

May 1, 2011



God is still speaking,

From the Pastor's Desk...

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
John 15:12 (NRSV)

As I sit at my desk, writing to you, it's Holy Thursday. Betsy, our winter organist has just finished a couple of hours of serious practice on a very difficult organ part for the Easter choir anthem, where Ed, the pianoman will be downstairs on the baby grand. Beth, our church administrator has just locked her door for the day. Guy, our sexton has left the floors freshly waxed, and the clock is ticking on my wall to a beat the traffic on Woodward cannot hear. Finally, the sun is shining, the bulletins are all printed, the sermons are prepared. The rest of Holy Week and Easter can come now.



What am I working on then, in my office on a Holy Thursday afternoon? Well, I am working on the leftovers from the Palm Sunday brunch bash. One more slice of egg casserole and one more blueberry waffle square. There are advantages to being a church mouse. The task on my desk is the Installation Service on May 8, at 3pm. The bulletin has been waiting for my attention. What hymns will we sing? That's my favorite task. The preacher has given me his text and title. Rev. Dr. Carl Gillett will be bringing the message. Be prepared for a head and heart full of inspired ideas to contemplate.

While the details of the Installation Service come together, there are thoughts and feelings coming together about this upcoming event. By the time we reach the

Installation Service we will have been in ministry together for 10 Sundays plus all the days between. Wow! That really went fast, didn't it? So we are becoming acquainted with one another. The speed dating process is past. The documents have been drafted and signed. I am just as imperfect in my own way as every other pastor you have known. You are all just as human as all the other congregations I have served. Some things we have seen in each other we very much appreciate and some other things have made us remember why ours is the God of reconciliation, healing, hope and grace.

As we covenant together in this formal occasion of installation, I pray that we will listen to our "Still Speaking God" for a vision of our common ministry as a congregation. Whom haven't we reached with God's good news of loving reconciliation? How will we offer this gift outside the walls of our church? What is God asking us to do that we haven't ever done as individuals or a congregation? We are contemplating some of these prayers together at cottage meetings. Those opportunities to tell our God-stories to each other and discerning "what now at CCB" are well underway. To date I have been blessed by hearing the life stories of 59 people in our congregation. My goal is to hear at least 200 of our 257 members. Please help me by hosting one this summer and inviting those who haven't been to a cottage meeting with me.

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Happenings

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From the Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

No matter what we do as pastor and people together, we have one main agenda. This is the agenda that Jesus gave us. It's huge. It's difficult. It's beautiful when we let it happen in our midst. Our job is to love each other to the best of our ability. And our abilities are only complete when we ask the Spirit of God to love others through us.

Pastor Louise

Thanks For Your Generosity!

Here's a big round of applause for all CCBers who donated nonperishable food items for Lighthouse of Oakland County during the Lenten period. Thanks to you, we were able to deliver food items worth about \$600 to this organization, which is dedicated to moving people from poverty and crisis to independence and self-sufficiency. As part of this mission, Lighthouse distributes 64 million pounds of food to families and individuals in need each year.



www.lighthouseoakland.org

Habitat For Humanity "Blitz Build"

It must be spring because the Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build board will be going up inside the church entrance on May 8. Again this year, we will mark off squares on a large sheet of plywood. You can then "buy" a square and write a message and/or create a drawing on it. The money we collect from the squares on May 8, 15, and 22 will be used to cover our pledge of \$1,000 to Habitat For Humanity. The board will then be used in the construction of one of the two houses being built during this year's Pontiac Blitz Build (June 13-18 and July 11-16).

Thanks!

Chris Mead
(248) 355-3123

By Popular Demand! Rummage Sale Korean Spinach Salad

- 1 (10oz) package fresh spinach, large leave holds up better than the baby spinach.
- 2 hard cooked eggs, chopped fine
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 5 strips bacon, crumbled
- 1 small can water chestnuts, drained and sliced
- 1 can Chinese noodles

Dressing, use blender or whisk

3/4 cup sugar, 1 cup oil, 1/3 cup catsup, 1/4 cup vinegar, 2 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce

Blend dressing; pour over salad, mix well. —*Anna Schuster*

Colony: The Endangered World of Bees

7:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday ~ May 25



The unexplainable phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder has left landscapes of empty beehives all across America, threatening not only the bee-keeping industry but our food supply. As scientists and beekeepers search for the cause, *Colony* captures the struggle within the beekeeping community to save the honeybee and themselves. *Colony* documents a time of unprecedented crisis in the world of the honeybee through the eyes of veteran beekeeper David Mendes, and Lance and Victor Sepi, two young brothers getting into beekeeping when most are getting out.

Discussion following led by SE Michigan Beekeepers. Admission FREE @ CCB.

You are cordially invited...

To the Installation Service of the Rev. Louise R. Ott as the settled pastor of the Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ. Clergy are invited to wear robes and red stoles. The Rev. Dr. Carl Gillett will be preaching and the Detroit Metropolitan Association will preside over the installation. All are welcome.

Sunday- May 8, 2011

3:00PM (@ CCB UCC)

One Great Hour of Sharing



Mark your calendar! Sunday, May 22, is the date for our One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. This is one of CCB's "5 for 5" offerings for the United Church of Christ. When you make a gift to this offering, you become a partner in UCC's refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts in more than 80 countries around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the UCC's Wider Church Ministries.

www.ucc.org/oghs/resources

Comparative Religions Study

Courtesy of The Great Courses series, we will be presenting lectures on DVD by the expert in comparative religions, Professor Charles Kimball, who is Presidential Professor and Director of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Oklahoma. The course consists of 24 lectures, each a half hour long, on the similarities and differences among the five major religions of the world - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The Course will be offered on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room at CCB. We will hear four half-hour lectures and then discuss what we have learned over lunch, beginning May 10th and continuing through June 14th. No signup is necessary, just come and learn. Bob Smith will provide the first luncheon, and if you have food allergies please let him know.



Join the Celebration

Join us in celebrating the Oakland County launch of **LifeChoice Solutions™** – continuing care at home for older adults – offered by Evangelical Homes of Michigan.

Tasteful Choices Wine Tasting Party

Enjoy tasteful choices of fine wines and hors d'oeuvres. This event benefits Evangelical Homes' charitable care for Oakland County older adults who need, but cannot afford, assistance to live safely in their home.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar

323 North Old Woodward Avenue | Birmingham, MI 48009

\$40 per person, paid in advance | \$50 per person, at the door

Net proceeds from this event will provide charitable care to Oakland County seniors in their home.

To buy your tickets in advance, you may pay with a credit card at ehmchoices.org/events.

If you prefer to pay by check, make your check payable to Evangelical Homes of Michigan (write "Wine Tasting" in the memo) and mail to **Development Office, Evangelical Homes of Michigan, P.O. Box 837, Birmingham, MI 48012-0837.**

For more information, call Cindy Hill at (734) 308-0068 or email hillc@evangelicalhomes.org.

CCB WOMEN

Present

“A Fabulous Garden Tea”

Saturday, June 4



Join us for a musical program by our own Project DayDream and a presentation by Rebecca Salminen Witt, President of The Greening of Detroit. To top off the event, a beautiful and delicious traditional tea, lovingly prepared by the CCB Women's Committee, will be served. Afterward, stroll through our lovely gardens.

Program: Noon
Tea: Immediately following the program
Cost: \$10 RSVP for the tea by May 29th.
Call Pat Parker at (248) 851-8135
or Shirley Fogarty at (248) 258-9435.

There will be a free will offering for the Greening of Detroit at the presentation.

Invite your family and friends!

CCB Goals and Commitments 2007-2010

- 1. We intend to become more intentional about living out our faith by reaching out to each other and through our mission in the region, nation and world.**
- 2. We intend to become more inclusive, open and affirming in our approach to ALL people regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, ethnic background and sexual orientation.**
- 3. We intend to become better stewards of the environmental and economic resources which are a vital part of God's creation.**

Since Lisa and Mary Franks were willing to be the first interviewees last month, Happenings co-editor Toni Wilson and her spouse Kevin agreed to go next.

Tell us your full names.

Toni Ellen Corley Wilson and Kevin Andrew Wilson.

How long have you been members of CCB-UCC?

Since September, 2007.

What brought you here?

We had been going to a Presbyterian church for about fifteen years, but when the church took a theologically more conservative swing and rejected our gay son, we started looking around for another place to worship, and found CCB.



Do you have any other family members who attend this church? If so, who are they?

All three of our sons are members. Sean is 28; Greg is 26 and Colin is 23. The two youngest attend sporadically, and the oldest on rare occasions.

What kind of work do you do? What attracted you to this kind of work?

Kevin is a freelance writer who is mostly focused on automotive subjects. Toni is the program director of Lakeshore Legal Aid's long-term care ombudsman program in the Saginaw-Bay City-Midland area, which advocates for the residents of licensed long-term care facilities.

If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

Kevin would have graduated from college before 2010. Toni would live closer to where she works.

What do you draw energy from?

Kevin says he draws energy from driving on a curvy road with the top down. He stipulates that he should be alone, so as not to scare the snot out of the passenger. Toni draws energy from listening to good music, singing and composing music; and from hanging out with her sons and their significant others.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people.

Kevin says it would surprise people to learn that he is shy. Toni thinks people would be surprised to learn that while one of her grandfathers was a Baptist minister, she was not raised in a religious family and began attending church as a teenager as a way to be rebellious.

Do you have a favorite musician or band? Who? What is it that you like about them?

Kevin is partial to the music of Lyle Lovett, and says his favorite thing about Lyle is his abundance of hair. Toni has a half-dozen favorites; but if she had to pick one it would be Joni Mitchell, for the quality of her music and commitment to the art of songwriting.

What is your favorite book? What did you love about it?

Kevin likes the book "Master and Commander", as well as the entire series of 18th century historical novels about the British Navy by author Patrick O'Brien. Toni likes the book "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck, in part because her father's family is from Oklahoma.

Where do you see God at work in your every day life?

Kevin says he has noticed that the more generous he is, the more generous the universe is towards him. Toni sees God in nature, in small blessings and in the love we have for one another.

Tell us two more things you'd like your church family to know about you.

Kevin has been to Japan and China, but says his favorite place to go is Italy because "that's where you can eat best". He also has ridden in the Goodyear Blimp. Toni is working on a CD of her original music being produced by her son Greg. We have two rescued pets; a Sheltie-Beagle mix named Shelby and a black and white cat named Pippin. We also have two tanks full of various freshwater fish, including a real mean one called a Green Terror.

May 2011

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS for our Congregation—For more detailed calendar information including meeting rooms and outside groups using CCB, please visit the website ccbucc.org/calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>1 May Annual Report Deadline Legacy Sunday 9AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM Worship w/ Communion 11:30AM Endowment Presentation</p>	<p>2 9AM TSM Carpool leaves 10AM Election Set-Up 10AM-3PM Trinity St. Mark's Rum-mage Sale 7:30PM Council</p>	<p>3 7AM-8PM Elections 10AM-3PM TSM Rum-mage Sale 1PM Staff Meeting 5PM Womens' Event Setup</p>	<p>4 6PM CCB Womens' Event</p>	<p>5 12 PM Cottage Meeting @ Wheatley's</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 1PM CE Board Meeting</p>
<p>8 Mothers' Day 9AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Equal Exchange Sale 3PM Rev. Ott's Installation Service Habitat Fundraiser Begins (through 5/22)</p>	<p>9 7:30PM Pastor Support Ministry</p>	<p>10 10AM Comparative Religions Study</p>	<p>11 5PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 5PM Chime Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 9M-3PM Garden Work Day 3PM Cottage Meeting @ Tierney's</p>
<p>15 9 AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM Worship 11:45 RCC Team Meeting</p>	<p>16 6PM Finance Committee</p>	<p>17 10AM Comparative Religions Study</p>	<p>18 12PM DMA Covenant Team</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9AM Garden Work Day (Rain Date)</p>
<p>22 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 9 AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Annual Meeting; CCB Brunch Bash</p>	<p>23 7PM Boards & Committees</p>	<p>24 Happenings Deadline—June Issue 10AM Comparative Religions Study</p>	<p>25 5PM Confirmation Class 6PM Finance Committee Stewardship Workshop 7PM Green Screen Series</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Happenings Printing—June Issue</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9 AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM Worship</p>	<p>30 Memorial Day Holiday — Office Closed</p>	<p>31 Happenings Mailing 10AM Comparative Religions Study</p>	<p>1 June</p>	<p>2 Ascension Day</p>	<p>3 4PM Garden Party Set-Up</p>	<p>4 9AM Earth Action Day 12PM Garden Party & Tea</p>

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Scripture: Mark 16:3-4

³They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

from the New Revised Standard Version