



# THE M e s s e n g e r

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Washington, DC

---

## IN THE NOVEMBER EDITION

FROM OUR PASTOR .....	2
FROM OUR STEPHEN MINISTRY .....	2
PRESIDENT'S NOTE .....	3
FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS .....	4
LOOKING AHEAD .....	6

## FROM THE MESSENGER TEAM

The *Messenger* is CLC's primary paper source for news about our congregation and community. The publication team works to make the newsletter informative and of value to our readers.

Want to go paperless and receive the Messenger electronically? Let the church office know and look for the *Messenger* on CLC's website [www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messenger.pdf](http://www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messenger.pdf).

Looking for an old *Messenger*? Back issues from July 2008 to the present are on our website [www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messengerarchive.html](http://www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messengerarchive.html)

Have something for the next edition? Send it to [CLCMessenger@gmail.com](mailto:CLCMessenger@gmail.com)

---

## A RENEWING SPIRIT

*by Pastor Renata Eustis*

Nearly 500 years after Martin Luther posted the Ninety-five Theses, we will celebrate the re-formation of our church building by dedicating the Accessible Entrance on October 31 at 10:00 a.m. We have anticipated this day for so long!

This and the enhanced lighting are the only aspects of the renovation that are visible from the outside. Early on, Susan Heitmuller Zimmerman and Phillip Heitmuller, stepped forward with a generous gift for the ramp in honor of their parents, Leonard and Mary Louise Heitmuller and their grandparents, George and Mary Magdalena Heitmuller. The Heitmullers were one of the founding families of this congregation. What a blessing that their legacy continues.

Many people have used these words in describing the entrance: “It looks like it was meant to be that way.” Visually, it really fits. Accessibility not enhanced beauty was the goal—and now we have both. For this design, we are indebted to CLC members, Scott Pitner and Lee Schray, who boldly questioned the original plan and conceived a new one. Scott oversaw the construction and led the landscaping effort—ably assisted by other members.

As so often happens, the costs for the entrance increased and at one point it was not clear we would be able to proceed. Yet, the Stewardship Committee used their considerable talents to figure out a way to meet the need.

So, it is through the gifts of talent, time and treasure—from more recent arrivals and from founding families—that this Accessible Entrance has come to be. It’s a stunning representation of the wonderful mix of history and possibility that is embodied in this congregation.

But that is not the whole story. One of the things that has struck me is the generous spirit that has surrounded the construction of this entrance. In spite of the obstacles and delays, those who have given so much to this project have (most of the time) done so with remarkably glad and generous hearts.

I see this as the work of the Holy Spirit, keeping us going and keeping us hopeful. In the words of Psalm 104, “When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.” Throughout the congregation there is a sense of new energy and new life. There is more freedom and less obligation. It’s not just the building that has been renovated, it’s all of us as well.

God has given us so much. It is right to give our thanks and praise!



### **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A STEPHEN MINISTER: REFLECTIONS ON BEING A CARE GIVER**

*By Linda Ott*

The Stephen Ministry program at CLC has been in place for several years now, originally organized and led by Carla Howery. To prepare for this ministry Debbie Coker, Carolina Glauster, Jeanne Befano, Carla, Pastor Renata and I met for several months to go through the copious training materials and learn what it means to be a Christian care giver to someone who needs a hand to hold and a heart to listen when faced with life situations that feel too big or important to go it alone. Stephen Ministers learn how to listen, how to pray, and how to support someone in just that type of situation. We aren’t physicians who try to heal medical problems and we aren’t psychologists, we are care givers, supporting by caring.

Stephen Ministry has deepened my faith by allowing me to be the light of Christ for the care receivers I have been privileged to support. I encourage you to talk with a care giver and learn more about the Stephen Ministry program. The current Stephen Ministers are Debbie Coker, Karin Klingman and Linda Ott.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

### DEDICATION, LOOKING INTO CLC'S FUTURE, AND ENDOWING THE VICAR

*by Mack Ott*

The dedication of the access ramp culminates CLC's long and fruitful renovation effort. Many of CLC's hearts, hands, and minds have gone into this effort, visioning, much head scratching, value engineering, oversight and review, but at last it is done for now. In truth, of course, like any vibrant and thriving community, the process of growth and evolution never ends. It is only done for now, a pause to invite contemplation and reflection. The next project will soon make itself evident, and the task of selection, planning, head scratching, and finance will be with us again. In this connection, it is timely to remember those benefactors whose generosity lives on having made this recent renovation possible—that is to say, all of us and the saints who have gone on before us.

In particular, let us remember and thank those of whose generous bequests were prime movers in our now completed renovation—in particular Edele Hauber, Larry Hartwig, and more recently Dorothy Armstrong, Arnold Hesper, and Mary Louise Heitmuller. May God rest their souls and know that we will be forever grateful for their generosity which lives on in Christ's newness. We have dealt fairly and productively with their generous bequests, and the planning that anticipated them honored their generosity. Today, we have need of analogous planning for anticipated bequests that may come Christ's way in the coming decade. As a congregation, it is our responsibility to ensure that the generosity of our fellow parishioners is put to good use, whether for CLC's physical plant or for its manifold missions. These bequests honor Christ Lutheran Church by enabling the enhancement of its physical structure and sustaining its missions. It is the duty of us as trustees to be ready with shovels in hand, with keyboards, with our various professional skills, and willing and ready efforts to make use of the resources that will be entrusted to Christ Lutheran Church.

The Stewardship Committee at its October meeting discussed the outlines for areas that might warrant endowment through these anticipated bequests. Among these are

- Paying off the remaining mortgage;
- Further renovation of the undercroft, including the Sunday School classrooms, the main kitchen, and an elevator to complete the total accessibility of CLC's building;
- Renovation of 5111, the THC offices;
- Contributions to organizations that sustain the homeless or impoverished;
- Endowing the annual vicar funding.

While this list begins with the obvious, it ends with a selection that may not seem obvious, endowing the vicar funding.

Christ Lutheran Church has sponsored interns—vicars—for three quarters of a century, beginning in 1935. Many of them have spent their careers as parish pastors, but the list includes those who have entered academia as well. The best known of these is Martin Marty, the University of Chicago theologian and author; Dr. Marty was an intern at Christ Lutheran Church during 1950-51. While it is tempting to focus on the personalities of recent vicars whose tenures clearly have shaped our worship and helped sustain our faith and missions, their broader significance is as exemplars of Christ Lutheran Church's mission of sustaining the church by supporting the training and education of pastors. We have played and continue to play a key role in ELCA by supporting the education of pastors, by helping them to see their role in the church, their career as a pastor, and even, sometimes, by counseling them in another direction. Currently this mission is challenged by its financial cost at a time when CLC is seeking to balance its reach with its resources.

The Stewardship Committee has concluded that financially, CLC cannot afford to fund from its annual budget the intern program. The annual cost of the vicar is about \$18,000, and residence in the Vicar Hilton precludes its rental income of about \$11,000, bringing the opportunity cost to nearly \$30,000. While the costs may imply stopping, can we simply abandon our responsibility to this mission—supporting the intern process? How do we resolve this conflict between

financial responsibility and supporting this key mission? One approach would be to endow the vicar funding. As we consider the various alternatives to which anticipated bequests could be applied, this would be a viable and vital use of bequests.

In keeping with this view, I will ask the Stewardship Committee's to discuss these issues at its November meeting, and I will introduce two related motions at the Council meeting in November, proposals to be voted on in the December Congregation Meeting:

1. to endow the vicar program at CLC;
2. to engage a vicar during 2011-12.

There are not now bequests at hand to fund the vicar endowment in the coming year, but the proposal will commit us to pledge funds when God chooses to provide them. For 2011-12 we will need to consider how to stretch our funds—and to stretch our giving—to cover what we cannot in good faith simply shunt aside. I believe our calling and history demand that we find a way—both short-term direct funding and long-term through a dedicated endowment.

We of CLC's Council ask you all to consider how, prayerfully and pragmatically, to sustain CLC's vicar program.

## FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

### AN ASTONISHING YARD SALE

*By Joanne Noll*

I overheard a seasoned CLC member trying to describe the scope of the Yard Sale to a new member. The word "astonishing" was used. This word "jerked my chain." I had never heard astonishing to try to describe what we do as a congregational family every September. "Wow," I thought, "that's pretty cool!" And the 2010 Yard Sale was astonishing; everything went well, on schedule, and we had sunshine!

Items in the big garage were priced on September 4. After "carry out" on September 12 the daytime crew got to work the next day. We didn't think we had as much stuff, but it took just as long to sort the first week. Boutique items and linens were everywhere! So was jewelry. Our seasoned workers got right to work, sorting the first week and pricing the second. Most astonishing, an average of 14 people worked for 11 days to get ready, and even more astonishing, we had an easy last day, the day before the sale!

SALE DAY, Saturday, September 25, was sunny as the days before had been. An astonishing new thing was the "truck convoy" carrying furniture from the big garage to the front lawn! Three white trucks made short work of what used to tire people out. Then items from the undercroft, Fellowship Hall, and narthex were taken out, the jewelry tent set up, and outside sales began. Undercroft doors opened about 9:50 when the staff was ready. The line to get inside took almost two hours to dissipate. Sales were brisk in all departments. The main cashier line was astonishing!

Pastor Renata served coffee and goodies near the Gallatin Street entrance. Transitional Housing Corporation had information on a table at the north sidewalk near its offices. Over 70 members and friends worked inside and outside on an astonishing day. Our doorman, Vince Brown, was wonderful with anxious customers. The second sale day began Sunday after worship. It was sprinkling before church, and there was concern for outside sales. Astonishingly, by the time the service was over the sun was shining! Folks were waiting in line, and away we went for the second day. Over 35 folks stayed to work the second (half price) day.

Special thanks to Tonya Holland, Pam Sieving and Rodney (Vince's cousin) for serving lunch and keeping the kitchen clean both days. Wonderful salads and desserts were donated by members. Our R & R space was astonishingly warm and inviting. We also wish to thank Anne & Liz Garagusi of Fernwood Estate Sales, Bethesda, who are interested in the work we do and whose clients donated many items to us and to the LSS refugee placement program. Fernwood also kindly provided free advice and appraisals. Transitional Housing employees donated time during pricing week.

The clean-up crew started work on Monday and was treated to a deli lunch by some staff at THC which stayed and enjoyed fellowship. Clean-up was finished on Wednesday. Organizations benefiting from continued giving through the clean-up were: St. John's Lutheran, Rockville, St. Francis Episcopal, Potomac, United Christian, Rockville, Friends of the Library, Prevention of Blindness shop, Ambassador Baptist, SE, and the DC Spay Neuter Clinic.

Receipts as of October 10 are \$34,415, which includes \$4,800 from a special coffee hour.

An "astonishing" 31st annual Yard Sale conducted by an astonishing group of caring and giving Christians known as Christ Lutheran Church!!

## LANDSCAPING OF NEW ENTRANCE RAMP

By Bob Sylwester



Under the extraordinary leadership of Scott Pitner, the entire congregation as well as our neighborhood can be proud of the beautification of the area around the new entrance ramp. Take time to walk out the office door and go about 40 feet toward 16<sup>th</sup> street, then turn around and take in the new plantings. The center piece is a large *Natchez crepe myrtle* in the center of the garden. It will grow even taller but by trimming the lower branches, the office doors will always be in clear view. It was quite a chore for several members to roll this tree into place. Behind the crepe myrtle are 3 *Nikko blue hydrangeas*. Around the front of the tree, 24 *coral bells* have been planted. If you look to the left side near the mailbox, there are 3 *Nandinas* which were saved from the old area. At the base of the mailbox, 6 *May Night salvia* have been planted. To the right of the ramp along the north side of the chapel, 9 *sweet box* have been inserted.

If you now walk north and face the church office, on the far left is a 10 foot tall *paper bark maple*. Behind it is a 30+ year old miniature *Hinoki 'Nana Gracilis' false cypress* donated by Laurie Vogts Sanchez. The two trees are surrounded by 36 *leadwort* for ground cover. A *Siberian iris* has been placed along the wall. In the center of the office wall, are 8 *Oriental fountain grasses* and in front of them are 18 *St. Johnswort*. Toward the southwest corner of the office, is a large *oak leaf hydrangea* which was moved, with a lot of work, several feet from its old location. The hydrangea is surrounded by 3 *Oriental fountain grasses* and *sedum*.

Walking south and facing the chapel wall, you will notice 7 *Green Velvet boxwoods*. In front of them are 24 *salvias* and to their left, are 18 more *St. Johnswort* plants. Behind the boxwoods around the statute of the angel, is a *Siberian iris* and 3 *Oriental hardy lilies*. The southwest corner to the chapel wall is dominated by a *crepe myrtle* which was obtained in 1992 for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is surrounded by *sedum* saved from the old garden. Along the south wall of the chapel are *canna* and an *Alleghany viburnum*, both transplanted from other locations.

This garden was only possible with a great deal of planning and volunteer help. Scott obtained several loads of soil and buried extensions for all the downspouts under the new soil. Helping Scott, special thanks to volunteers Howard Bell, Dave Blakemore, Kendall Benz, Renata Eustis, Frank Malone, Linda and Mack Ott, Lee Schray, and Bob Sylwester. Please take time to enjoy the garden.

## NO INTERN THIS YEAR

By Pastor Renata

Though the congregation and council discussed this issue at length, I realized that some of our extended CLC community did not know we are taking a year off from serving as a site for seminary interns. It seems important to talk about this decision. I shared with the council and congregation that I needed a break from being an intern supervisor. There is a fair amount of work that goes into supervising, with extensive evaluations. As a supervisor I have spent a lot of time helping the interns to reflect on their ministry and now that I've been here 9 years, it seems important to do that for myself as well.

CLC does have a rich history with vicars/interns. I continue to believe that supervising interns is very important--that it is a vital part of a person's preparation as a pastor. Christ Lutheran Church is a wonderful internship site—a healthy, vibrant and diverse congregation. Because of our size (and lack of staff) there are opportunities for vicars to experience many aspects of pastoral ministry. It is my hope that we will continue to serve the needs of the larger church by preparing future pastors.

## NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

*The mission of the Congregational Life Committee is to strengthen our fellowship. One of the regular places this happens is during Coffee Hour.*

### **Towards Simpler Coffee Hour**

Coffee hour is a chance to linger after worship to talk with friends, to greet guests and visitors, to become better acquainted, and to celebrate special events. It is more fun with light refreshments, which also help tide us over until lunch. We have a few people with food allergies and sensitivities. In the interest of your safety, we recommend that you bring your own food. Thank you for your understanding—and please keep coming to Coffee Hour!

We are always looking for more volunteers to host coffee hour and have written new guidelines for coffee hour hosts. These are being distributed to volunteers and posted in the kitchen. We hope this will help those who have shied away from volunteering because they weren't sure what to do. We encourage you to volunteer for an occasional Sunday, or pitch in to help the providers with setup, serving, and cleanup. Extra hands really do make a difference and it can be a nice way to connect with someone you don't know as well. You can request to be paired with an experienced Coffee Hour host. Please call or email the church office (202-829-6727, [clcoffice@verizon.net](mailto:clcoffice@verizon.net)) if you would like to help with a coffee hour.

### **Organizing, Again**

Beth Mills, a super organizer, volunteered to organize the upstairs kitchen by making a place for things and putting things in their places. Now we all need to do our part to put things in their proper place. Thank you, Beth, for making it easier to locate things in the kitchen and helping us keep things tidy.

### **Greeting Visitors**

A new "welcome" folder is available to offer to visitors. The warmth we all extend to those who are new is a great gift. We are thankful for the blessing of visitors.

## WE FELT THE LOVE AND PRAYERS

**Bob and Sara Sylwester** would like to thank everyone for their kind words, prayers, and condolences following the death of Bob's sister Margaret on 15 September after a nine-year battle with ovarian cancer. CLC was a significant part of Margaret's life from 1990-1997 when she worshiped here and enjoyed the young adult activities. Her interment was in the garden of Messiah Lutheran Church in Seattle on 25 September following a lovely memorial service.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION OF NEW ENTRANCE RAMP**

**Sunday, 31 October 2010 at 10a.m.**

### **WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THC?**

Many people know that Christ Lutheran Church was a co-founder of Transitional Housing Corporation in 1990. But do you know what THC is doing now? If you'd like to learn, come to hear **Margaret Thaxton** of THC, during **Adult Forum, November 7, 9:15 a.m.** in the Library.

**Sunday, 14 November 2010 at 10:30a.m.**

### **A TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS**

Our service will have a special focus on veterans and our own **Cheryl Beversdorf**, a retired veteran and advocate for veterans' rights, will preach.

### **WALK WITH TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AT THE HELP THE HOMELESS WALKATHON!!!**

ALL Christ Lutheran parishioners are invited to walk with THC at the **Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon on Saturday, November 20!** Registration fees are \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth (age 25 and under). Out of town or can't walk on November 20<sup>th</sup> but still want to support THC? Become a **VIRTUAL WALKER** – registration is only \$30 and you can still support THC! **All registration fees benefit THC and the homeless families that we house and provide comprehensive support services to.**

To register for the Walkathon: Go to [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org), click on the *Get Involved* tab and find *Register to Walk*. Search for the Team: "*Friends of THC*," join as a walker. **THC's code is DC083.** **Make sure that you print your registration email and bring it with you to the National Mall on November 20<sup>th</sup>!**

Your time and support directly helps THC families make real and lasting transitions in their lives! And what a fun way to spend a beautiful fall Saturday morning! Questions? Contact Andrew Adams at [aadams@thcdc.org](mailto:aadams@thcdc.org).

### **SOCIAL MINISTRIES SUNDAY**

On **Sunday, November 21, at 10:30a.m.** we look forward to celebrating the social ministries of our Yard Sale beneficiaries.

It will be a joy to have them at our worship service that day if they are able. **Melissa Graves, CLC**

**member and Executive Director of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area,** will preach.

We will learn about the work these organizations do at a special coffee hour following worship.

