I saw a great deal of JOY and HAPPINESS the day of our 93rd Annual Bazaar as people rushed into the church to see all the beautifully handcrafted and homemade treasures that had been prepared for the big day. Beautiful quilts, hand-knit, crocheted and embroidery items, nativity scenes, aprons, wooden projects, even two snowmen from our craftsman Bob Smith, who was with us in spirit. That was only the beginning, for in the fellowship hall, a beautifully prepared luncheon was served of BBQ beef brisket, homemade chicken soup and chili, and homemade pies. The candy, baked goods, and jelly drew many customers, as well as the Treasures and Collectables, Books, and Christmas Rooms. The tradition lives on with a big Thank You to Janet Steiner, the coordinator, and all those who contributed in so many ways.

The beautiful quilt that so many woman had worked on was won by Frank Campbell, of Serendipity Yarns, who deeply appreciated not only the beauty of the quilt and the workmanship, but also the historical significance of the pattern. The hand-carved deer bench by Ron Erickson was won by Pam Simpson, who was joyous for this addition to her home. We welcomed people from Buena Vista and the wider area to this wonderful event. Well done and kudos to everyone!

As we now cross the threshold to Advent Season, we enter the time of longer nights and shorter days, of Christmas trees and angels, caroling and gift giving, prime rib or ham for Christmas dinner, “Amahl and the Night Visitors” or “A Christmas Carol,” fulfillment or emptiness, amazement or doubt.

This is my favorite time of year, I love everything about the Christmas season, especially decorating the Christmas tree, baking Scandinavian cookies and breads, planning the meals, wrapping the gifts, Christmas Eve Services at the church, the music and the scriptures that tell the mystery of the greatest gift that God could give, the gift of a child, the gift of God’s son—Jesus!

From the Gospel of Luke, we read the narrative of “The Shepherds and The Angels” which begins, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find the child wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth!”

May it be so and may the Christ live in you!

~Marge Erickson, Moderator
PASTOR’S ARTICLE, December, 2019

Welcome to Advent. Days of darkness and gestation, of going deep into the soil and foundation of our faith and life together. Days of coming to the Manger, coming to Jesus, the Light of the world, and looking toward the Light in this season and the next, and the new year. Advent calls us as individuals and a community to focus on God’s ways and works, to keep in mind that at any moment we might come face to face with Jesus Christ, and to intentionally cultivate a sense of divine presence and purpose so as to be ready to respond faithfully to whatever comes our way. Advent calls us to pay attention to the divine in the midst of the mundane so as to live in ways that reflect whose and who we are—or at least whose we are and who we want to be.

Blessings on your Advent, CUCC, Pastor Rebecca.

A blessing for all pilgrims on the walk of faith:
Blessed are you who can question your own assumptions and listen with an open mind; you will receive new insights beyond your imagining.
Blessed are you who suffer the attacks of others to stand up for what is right; you will not be alone, for your courage will inspire others to rise.
Blessed are you who build friendships as well as justice; even when you lose an issue, you have strengthened the foundation of your community.
Blessed are you who take delight in people; you will not be bored in meetings.
Blessed are you who agitate the placid waters of complacency; you will create waves in the inertia of privilege, and will know the thrill of riding the surf of change.
Blessed are you who lead with enthusiasm and confidence, resisting the temptation to shame the apathetic or self-absorbed; you will inspire curiosity and hope in others.
Blessed are you who play as well as work; you will have more fun, build more energy, and will draw the powers of the impish to your cause.
Blessed are you who ask for help in your role as leaders; you will find teachers at every turn, and your work will remain interesting and alive.
Blessed are you who, when wrongfully attacked, find safe outlets for your righteous rage; your mind will be clear, your decisions strategic, and your progress will not be derailed by the backlash of the fearful.
Blessed are you who do not demonize your opponents; your eyes and your hearts will be open.
Blessed are you who sing and dance; you will find energy and joy to lift you on your journey.
Blessed are you who offer thanks and praise five times you didn’t realize you needed to know, and have partners for the journey when you are in the lead,
Blessed are you who work in coalition rather than in principled isolation;
Blessed are you who volunteer to be secretary and take good minutes;
Blessed are you who suffer the attacks of others to stand up for what is right;
Blessed are you who do not demonize your opponents; your eyes and your hearts will be open.
Blessed are you who study the rhythms of history; you will have knowledge with which to shape the future.
Blessed are you who volunteer to be secretary and take good minutes; your words will become history, and your efforts will move steadily forward rather than running absent-mindedly over thoroughly discussed ground.
Blessed are you who discover, train and encourage young leaders; you will see your work expand and grow beyond your own time and talent.
Blessed are you who can change your mind; you are still alive.
Blessed are you who will not let the perfect be the enemy of the good; you will see progress in your lifetime.
Blessed are you with an active spiritual life; you will find perspective and comfort in times of loss and betrayal, and will rise without cynicism to meet the challenges of a new day.
Blessed are you who live from a place of gratitude; for you will know the meaning of Life.

- By Lindi Ramsden (used with permission)
**Part of our church family who would enjoy Prayers, Cards, or perhaps a Visit**

Diane Bails  (720) 505-6540  
7751 Zenobia Court, Westminster, CO  80030

Jean Brody  (303) 720-9595  
8271 South Continental Divide Road  
Littleton, CO  80127

Lindsey Fagerberg Close  
c/o 308 West Mount Vernon Ave.  
Haddonfield, NJ  08033

Bonnie Guenther  (719) 395-2261  
PO Box 12  
318 Pinon Street, Buena Vista, CO  81211

Elvin Frantz  (719) 395-6982  
30535 CR 371, Buena Vista  
c/o Kathy Garrett  
PO Box 1106, Buena Vista, CO  81211-1106

Nan Bohe  (303) 412-9121  
Life Care Center of Westminster  
7751 Zenobia Court, Westminster, CO  80030

Diane Bails  (720) 505-6540  
208 S. Colorado, Buena Vista, CO  81211

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**CUCC Special Dates**

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- December 2 — Doyle Nyberg
- December 7 — Jean Brody
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- December 28 — Verona Taggart
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- December 30 — Mary Ann Hoyt

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- December 10 — Carl & Liz Hansen
- December 19 — Bob & Glynnette Smith
- December 20 — Les & Mary Messamer
- December 21 — Frank & Linda Carpenter
- December 31 — Elvin & Pat Benton

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*Please Remember in Your Prayers*

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- Brooke Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg) — Healing
- Kaylyne Pommert and Blakely-Grace Pommert — Strength & Healing
- Midori Matsuda — Healing & Strength
- The Family of Bernie Robinson — Comfort
- Linette Williams — Healing
- Mandy Cason (brother of Roger Cason) — Healing
- Dwight Griggs — Healing
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- Pam Hughes — Healing
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- Nan Bohe — Healing
- Roger Cason — Healing

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- Rocky Kemper

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The view from the mountain is wondrous.

The essence of Auntie—that is what Thanksgiving is to me. It is a soft time, a quiet and peaceful time, a time that makes me feel loved. It was and is a brailing time. I always am with those I love, sharing in good food, family stories, the proverbial afternoon nap, the time for touching.

Auntie, aged passed ninety, left this earth some thirty years ago. But her essence remains and is with me still.

Sitting in my recliner today I knew I wanted to talk about Thanksgiving. But every time I started to write, I was led to talk about our Auntie.

Auntie lived alone in a small log cabin-type house in the Ozark Mountains. She was fiercely independent, quick-witted, kind, and amazingly intelligent.

She went to school until she was twelve years old, at which time she and her twin sister, Ethel, went to work for the gentry. Sometimes I wondered what she could have accomplished had she been able to stay in school. But then I realized no school could have made her any smarter.

But the true essence of Auntie had to do with her heart and soul. She left her imprint on everything and everyone she touched.

First of all, the scent of Thanksgiving. Every Thanksgiving we all went to Auntie’s house. When we opened her heavy front door we were enveloped in the musty, old, undusted odor as it mingled with the aroma from the iron pots and pans bubbling and baking on her ancient kitchen stove.

The next scent I still recall vividly was from her handmade patch quilts as we slipped between layers of them for our after-dinner nap. Breathing in these scents was like filling oneself with peace and love.

Then there was the sound of Thanksgiving—wood cracking in the woodstove, the muted thuds as we walked through her little house, and the delicate shifting of uneven floor boards, all combined with Auntie’s laughter. It was sort of a cackle as she smiled when we read about your 50th Anniversary celebration for True Grits in Ridgeway, CO.

Thanksgiving tastes surpassed the finest restaurants. Her blend of herbs and a lifetime of cooking for the gentry all culminated at our Thanksgiving table. But what I taste to this very day is the taste of old Thanksgiving tastes surpassed the finest restaurants. Her blend of herbs and a lifetime of cooking for the gentry all culminated at our Thanksgiving table. But what I taste to this very day is the taste of old

The essence of Auntie is like a symbol to me. I remember how I felt every year on the way back home. Everybody was quiet and I tried to memorize the few days we had just so enjoyed.

Before leaving, I always ran my fingers across the rich colored wood table, the roughness of the chair seats. I loved to run my fingers through her white hair and to feel the coolness of old china plates as we washed and dried them together.

All of these things were etched into my very soul and the same feelings bless me every year about Thanksgiving time. I can touch the essence of Auntie all over again. It is my prayer that each of you feel the same joy and peace.

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

— Jean Brody

Kudos Kolumn

Many thanks to all those who pitched in to make the Celtic Spirit Weekend Retreat a success! Many from CUCC and the wider community enjoyed an inspiring and meaningful weekend together. Thank you for being with us! Merilee and the Boy Scouts who donated several sleeping bags from their shed to the new homeless shelter in Salida.

And continuing thanks for all the Bazaar and Windows help, participation, support, and everything else!

THANKS FROM NELSONS

Dear, Dear Pastor Rebecca and CUCC, Reggie sure loved his birthday wishes from you. He does not like to write so I have to do it. He just had surgery on his bladder, they froze cancer spots and we are extra thankful he is doing well. We both smiled when we read about your 50th Anniversary celebration for True Grits in Ridgeway, CO. I am sorry I am so late in thanking you for Reggie’s card but this old lady was in the hospital and I am extra thankful to be home now.

We are so thankful that you still think of us and we say a special prayer of thanks and send our love, Reggie & Judy

THANK YOU TO WMS FROM MARY MESSAMER

Thank you so much for the cute get well card.

I’ve still to wear the orthopedic shoe until Nov. 20. Foot well—can wear regular shoes “out” but must continue with the “shoe” in the house along with using the walker—hope to be back with cane soon.

Thanks so much—Mary Messamer

THANK YOU FROM LA PUENTE

Thank you for your donation & for being part of our community. This is an exciting time for us. We believe everyone should have a holiday meal to share with family. The food bank has received 300 turkeys to date, & we hope to distribute 600 boxes. The Thanksgiving dinner at the Shelter is coming up as well. We extend love & good wishes to all.

La Puente Staff & Volunteers

WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY—THE 93RD ANNUAL BAZAAR!

Our 93rd Annual Bazaar set-up week started with snow, snow, snow, and cold. Workers still showed up and continued with their activities. The weather cleared for a warm Saturday. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in all the places where help was needed.

With only three shoppers waiting at 9:00am, it was a nervous start, but the attendance stayed steady with generous shoppers. The total money was a nice amount to fund supported projects.

The success of the bazaar must be accredited to so many former chairmen doing such terrific work. Thanks for all the years of great guidance!

The Civil War quilt “Women’s Voices” was won by Frank Campbell of Serendipity Yarns, a Civil War re-enactor who couldn’t have been more thrilled. Ron Erickson’s hand carved hall bench was happily won by Pam Simpson.

—Chairman, Janet Steiner
FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- Trash Service: A certified letter with documentation has been sent to Waste Management protesting their continued attempt to charge us for a “Termination Fee”. No response noted as of this date.
- Windows Project: Roller shades for sanctuary are installed and Delmar is planning to meet with Janet to finalize plans for the valances. The team agreed to ask Janet to order the same kind of roller shades for the three windows in the Fellowship Hall.
- Front Door Security: The video security system is ordered and will be installed as soon as it arrives. It was decided to order the Ring system for both front a back doors as it will allow staff to observe and ID visitors at the doors prior to entry.
- Carpet Cleaning: The carpets have all been cleaned.
- Tree trimming: Still working on options on this project.
- Fire Detectors: All smoke detector batteries will be replaced at one time to keep the changing of them consistent and the date noted.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

The WT would like to encourage you to note the special events in December as laid out in the Celebration Calendar elsewhere in this newsletter, including Christmas Caroling on December 8 from 4-6pm (meet at the church), the Prayer Vigil from 4:00pm-6:00pm on December 20, and the Candlelight/Communion Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm December 24. Also please note that the Heifer Living Gift Market has been postponed until the Lenten season.

Worship Team Notes

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The Faith Education Team
Faith Education for Everyone

The Faith Education Team is working with Janet Steiner preparing for the Christmas Program to be presented on Sunday, December 15. We’re grateful for Janet’s leadership and to Ruby Hamilton for assisting and working with the children.

Alice Wolters continues to recruit leadership for Children’s church. We’re grateful that Donna Maloney and Billie Branch have joined others in leading Children’s Church and would welcome others to join the teaching team. We guarantee help in learning the procedure and lesson structure. We will continue with the same curriculum in the first quarter of 2020. Alice will order and create the lesson schedule.

Our team would like to pull together all the adult education offerings within our church and determine how to keep our members aware of the multiple offerings and how they fit into the team structure (if they do) and where their costs fit into the overall budget. We are grateful for all the opportunities offered to keep us all learning and sharing.

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER — Sundays, 9:00-9:45, Adult Ed Room, CUCC

Join this lively and interesting conversation each week as we gather to talk about scriptures, upcoming sermon topics, current events and all sorts of things that matter! December’s Theme: “Seasons of Faith That Matter.”

Arlene Waldorf, Chair
**CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**

**CHUCK & LOU TIDD MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
Saturday, December 7  
4:00pm  
CUCC Sanctuary  
with reception to follow  
Please celebrate with us the lives of CUCC members Chuck & Lou Tidd, who both passed away this past year.

**TLELS**  
Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society  
Tuesdays, 7:00pm held at members’ homes  
_All women are invited!_  
We read and discuss books, share life, joys, and concerns, and enjoy snacks!  
The group is reading “The Life of an Ordinary Woman” by Anne Ellis.  
See Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list.

**MONDAY MORNING MEN’S GROUP**  
Mondays at 8:00am  
Grace Church Annex  
Men of CUCC are invited to join men of Grace Church for this class. They are currently studying “Natural Grace” by Michael Fox and Rupert Sheldrake. Fox represents the theological tenant of Original Blessing and Sheldrake is a biologist. They discuss science and religion each from his own background.  
The sessions last one to one and one-half hours and are open to men of CUCC and the community.  
_All Men are invited to learn, discuss, and grow!_

**WINDOWS UPDATE**  
Here are the new blinds. There are valances and window treatments planned, also. More news to come!

**Outreach/Community & World Team News—December greetings!**  
Several on-going projects:  
- Peanut Butter, etc. for the local Mission. Thanks much for bringing items on the 1st Sundays.  
- Backpack Program: Cash donations are always welcome.  
- Fair Trade Coffee Sales: As well as coffee, don’t forget to check out the tea & chocolate items every Sunday.  
- Angelo: Our smiling Filipino teenager still needs school tuition. See the Bob Dwyer jar in the narthex on Sundays.  
- The Rocky Mountain Conference Socksgiving campaign was a great success—CUCC collected 300 pairs of new socks! The Resource Center/Homeless Shelter in Salida will enthusiastically receive them for Christmas stockings.  
- The Outreach Team will be blending the program into one of our weekly Lenten Soup Suppers. We will already be running Heifer Project. In light of the especially encouraging response of our congregation, we must continue fostering this worldwide outreach!  

A great many of us, we know, enjoyed our returned support last December of the long-running Heifer Project. In light of the especially encouraging response of our congregation, we must continue fostering this worldwide outreach!  

But with end-of-year church budget concerns and the Christmas Fund approaching, we don’t want anyone to be overwhelmed.  

So, we are going to move our support of the Heifer Project to March, as part of our church’s Lenten celebrations. We think this will be a perfect complement to the sentiments of the season: reflection on the deprived, especially the poor, many of whom don’t know where their next meal is coming from; what personal sacrifices we can make for the common good; doing our small part for the betterment of mankind.  

The Outreach Team will be blending the program into one of our weekly Lenten Soup Suppers. We will already be breaking bread in neighborly camaraderie—what better time to be positively thinking of the less fortunate of the world and what we can do to improve their lot?

_The Heifer Project Will Be Supported Next Spring!_

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_The Heifer Project Will Be Supported Next Spring!_

A great many of us, we know, enjoyed our returned support last December of the long-running Heifer Project. In light of the especially encouraging response of our congregation, we must continue fostering this worldwide outreach!  

But with end-of-year church budget concerns and the Christmas Fund approaching, we don’t want anyone to be overwhelmed.  

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**DID YOU KNOW:**

1) CUCC’s Family Windows were funded by generous donations from near and far? No budget dollars were needed!

2) CUCC is a generous congregation, with great support from the wider community? When people are made aware of our funding needs to continue mission and ministry, response is very positive!

3) The Celtic Spirit Retreat and all portions of the “Congregation’s Sabbatical Journey” are fully funded by the Sabbatical Grant from Lilly? Again, no budget dollars were needed!

**CUCC Finance and Budget Team December News**

In October the various teams submitted budget figures for their section of the budget. Lesley and Cindy also entered in line items for the financial section comparing year-to-date figures and factoring in any increases that we might incur. There were only a few line items to be discussed, those being salaries.

On Thursday, November 21, the Women’s Missionary Society held their election of officers. Merilee Daugherty will be President, Rhonda Funston the Vice-President, Cindy Helm the Secretary, and Kay Allinger the Treasurer. We turned in our Blessing Boxes, with funds going to missions. We also listened to the bazaar wrap up. So far we have taken in $7,270.81 in proceeds for net income of $6,783.96.

Our final meeting of the year will be Thursday, December 12, 1:00pm. Our speaker will be Shanae Diaz, La Puente’s Volunteer Coordinator, and our officers will be installed. As our contribution to the All-Church Program on December 15, we will bake and donate cookies for Fellowship Hour.

**ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 10:00AM**

**REHEARSALS AT 6:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 & WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

**SINGERS & WANNA-BE SINGERS WELCOME AND INVITED!**

**ALL SINGERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. PLEASE CONSIDER BEING PART OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT!**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 11:15AM**

**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 2**

Please plan on attending this very important event. Help make CUCC truly yours!

**“CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER” ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP AT CUCC!**

Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room

Discuss faith, life, scripture themes, and upcoming Sunday messages with Pastor Rebecca. Talk about things that matter and offer creative input for Sunday worship!

**ALL CHILDREN PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE ARE INVITED TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Come meet the characters in Deep Blue, learn new songs and have fun with craft projects!

Come to worship at 10 am, join in the Children’s Message in church, and then follow your teacher to the Art Room.
CUCC Council Minutes
November 20, 2019

Present: Kay Allinger, Ann Condra, Merilee Daugherty, Helen Duncan, Marj Erickson, Ron Erickson, Lesley Fagerberg, Barb Gray, Cindy Helm, Rebecca Poes, Betsy Neas, Ron Rak, Kathy Roman, Arlene Waldorf, Bill Waldorf, Mark Wolters, Vivian York.

Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Marj Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:15pm, opening with a unison recital of Psalm 23.

General Business and Reports

Minutes: From the October 16 Meeting prepared by Merilee were reviewed. Kathy presented new information from further research of the church by-laws and Roberts Rules of Order about voting rights of ex-officio members present at Council. The church by-laws always supersede Roberts Rules. Article VII of the by-laws defines ex-officio members as the Pastor and church delegates to the Rocky Mountain Conference and Southeast Association. Ex-officio members do not have voting rights, and may not make motions for Council consideration. This clarification supersedes the 3rd sentence of the Minutes of the October 16 Minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: Cindy presented two letters for filing from the Auditor dated August 20, 2019 summarizing what was done, and follow up reporting responsibilities of the “Trustees” and Council. She gave an official notice of her desired resignation as Treasurer of CUCC to be effective at the Annual Meeting in January 2020. She expressed her willingness to work with her replacement from now on until January 31, 2020. Council discussed the matter, and Bill expressed the church’s appreciation for her service. Merilee moved/Ann seconded to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion passed.

Moderator’s Report: Merilee reported that the Celtic Spirit Weekend Retreat presented at CUCC by Brad and Rita Berglund went very well and was well attended. Rebecca added that the weekend was paid for by the Sabbatical grant, including the presenters’ lodging and all food provided at the retreat. Marj continued noting that a search is ongoing for a chair for the Nominating Committee. She also asked Council for comments on the quarterly congregational meetings that were diligently held this year. Council responded positively, and she suggested that these meetings will continue in 2020.

Continuing Business

“Our Match Challenge” – Bill Waldorf: Bill noted that a plan was instituted last month to overcome an anticipated $8,000 church budget deficit. To date, $5,850 is promised by church leaders. A follow-up letter will be sent out soon by the Finance Team to church members, noting the response and encouraging a matching response. The overall goal is to close the year with a balanced budget.

Lifetouch Directory – Ann reported that an update on the illustrated church directory was not available before this meeting, but was expected momentarily. Nancy Best will get the information and put it in the Friday email blast.

Team Reports and Updates

Outreach Team – Helen reported that the Backpack Program is currently providing 50 packs. The high school is faithfully using the ChristLife program to provide reusable cloth bags. The elementary school is using brown paper bags for different reasons to maintain high participation in the program. Support for the Global Ministries Child Sponsor Program is on budget, although Global Ministries increased the support cost by $100 this year. The Socksgiving Program that ended Sunday, November 17 collected 300 pairs of new socks, which were donated to Salida’s Resource Center/Homeless Shelter. She informed Council that the planned Heifer Project support this December was rescinded in March to coincide with the Lenten season. Kay clarified that donations to the Heifer program should be given directly to CUCC and one payment will be sent to Heifer, whereby no individual personal information will be transferred to Heifer.

Stewardship/Visioning Team – Ann noted that a lot of ideas were discussed on stewardship, finances, and participation in church activities. The consensus is to get people involved more personally in church activities and not to focus heavily on financial aspects.

Finance and Budget Team – Bill and Leslie. A summary sheet of the 2020 draft church budget was passed out for review and comment before the next Council meeting. The 2020 budget is approximately $5,000 less than the 2019. Discussion of the major changes that made the $5,000 reduction possible was made. The revised budget will then have to be approved by Council at the December Council meeting.

Facilities Team – Mark reported that the windows portion of the project was totally completed and remaining work included shades and valances for various windows as desired. The project budget is currently in the black and is anticipated to be completed with excess funds. Other projects include a soon to be installed new front and rear door communication system whereby audio visual cameras will allow visitors to call persons in the church to gain entrance. Snow removal procedural details were also being worked out with contractors.

Faith Education Team – Arlene commented that a Christmas program involving children is currently the main focus. Children’s summer programs will be the next priority. On an unrelated topic, she emphasized that the congregation should give significant attention to visitors and remembering the names of returning visitors. She also asked Council for comments on the quarterly congregational meetings that were diligently held this year. Council responded positively, and she suggested that these meetings will continue in 2020.

A Second Annual Celtic Weekend
Excellent Celtic Spirit Weekend Retreat presented at CUCC by Brad and Rita Berglund went very well and was well attended. Rebecca added that the weekend was paid for by the Sabbatical grant, including the presenters’ lodging and all food provided at the retreat. Marj noted that a search is ongoing for a chair for the Nominating Committee. She also asked Council for comments on the quarterly congregational meetings that were diligently held this year. Council responded positively, and she suggested that these meetings will continue in 2020.

From a neighboring church: “One vote for the Second Annual Celtic Weekend” this time next year? Thank you (or should I say “go raibh mile maith agat”) for putting it together.

Many blessings, -Mike

Celtic Spirit Weekend Retreat!

What a wonderful, uplifting, spirit-filled weekend! On Nov. 8-10, over 50 people from CUCC and our community gathered at CUCC with Pilgrimage Leaders Brad & Rita Berglund.

Day one was spent focusing on the Celtic Spirit of the land and earth’s gifts and beauty. The Berglunds led us in a fascinating exploration of Celtic spirituality and tradition, and Moderator Marge hosted a fabulous fellowship time around the table.

This congregational retreat was part of our Sabbatical Journey, funded by the Sabbatical Grant from Lilly.

From community members: “We enjoyed our weekend with you. It gave us lots to think about and integrate into our experiences in Ireland and Scotland, as well as Spain. Much gratitude to you both for sharing.”

~Sydney