dealing with conflict creatively."

The PPR Committee meets with Pastor Michael on the first Wednesday of each month. In addition to these monthly meetings, the committee held two meetings with resource person, Rev. Mary Richardson from the Northern California/Nevada Conference United Church of Christ. Rev. Richardson is helping the committee build a procedure to strengthen the relationship between the congregation and the Pastor to maintain a healthy relationship and atmosphere within the body of the church. One of the many resources Rev. Richardson suggested the committee read is the book *Healthy Congregations* by Peter L. Steinke. The committee planned to have Rev. Richardson meet with our congregation to introduce the procedures involved in healthy church communication; however, her visit was unfortunately derailed due to scheduling conflicts. It is the committee's hope that in early 2012 this meeting will take place.

CACC's Mission Statement reminds us that our relationship to God is connected to our relationship to each other. The budget crisis in December brought CACC to the alter of Love, Hope and Trust. During the communication crisis, PPR met with leadership, the pastor, student ministries coordinator, administrative assistant, and was present at the December Council Meeting to help bring transparency and orderliness to the communication process. Meetings following the December Council session have been scheduled as follow up to help the congregation and staff find clarity in who is responsible for what and who is accountable to whom. It is important for the congregation to know that this committee's responsibility is healthy communication and that confidentiality is essential to building trust.

Emotionally, we as a congregation are an interwoven whole; we are a family of faith. Because of this reality, the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee's prayer is that from the crisis we will emerge a healthy congregation — one that has been stretched into hope and grounded in the faith that we are *one body in Christ*.

Respectively submitted by Merlys JB Larson, Chair -- January 17, 2012
Members: Vince DeBow, Roy Larson, Jorene Moratto, Sandy Sample

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

I want to thank all of the volunteers that helped this year. We appreciate you, your efforts, and help saving the church money and resources. I want to extend special thanks to Art Gifford and his many years of dedication to cleaning. Also, many thanks to Mark McKee for his endless help. Also, Michele Logue for her follow up and watchful eyes as she does her valuable work.

Some high lights of the year have been:

- Tenny Norquist, doing a quarterly checkup on our heating and air conditioning.
- Howard Training Center and their cleaning of the fellowship hall.
- San Joaquin Painting for the nice job painting the fellowship hall exterior and covered walk way.
- A Fall workday with volunteers washing window, power cleaning, light painting, asphalt patch in the parking lot, clean the supply area and storage area. Secure siding on the South side of the sanctuary.
- A new time clock for exterior that works.
- Rehab the sprinkler timer.

Some items coming up are:

- Removing some shrubs that have outlived their beauty.
- Perk up the Corner Sign.
- A Labyrinth steering committee to determine the viability of placing one on the front lawn area near the Oak Tree.
- A quarterly work Saturday.

Our church campus in my eyes is an extension of home. I want to be proud it and its condition and "WOW" visitors and new members and any person passing the corner of College and Orangeburg. If you share this thought with me then be sure to attend workdays and inquire what you can do to help, big or small.

Peace and blessings and may thanks! It is my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Sincerely, Dave Cerutti

OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

The goal for the outreach ministry:

God calls us to increase our commitment to actively work for peace, justice and a sustainable environment within our congregation's life together and in our community and the wider world.

Mentors In Action:

After five years of research and preparation and four years of implementation, our mentoring program is picking up steam. Its growth is due primarily to expanding recruitment of mentors beyond CACC. We have recruited from a teacher sorority, from the Latino Community Roundtable, from the retired teacher community, and from the Funstrummers Ukulele Band. Our half-day training October 8 produced fifteen potential mentors. Of that number, nine completed the paperwork. They have been paired with Modesto High students and currently await the results of Live-Scan in order to begin their year commitment. Twenty-one Modesto High students desired mentors, but unfortunately some could not be paired due to the limited number of mentors. The good news is that we are hopeful that in 2012 we will have nineteen active pairs of mentors and students.

Many of our mentors have related how their lives have been enriched through their mentoring experience. Four of our original mentors, Lisa Bruk, Liz Carota, Dave Froba, and Linda Smith, saw their initial students graduate and agreed to take on second students, most of whom will graduate in May. We are hopeful that they will continue with new students.

We welcome the generosity of those who would be willing to donate tickets or talents to benefit our mentoring program. Through the kindness of some church friends, students have been the recipients of tickets to performances at the Gallo. There may come a time when we ask people from church to advise students about career options. We understand that not all of us care to be mentors, but we may be willing to help students in other ways.

The support team is grateful for the dedication of our mentors. We believe that they have made an indelible positive impact on the lives of students. If reading this has inspired you to want to give of your time and energy to a high school student who needs a supportive relationship with a healthy adult, let one of our support team know of your interest, and we will add your name to our next mentor training session.

Our current list of active mentors includes the following: Lisa Bruk, Liz Carota, Dave Froba, Sharon Froba, Peggy Kroll, Gene Palmie, Julie Reuben, Linda Smith, and Peter Tripp. Bob Moore, recently retired, is soon to join the "active mentor" category. Those recently trained mentors are as follows: Carolina Barajas, Dave Cooper, Charlene Griffin, Steve Ray, Marcos Rivera, Michelle Rivera, Bob Salaiz, Shelly Scribner, and Julie

Ten Brink. Our support team remains the same as last year: Sharon Froba, Shereen Reid, and Sandy Sample.

Submitted by Sharon Froba.

Financial Outreach:

Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) responds when disasters strike both internationally and domestically. The funds are administered by the Wider Church Ministries and Global Sharing for international programs in health, education, agricultural development and refugee's ministries such as our assistance in Darfur. Neighbors in Need (NIN) supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico and the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Direct Service projects are supported by Justice and Witness Ministries. These two programs give basic support to the United Church of Christ's OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission).

Donations to OGHS were \$1,281.00. Donations to NIN were \$511.25.

Submitted by Doris Scanlon

Third Sunday Outreach Collections

This year financial outreach to groups that we support was removed from the budget and replaced by a collection on the third Sunday of each month. Interfaith Ministries receives 30% of the amount collected and the remaining 70% is divided among the other eight groups.

The amounts collected were: \$997 for Interfaith Ministries and \$291 each for Friends Outside, Children's Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity, Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus, Modesto Peace/Life Center, Pacific School of Religion, UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns and UCC AIDS Ministry.

Additional donations of \$2697 were designated by the donors to be solely for IFM.

Fundraiser

The yard sale fundraiser resulted in \$1419 in funds for Interfaith Ministries. Added to the amount from the 3rd Sunday collections, IFM's total is \$5113.

Prison Outreach:

We gathered greeting cards, toiletries, toothpaste and brushes for Christmas gift bags for the two Women's Prisons in Chowchilla. This project is coordinated by Dave Hetland at the Methodist Church in Merced.

The **Epiphany Tree** is decorated with shoes and socks for the Interfaith Clothing Closet. Payless Shoe SCRIP is sold for purchase of the children's shoes.

Submitted by Doris Scanlon

Interfaith Ministries:

Staffing food pantry and clothes closet

Every month from January to October 2011, volunteers from the church staffed Interfaith Ministries on the fourth Saturday of the month. An average of eight or more people worked in the Food Pantry and the Clothes Closet. Six or seven CACC members worked in the Food Pantry inputting clients; filling food orders both Interfaith and Commodities and interviewed clients on their eligibility. The interviewer also provided clients with information on additional services available in the area. Three or four more volunteers staffed the Clothes Closet inputting clients and helping them select clothing.

To prepare for these volunteer positions, church members received on the job training either on a regular workday at IFM or during the Saturday staffing by CACC members. At one point, because the number of volunteers was so great, it was decided to divide the regular operating time of 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm for the food pantry and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for the Clothes Closet into two shifts with both facilities operating simultaneously. The two shifts ran from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. This was successful for a few months.

In September, a shoe drive was initiated by CACC members. Members of the church were encouraged to donate new shoes for children and approximately 100 pairs of shoes were added to the donations for the Clothes Closet. A special shoe area was set up in the men's clothing room to accommodate the shoe giveaway.

During the months of November and December, IFM staff decided that the need was so great, CACC volunteers were more needed during the regular workweek and the fourth Saturday CACC operation was suspended.

During the year, the number of clients served varied from over a hundred to a dozen or so. The volunteer coordinator at IFM, Chris Mahia, speculated that many clients who initially came to the Saturday opening, rescheduled their visit to the regular workweek.

My duty as schedule chairperson for IFM has been enjoyable and efficient. CACC members are eager to serve and many have logged additional hours during IFM regular operating times. We will begin staffing for 2012 on January 28. After an initial email on January 3, more than enough volunteers responded to fully staff both the Food Panty and Clothes Closet. Thank you for this opportunity to serve CACC and the community in this capacity.

Submitted by Linda Johnson

Clothing collection

The collection of clothing placed in our IFM clothing barrel and little red wagon, as well as non-perishable foods provides humanitarian services to families who come for help at the IFM.

Submitted by Doris Scanlon

Alternative Christmas Gift Fair:

The alternative Christmas Fair featured nonprofit groups offering items for sale. It provided an opportunity to purchase meaningful gifts or to honor friends or family with a donation to organizations working for a better world. A total of \$750 was raised. Participants included Habitat for Humanity, Sierra Club, Modesto Peace/Life Center, Merced/Somoto, Nicaragua Sister City Program, Church World Service and Ann Dutton, selling homemade items to benefit outreach.

Palestine/Israel:

Book group

Will Tanner led a series of discussions on the book "The Lemon Tree" about a Palestinian family that was displaced from its home by a Jewish family upon the founding of Israel and how the two families later came to know each other. The discussions led to an interest to continue to study and advocate on the issue of Palestine and Israel.

Speaker

In May Dan Onorato addressed a group of about 30 on the topic of Palestine and Israel based on his trip to the region. Dan's talk addressed the realities of Israel's occupation of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, and highlighted the courageous and inspiring work of both Israelis and Palestinians working for peace.

Christmas cards for peace

Christmas cards for peace were signed by 75 congregants praying for the President and encouraging him to work for a just peace in the Holy Land. Christmas cards for peace was a project of Churches for Middle East Peace.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration:

The church was a co-sponsor of Modesto's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration at Modesto Junior College featuring speaker Van Jones.

CROP Walk:

Church members participated in the annual Modesto CROP walk on March 26. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Our church raised \$1206.

Day of Respect:

The Day of Respect, founded by Sharon Froba, features speakers in high school English classes sharing their experience of discrimination with the goal of replacing ignorance with knowledge and intolerance with compassion. 12 members of our congregation were speakers at the 2011 event.

PRIDE Day:

The church had a booth at the annual Stanislaus PRIDE Day at Graceada Park on September 17.

Fair Trade Coffee:

Our church serves fair trade coffee before and after worship. By doing so we partner with the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries and join hands with communities in the developing world, enabling small farmers and their families to gain more control over their lives and earn a fairer share of income.

The PLACE:

The PLACE (People Learning Acceptance Creating Equality) is a support group, a safe space for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and questioning youth. There is also a support group for parents of LGBTQ youth. The PLACE finished the year averaging 60-70 youth and 12-24 parents participating.

Report compiled by Ken Schroeder, *Outreach Ministry Team Leader*

LAY CARE MINISTRY REPORT

The CACC Lay Care Team has the goal of keeping in touch with those within our church community who may be sick at home or in hospital. We also are concerned about the elderly of our church who may want a visit or just a check in about their welfare.

We are able to provide friendly visits as well as meals for the short term. We also help with visits to the doctors as our schedules allow. We send cards of sympathy when we know of a death. Copies of the Sunday sermons are provided on DVD.

Among those who have graciously provided contributions of food include Gene Palme, Eric LeBarbe, Laurie Smith, Donna Graber, Norval Johnson, Patti Canoles, Charlotte Pizzo and Deborah Roberts.

Over the year we have been blessed with many of our church community reaching out to help those they knew were in need. At present our active group is Velma Tinkler, Charlotte Pizzo, Steve Nelson and Patti Canoles. We can also call on Brien Gibbs, Anne Sharyon, Donna Graber, Anne Steele, Bob Patnode, Norval Johnson and Dave Landon for special needs.

Among those who have graciously provided contributions of food include Gene Palme, Eric LeBarbe, Laurie Smith, Donna Graber, Norval Johnson, Patti Canoles, Charlotte Pizzo and Deborah Roberts.

Patti Canoles, *Chair*

SCRIP REPORT

The 2011 Scrip revenues are rather disappointing. I believe this is due to a number of factors. The current economy has many of us going more often to discount stores. Discount Stores that offer scrip pay a lower percentage rate. Most discount stores do not have scrip available. As an example, when Gottschalks was in business we earned 10%. Gottschalks scrip was purchased directly from the store therefore no shipping costs were incurred. It was a very popular seller. Now we have Target and Wal-Mart that pays 2% and we incur shipping costs in order to have the cards shipped to us. Over the years shipping costs have risen from \$3.75 per shipment to \$12.00. Arco gas used to pay 2.5%. Now it pays 1.5%. Now instead of just \$150.00 we must sell \$800.00 just to pay for the shipping of the cards.

There is good news for the coming year, but we will need to change the way we buy and use scrip. The three major grocery stores, O'Brien's, SaveMart, and Raleys, now have scan cards that you will have to remember to use when you make a purchase. I can still buy SaveMart gift cards directly from the store for those that prefer them. There is no financial advantage of one way over the other. As for the other retail outlets, many are offering "ScripNow" and/or "Reloads."

These purchases are done on-line thru shopwithscrip.com.

With "ScripNow" you can print gift coupons directly from your computer. "Reloads" let you reload an existing gift card by going on-line. If you sign up for "Presto-Pay," your on-line orders of "ScripNow" are instantaneous and your on-line reloads are filled within 24-hrs. "Presto-Pay" allows Great Lakes Scrip Center to make an "EFT" withdrawal directly from your checking account.

In the coming year, I will be ordering scrip only once a month. It costs \$12.00 per shipment whether the order is for one card or for 1001 cards, so it is more cost effective to place a larger order less often. Lower percentage gift cards may not always be available, since it only makes sense to order them along with high percentage rate cards.

A big thanks to all that have supported the Scrip Program.

Profits as of Dec. 31, 2011 are \$1775.37. There are two checks still forthcoming from SaveMart and O'Brien's.

A check for \$2000.00 has been deposited into the General Fund from the Scrip Account.

Richard S. Oliver, *Scrip Coordinator*