

CHEVY CHASE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2008

ANNUAL REPORT



A NURTURING COMMUNITY INSPIRED BY CHRIST'S LOVE TO ANSWER
GOD'S CALL TO DISCOVER AND USE OUR GIFTS IN JOYFUL SERVICE

SESSION REPORT

Norman L. Stant, Clerk of Session

The Centennial Year at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church was one of great joy as we were Celebrating a Century – Framing Our Future. Well over 400 were in attendance on Centennial Sunday, January 27. We were honored to have Joan S. Gray, Moderator of the 217th General Assembly as the pastor that day. We continued the celebration through June by having former pastors Tom Jones, Dean McDonald, Walt Hunting, and Art Sundstrom preach on four different Sundays. We relived a *Sno-Ball* dance in Chadsey Hall, had an *Old-fashioned Pot Luck Dinner* followed by a favorite *Hymn Sing*, and concluded the celebrations with an all-church picnic. Beginning our second century, the church is energized and eager to move forward as we await the arrival of a new pastor.

After auditing the Membership Rolls, the hard copy membership book, the database CMS, the monthly Session minutes, and the annual Presbytery Report all sources are again in agreement. The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church began 2008 with 772 members. During the year we received 31 new members by Profession of Faith or Reaffirmation of Faith (this included 11 new Confirmands), 9 by Certificate of Transfer, and reactivated 5 members. We lost 16 members to death, 2 transferred to other churches, while 29 asked to become inactive for a period of 2 years, and 8 wanted to have their names deleted from our rolls. We ended the year with 762 members. The database shows that our membership is made up of 450 females (59%) and 312 males (41%). The breakdown of membership by age is: 25 and under: 84 (11%); 26 – 45: 203 (27%); 46 – 55: 121 (15%); 56 – 65: 151 (20%); and 65 and over: 203 (27%). During the year there were 14 baptisms of children and 5 adult baptisms. There were 6 marriages of non-members. The average attendance at worship for the year was 220 per Sunday.



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE
THE SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE
Richard A. Riegel, Chair

The year 2008 has been another active one for the Administration & Finance (A&F) and the Support Services Committees. With the Education Wing mortgage behind us, the committee moved forward in new directions. The first area of concentration is perhaps the most visible -- major improvements to the building and the grounds. The historic wooden exterior doors leading to the sanctuary and the 1930's Wing had deteriorated significantly over the years and their associated hardware was mismatched and ill-fitting. Although a simple refinishing was first proposed, it became clear, upon closer inspection, that a full restoration was the real answer to preserve them properly. An historic properties restoration specialist guided the work. A new ramp walkway leading to the Columbarium area was installed in late summer (thanks to engineer Campbell Graeub's planning and guidance) to allow easy access for all to this special area. As part of this project, a long-standing water drainage problem around the front of the Education Wing was properly corrected and the entire area re-landscaped to provide easily accessible lawns. The upper patio area in front of the Pastor's office was repaved to eliminate the tripping hazard associated with the deteriorating paving stones. At the same time, the retaining wall as part of that patio was re-pointed to prolong its life. Three curb cuts were installed on the Chevy Chase Parkway (front) side of the church to allow easy wheelchair/walker access to the church. The rear parking lot was repaved, eliminating serious water ponding and tripping hazards (Campbell, Bob Wood and Ian Richardson provided the requisite engineering design and on-site supervision). In addition, major repairs were made to restore sanctuary lighting to proper operation.

The second area of concentration has been to maintain viability of the series of dedicated reserve, or 'sinking' funds funded from our Operating Budget to cover the known out-year costs such as periodic furniture and equipment replacement, major preventive maintenance for the organ, staff sabbaticals, etc.

Our third area of concentration has been to work closely with the Stewardship Committee as they set goals for the 2009 Stewardship campaign with primary 2009 budget emphasis being placed further increasing the share of the Mission, Christian and Worship and Music programs within the 2009 Annual Operating Budget.

As is seen from the summary 2008 financial report below (and more detailed reports available from the Church Administrator), CCPC ended 2008 operations with an operating deficit of \$49,028. It is important to note the following regarding CCPC's 2008 financial operations. Expenses for the year were closely in line with the approved budget; all program-area financial commitments were met. Income for 2008 lagged in several key areas -- and did so from January 2008 onward -- well before the economic downturn became more evident. Current-Year Pledge fulfillment, Non-Pledge Contributions and Special Gifts income all lagged expectations.

In short, 2008 was a mixed year for CCPC in many ways. We've met our program obligations and made major upgrades to our facilities and grounds – the latter funded through memorial gifts that have accumulated over the years. However, financially, we ended the year with a significant deficit which has reduced our Operating Reserves from \$109,588 to \$59,284. And, the financial outlook for 2009 continues to be a matter of some concern.

As of the writing of this report (January 30, 2009) the value of the 2009 pledges received to date is \$1,045,953 – another historically high amount – however it is about \$102,488 short of what we need to balance a 2009 Operating Budget of \$1,364,818. At the same time, basic cost of living increases continue to drive personnel and basic facility operations and maintenance costs upward. The 2009 budget is the second budget since 2005 where we have even attempted to include a modest increase in each of our key program and outreach areas – mission, education and music. We hope not to have to curtail or eliminate key programs or services in order preserve the principal amount of our investment reserves.

INCOME	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2008 Actual
Undesignated Giving	\$1,176,461	\$1,170,283	\$1,129,586
Investment Income	\$29,398	\$22,000	\$26,181
Use of Facilities	\$13,379	\$15,000	\$17,249
Other Income	\$46,092	\$50,401	\$47,819
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,265,330	\$1,257,684	\$1,220,835
EXPENSES			
Community Life & Outreach	\$3,159	\$3,700	\$3,645
Christian Education	\$18,510	\$12,325	\$9,909
Worship & Music	\$24,676	\$29,550	\$29,225
Mission	\$118,483	\$122,400	\$121,469
Stewardship	\$5,847	\$7,000	\$7,146
Support Services	\$200,252	\$177,532	\$199,026
Administration & Finance	\$80,739	\$67,200	\$71,099
Discipleship	\$805	\$2,900	\$1,045
Personnel	\$789,428	\$832,096	\$826,277
Deacons	\$471	\$2,800	\$1,022
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,242,369	\$1,257,503	\$1,269,863
BALANCE*	\$22,961	\$181	(\$49,028)

* Financial Results – Operating Fund

*Deficit has been drawn from the Operating Reserve Fund in accordance with Session policies; current Operating Reserve is now \$59,284 – well below the approximately \$125,000 level the Administration and Finance Committee recommends.

Complete 2008 Financial Reports are available in the Narthex or available from Ian Richardson

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Deborah Kelly and Greg Fudge, Co-Chairs

The year of our Centennial encouraged reflection on the rich tradition of our church, made possible in large part by our talented and dedicated staff, past and present. 2008 was a year of both tradition and transition.

In addition to care of the congregation and inspiration from the pulpit, Interim Head Pastor, Rev. Fred Lyon, successfully guided the staff and provided invaluable knowledge and leadership to all, during this transition period. Fred completed his first year at CCPC in November, and session approved a six-month extension of his contract.

Youth Ministries associate; Martin Brooks became Senior Pastor at Emory United Methodist Church near Baltimore, in June. Jennifer Griffin was selected as Interim Youth Ministries Associate in September, under the guidance of, and with assistance from, Lynn Jostes.

Custodian Rodolpho Rodero retired after many years of faithful service to CCPC, but not before helping to train his own replacement, Ecierk (Eric) Alcalá.

Senior Program Staff including Associate Pastors Rev. Steve Robertson, and Rev. Lynn Jostes, Music Director Julie Evans, Associate Music Director Kyoko Meredith, and Church Administrator Ian Richardson, continued to give tirelessly of themselves during this period of transition. Administrative and facilities staff including Jamie White, Louise Trent and Orlando Restrepo excelled in their vastly important but largely unheralded duties.

Although we hope everyone takes the opportunity to give a heart-felt **thank you!** to staff, the very best way to express our thanks is to fund cost of living increases. Although very late in the 2008 budgeting process, pledges from the congregation allowed for 3.5% staff COLA adjustment, retroactive to January 1, 2008. **By the end of 2008 however, pledges were insufficient to fund COLA adjustments in 2009.**

An Interim Resource Team, consisting of members of the congregation, was created to gather input from the congregation regarding church transition and direction, for use by the Pastor Nominating Committee, in its search for a new Pastor. Personnel committee members Zoltan Bagdy, Dennis Wood, and Jim Kettler continued their work with the PNC.

Works in progress advanced significantly, and included improved formatting of program staff evaluations and goal setting, and review of and updates to personnel policies and the staff manual.

Deborah Kelly, Greg Fudge, Carol Tucker-Foreman, and Jim Kettler served on the committee. Rita Hadden was on leave of absence, in China. Zoltan Bagdy, Bill Clotworthy and Dennis Wood rotated off active duty after many years of continuous and dedicated service to the committee.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

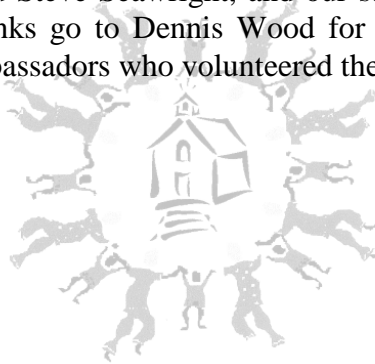
Fred Schafrick, Chair

The theme for this year's Annual Giving Campaign was "With Countless Gifts of Love." We tried a different approach this year — using Ambassadors to call upon members and make stewardship presentations. Approximately, 50 Elders, Deacons, and other members volunteered to be Ambassadors. We are grateful for their efforts. Unfortunately, the stock market and economy cratered as the Campaign was beginning. As a result, the Campaign has yet to meet its goal. As of January 16, 2009, we have received 326 estimates of giving (pledges) for a total of \$1,030,207 — an amount that is approximately \$119,000 short of our goal of \$1,150,000. Breaking these numbers down further, 22 of the pledges are from members who did not pledge in 2008. Of the renewing members, 151 households increased their pledges by a considerable 13%, but those increases were largely offset by decreases in pledges from other members so that the overall increase in giving from renewing members was 2%. We thank all who have responded.

In addition to the shortfall in meeting our 2009 goal, the Church ended up with a deficit in its operating fund of over \$50,000 caused principally by the fact that some members have not fulfilled their pledges and not by significant expense overruns..

We therefore continue to ask for your help both to pay off the 2008 deficit and meet our 2009 goal. We know that times are tough for some of our members, but others of us are in a position to do more. If you previously were unable to fulfill your 2008 pledge, but now can, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. If you have not yet submitted an estimate of giving for 2009, please do so. If you have fulfilled your pledge from 2008, but are able to do more for either 2008 or 2009, please prayerfully consider designating a check of \$250 or more for the 2008 shortfall and increasing your estimate of giving for 2009 in the amount of \$500 or more. If enough members are able to do this, we can eliminate these shortfalls.

Thanks to all who have served on the Stewardship Committee in the past year: Tamera Luzzatto, William Minor, Priscilla Rawlins, Bob Angus, Meg Artley, Carol Tucker Foreman, Julia Freeman, and Steve Seawright, and our staff contacts, Fred Lyon and Ian Richardson. Special thanks go to Dennis Wood for chairing the Annual Giving Campaign and to all the Ambassadors who volunteered their time to help.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Connie Rhind Robey



CCPC offers an active and varied program of Christian Education to children, youth, and adults. Sunday morning Church School provides a significant opportunity for learning and is a reason that many new young families join CCPC. More than 59 dedicated volunteers teach about the Bible and the Christian faith. To put their faith into action and to help the community, our children/youth participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, filled Christmas stockings for Children's Hospital, and purchased animals through Heifer Project International. The children's music program remains strong under Kyoko Meredith. The choirs regularly participate in leading worship, and the two musicals--*Moses and the Freedom Fanatics* and *Light of the World*—were a treat as the children shared God's Word in song.

Opportunities for Sunday morning adult education include The Bible in Context, which completed an examination of the Acts of the Apostles and began a year-long study of the Epistles; Faith Trek, which provides a place to explore faith through book studies; and the Thoughtful Christians Class, which considers issues of faith and life.

Our weekday programs also encompass children of all ages. The After-School program continues to provide a safe, caring, and creative place for 64 K-6th graders supervised by a staff of ten. The children enjoy a variety of enriching experiences, including performing community service. The Weekday Nursery School provides a hands-on play-based program for 185 1-5 year olds under the guidance of 28 staff. Many CCPC families use these programs, and they witness to CCPC's ministry to the children of our community.

In other adult programs, the new FOCUS initiative debuted in the Fall with a six week Thursday evening community dinner followed by five classes: The Bible, "America's Challenges for the Future: Reflections on Sacrifice", a study of Koine Greek, the Story of Shikokho and Handel's *Messiah*. Over 70 members of the CCPC Community came for study, worship and fellowship. In addition, Lynn Jostes continued to lead Bible studies Wednesday mornings, Thursday evenings, as well as beginning a new monthly "young Mom's" Bible study group. Youth activities continue with strong leadership provided by Martin Brooks through June, and now Jennifer Griffin, plus five adult volunteers. The Hearthstones and Firesides weekly meetings average 25-30 middle and high school students. Youth programs also included special youth worship services and monthly service opportunities. CCPC Sr Highs attended the Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, NC and joined the intergenerational Mission trip to assist in rebuilding New Orleans. To raise funds for these trips the Youth sponsored a successful Silent Auction in April. The church also celebrated the confirmation of 11 youth.

Deck the Halls attracted more than 200 children, youth, and adults who learned about the symbols of Christmas from around the world, and decorated our sanctuary tree. The 3rd Annual Easter Festival was attended by 35 children, youth and adults. The Easter book sale provided books to families in the Church and added to our library through the funds we raised. The Young Family Nurture Team held its 3rd annual family dinner in April, and this October, Derek Hawver and Lynn Jostes led ten couples in a one-day Marriage Enrichment program. Events in 2009 will continue to encourage fellowship and nurture those who are making CCPC their church home.



WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

Rich Lindahl, Chair

Our worship experience at CCPC – the liturgy, the music, the ushers, the flowers, and communion – depends on the dedication and devotion of both our employed professionals and volunteers throughout the congregation. The Worship & Music Committee is thankful for the many members who contribute their time to make our worship services appear effortless. If you would like to get involved (for example by arranging flowers, ushering, preparing communion, singing in a musical group or operating the sound board) we would love to work with you. Session members serving on the committee in 2008 included Mary Finch, Elizabeth Hendon, Kim Hersman, Priscilla Huff, and Rich Lindahl. Sub-committees were ably led by: Howard Davis, Ushers; Bob Minor and Marjorie Cashion, Flowers; Grace Hyslop, Communion; Don Avery, Sound and Light; and Martha Williams, Secretary. We are currently seeking new members for an expanded Communion sub-committee, and continue to have greater needs for Ushers and Sound Board volunteers. For more information, contact any subcommittee chair or a committee member.

The Worship & Music committee had a busy and productive year in 2008, as we continued to implement the recommendations of the Music Task Force while also preserving many of the rich traditions of our worship community. Of particular note, we purchased the new *Sing! A New Creation* songbook to replace the *Lift Up* hymnals, obtained new microphones and equipment to upgrade the quality and functionality of the Sanctuary sound system, and introduced the Lenten Devotions pamphlet to enhance the congregation's experience of worship and reflection during the season of Lent.

Exiting 2008, our music program -- under the inspirational leadership of Director of Music Julie Vidrick Evans and Associate Director of Music Kyoko Tagami Meredith – is particularly vibrant, with strong participation in all our choirs and instrumental ensembles, and the continuation of the Chevy Chase Concert Series. We are following the course for the future charted for us by the Music Task Force and look forward to completing our implementation of the MTF recommendations in 2009, even as we celebrate and build upon the great musical traditions that are so much a part of the fabric of our Church experience.

We pray that the music and worship experience at CCPC touches many souls both in the congregation and in the community beyond.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Carolyn Johnson and Phil English, Co Chairs



At CCPC, mission brings members of our church family closer together and links them with the needs of our local community, as well as the issues of poverty, social justice and peace in the wider world. Increasingly, our mission work combines **ministries of compassion** and **ministries of justice**, as we provide immediate services while working to reform public policies.

The Mission Committee was saddened by the loss of one of its long-standing pillars – Ginny Spevak – in the prime of her post-retirement career of volunteer work. Her interests and activities were wide-ranging, including re-entry of ex-offenders, environmental protection, and youth education. The Mission Committee committed \$5,000 per year for the next five years to the fund in honor of Ginny and her husband Michael. CCPC members and the many others who were touched by these fine people are invited to donate to The Spevak Memorial Fund.

In 2008, roughly 10% of the annual church budget and 17% of total church revenues supported mission activities. Ginny, and many others, would like to see that percentage increase to 25% over time. The Mission Committee oversees the distribution of funds for various programs, serves as an incubator for new ideas for mission and as a general “support” group to nurture existing missions. Many people are involved in mission through the projects funded, volunteer opportunities, and their own calls to service as engaged Christians. In this work, we “go not alone; we go with each other, and our God goes with us.”

CCPC’s support includes funding for Denominational, Local and International missions. Our largest single contribution on an annual basis helps to underwrite the important national and international mission activities of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The next largest beneficiary this year was the village of Shikokho in Western Kenya, which received support from the annual mission budget, the Gifts of Hope Market, the monthly Hunger Offering and individual donations. CCPC members supported health, education, orphan feeding, tree planting, and other community development projects. A small group traveled to the village in August. This project also received a grant of \$4500 from the National Capital Presbytery Global Mission Fund to help with the drilling of a new well.

In 2008, about 50% of CCPC’s total mission donations funded more than a dozen local organizations in the Washington metropolitan area, most of which provide direct services to poor and underserved populations and/or work on issues of social justice. Most grants ranged from \$1000-\$5000. The largest donation to a local organization was for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) which supports women and men making positive transitions in their lives. Based at CCPC, TAP provided counseling and direct assistance to approximately 1100 clients, up from 900 in 2007.

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MISSION COMMITTEE

Carolyn Johnson and Phil English, Co Chairs

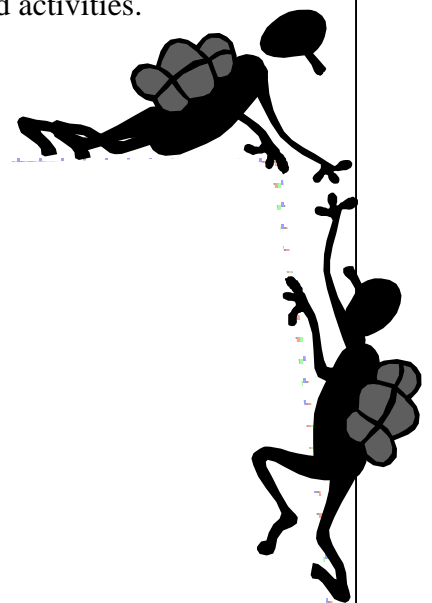
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The Reentry Task Force draws from churches and organizations throughout the area to serve as advocates for those reentering society. This past year, the task force promoted the establishment of a unit in the Mayor's office to increase and coordinate services to the ex-offender community (such as drug treatment and job placement). It also worked on setting up a unit that could oversee those DC residents held in prisons throughout the country, outside of the city's jurisdiction and far from their communities.

Earth Stewards works to involve our members in being better stewards of God's creation. It educates members about ways in which they can live more responsibly and reduce their energy consumption. It also explores ways in which our church as an institution can be more efficient in its use of energy. Finally, it tries to enlist members in being more effective throughout their communities and political system in supporting public actions and policy innovations that support the environment.

Other principal missions of the church include support for: the Woodland Tigers of Anacostia Community Outreach Center, Interfaith Works of Montgomery County, the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, and other mission projects in which our members are involved. In 2009, the Mission Committee hopes to broaden CCPC's Mission work, linking it more closely with other aspects of church life, and engaging more people, especially youth and younger families.

All are welcome to participate in Mission Committee meetings and activities.



COMMUNITY LIFE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (CLOC)

Sigrid Melus, Chair

Susan Brooks, Michael Huerta Members



The basic mission of the Community Life & Outreach Committee (CLOC) is to provide a spirit of fellowship throughout CCPC. We primarily achieved this through the continued sponsorship of congregation-wide events throughout 2008.

In a year of “big events,” CLOC organized 3 Festival Sundays with a brunch in January, to honor the Martin Luther King Celebration, a barbeque picnic in June to celebrate Pentecost and a barbeque in September to celebrate Homecoming Sunday. During Festival Sundays, CCPC holds a single service followed by a large brunch or lunch prepared and served by volunteers to the assembled members of our church. CLOC looks forward to continuing Festival Sundays in 2009 and increasing the base of volunteers who make them possible. In keeping with the goal of fostering fellowship, CLOC also organized the volunteer effort to provide the light brunch of bagels, juice, breads and fruit on Sunday, between the 9:30 and 11:00 AM Services. Sigrid Melus coordinated this activity to bring us a wonderful fellowship event each Sunday. CCPC is blessed with a genuine spirit of giving and cooperation into which CLOC is able to tap for all its volunteers.

Three specific examples bear specific mention. Bill and Marye Cotton coordinated the Monthly Soup & Sandwich lunches which are very much appreciated by regular attendees of these events. In 2008 Susan Brooks organized several Neighborhood Potluck Dinners throughout the year. Volunteers hosted the potluck dinners with invitees from the same zip code. CLOC hopes to continue to organize several of these potluck dinners in different zip codes in Maryland and DC as another way to support the church’s hospitality efforts. CLOC has served as a clearinghouse for many of the volunteer activities witnessed in our church. Volunteers are the lifeblood of a communal outreach effort such as CLOC’s.

We are very grateful for the many volunteers who have assisted us this past year in our activities. We look forward to working with new volunteers during the next year. CLOC will gladly receive gifts of time and energy that go into producing fellowship events for our church.

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

Mary Lasky ,Chair

The goal of the Discipleship Committee is to help our church community and individuals in our church answer God's call in joyful service.

After last year's session retreat in which nurturing and communication were selected as its two major priorities, the Discipleship Committee decided to focus energies on orienting new members to the opportunities for ministry at CCPC and to nurture and communicate with members who aren't actively involved in the life of our church. In the summer, the committee successfully piloted a small group which spent time using the *lectio divina* to illuminate scripture and as a springboard to sharing insights and faith journeys. We will begin another small group after Easter in 2008. In November, the committee hosted a large new member reception at the home of Kim and Chris Hersman.

Once again, Jessica Wick of the Education Committee joined the Meg Artley, Anne Morin and Mary Lasky from the Discipleship Committee to plan the session retreat. Focused on organizational change and designed with ample time to pray and listen for God's word to us, the outcomes of the retreat were

- 1) an understanding that the "interim" time is a positive and invigorating place for our church to be and
- 2) a vigorous desire to keep lines of communication open with members of the congregation.

The session has mobilized to speak with as many groups in the church as possible to explain and illustrate the pastoral leadership transition in the church.



BOARD OF DEACONS

Paula Fudge, Moderator

The Board of Deacons is called to carry out many tasks involved with providing congregational care. The Deacons fulfill this responsibility in two ways.

The first is through providing rides to church services for those needing assistance, delivering flowers, delivering casseroles, distributing prayer shawls and visiting the sick, homebound or members deserving special attention for both sad and joyous reasons.

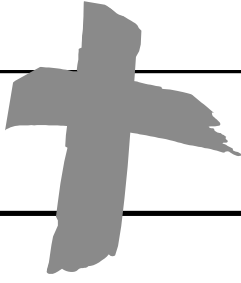
The second is through the work of three ministry teams, which under joint leadership, have specialized efforts to provide care which is supported by all the Deacons:

1. Care and Crisis Team: The care and crisis team has focused on reaching out to church members experiencing crisis or hardship in their lives. The Deacons are available to provide comfort and support on behalf of the church. In addition, the team supports the effort that recruits church members willing to donate casseroles for distribution by the Deacons as a tangible and practical reflection of the support of the church for members experiencing personal hardship. The team also helps to manage the prayer shawls donated by the Church's needlework group that are so appreciated by those in need of comfort.

2. Celebrations Team: This team is focused on celebrating major life milestones of church members as a way of encouraging fellowship and personal connections across the congregation. The team organizes the monthly celebration of birthdays of church members which are observed on the second Sunday of the month during the coffee hour between the services and after the second service with Deacons providing and serving cake to all members present. Members having birthdays in that month are recognized on a card listing all birthdays in the month. In addition, the Celebrations Ministry Team serves the annual luncheon honoring 50-year members of the church, and the annual dinner for confirmands.

3. Homebound Ministry Team: This team coordinates homebound communion for church members on designated occasions, as well as delivering Christmas poinsettias and Easter Lilies. In addition, the team is working on the Church Neighbors Program, matching homebound church members with church companions who would keep in touch with these members, bringing news from the church to ensure that our homebound members feel connected with CCPC.

The Board of Deacons will work to continue to explore and identify ways to involve the whole congregation in their work in order to better meet our church's needs for congregational care.



INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

Fred C. Lyon

2008 was a faithful year for Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. The interim period ran smoothly with respect to:

- ◆ the progress of ministries and mission of the CCPC
- ◆ the formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee, which is now well along in carrying out the task of calling a new pastor
- ◆ the staff and lay leadership working together productively
- ◆ the congregation learning some new ways of being church.

Mostly, after weathering a fair amount of transition in 2007, you could have decided not to be all that engaged in the life of the church during 2008. Instead, you embraced the celebration of the congregation's 100th Anniversary and committed yourselves to participate in preparing for the future that God holds in store for you as sisters and brothers in Christ here at CCPC.

2009 will not be without its challenges, especially as we all face volatile and unpredictable economic circumstances locally, regionally, and globally. But perhaps there is some wisdom to be found in an old Hasidic proverb I've mentioned before, which goes something like this:

“When life is like walking on thin ice, then why not dance?”

Maybe it is precisely in the most uncertain of times that we are best positioned to discover the deepest meanings of our faith and the most reliable assurances of God who, in Christ, is eternally faithful to us. And maybe such discovery, along with the spiritual growth that accompanies it, is what will best prepare CCPC for the eventual arrival of a new pastor.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY IN CHRIST