

Orinda Community Church

2011 Annual Report

Orinda Community Church Vision Statement

WHO WE ARE (This is how we characterize the heart and soul of OCC)

We are moved by the grace of God to walk together on life's journey, caring deeply for one another.

We offer stirring, thought-provoking worship in an atmosphere of diversity, spontaneity and gratitude. We are enriched by music and the arts.

We work to become active instruments of mercy and justice in the world.

We are unafraid of change, challenge and controversy.

We cherish our children, and we know them each by name.

We are creative, resourceful and open-minded. We honor the beauty and integrity of God's creation. We have fun.

OUR VISION (We feel God is calling our congregation in these new directions)

We aspire to a Christian faith that is authentic, adventurous and inclusive of all.

We envision a path of spiritual formation illuminated by faith, knowledge and practice.

We are called in these difficult and uncertain times to be people of peace and dauntless hope, relying on the spirit of Jesus in our midst.

We seek connection with others who are looking for a spiritual home. We reach out to doubters, explorers and people in crisis, respecting those of other faiths or no faith.

We are committed to love.

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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Orinda Community Church

2011

Annual Report

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Hymn~ <i>In the Midst of New Dimensions</i>	

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH
United Church of Christ
73st ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 22, 2012
11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Nancy Peterson, Moderator

THE CONGREGATION ASSEMBLES

Call to Order and Constituting Prayer	Nancy Peterson
Presentation of the 2011 Church Annual Report	Frank Baldwin
Orientation to the Agenda	Nancy Peterson
Appreciations, Introductions and Table Grace	Liz Armstrong

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

[Childcare is available in the Nursery Building following lunch]

REPORTS AND ACTIONS

Minutes of the 72 st Annual Meeting, January 30, 2011	Nancy Peterson
2012 Winter Nights Family Homeless Shelter, Feb. 27-March 11	Elisabeth Kersten
Progress Report from the Re-envisioning Steering Committee	Kurt Sunderbruch
Update and Discussion of the Proposed Community Parking	Larry Shepp, Frank Baldwin
Nomination, Election and Installation of Church Leaders for 2012	Nancy Peterson
Stewardship Report and Action on the 2012 Church Budget	Larry Shepp
Coordinator of Community Life	Leslie O'Brien
Senior Pastor	Frank Baldwin
Outgoing Moderator	Nancy Peterson

THE MEETING ADJOURNS

Benediction	Frank Baldwin
Hymn ~ <i>Christ Loves the Church</i>	David Milnes

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH
Minutes of the 72st Annual Meeting
January 30, 2011

Members Present: 97 church members.

Clergy Present: Frank Baldwin, Leslie Moughty, Liz Armstrong

Opening—Nancy Peterson

The meeting began at 11:15 am with an opening prayer by Nancy Peterson. Pete Hartdegen played the piano. Frank Baldwin presented the 2010 Church Annual Report. Nancy reviewed the agenda. Leslie Moughty and Leslie O'Brien gave thanks.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Minutes of the 71th Annual Meeting—Nancy Peterson

After lunch, the minutes from last year's annual meeting were approved.

Re-envisioning Steering Committee Update--Kurt Sunderbruch

The committee is about ½ way through a multi-year process. We are now at the pivotal point for creating both the purpose statement (where we are) and the vision statement (where we want to be).

2011 Winter Nights—Patti Grier

This will be the sixth year for OCC participation. This year, even more local churches are participating. We anticipate 34 attendees. OCC still needs more volunteers to sign up.

2011 Common Hope Vision Team—Chris Mead

Common Hope is a non-sectarian group, and a team from OCC will be going in April. On March 13th will be a fund raiser to raise funds for Common Hope employee scholarships.

Stewardship and 2011 Budget--Larry Shepp

In 2010, OCC was \$15,000 under budget for income, and \$1,100 under budget for expenses. Looking forward to 2011, pledge income is the most critical budget number to watch.

For 2011, the budget is balanced thanks to \$17,000 in one-time gifts to be used against income. The budget includes a 2% raise for staff.

Nomination, Election and Installation of Church Officers—Babs Winbigler

The proposed OCC church leaders for 2011 are listed in the 2010 annual report.

Frank gave a blessing for the new church leaders.

Coordinator of Community Life—Leslie O'Brien

Leslie reviewed the oranges on each table. O for open and affirming, R for the Reflections Café, A for Agape Learning Center, N for needy folks, G for God, and E for environment/everyone/enjoy.

Senior Pastor—Frank Baldwin

The green talent sheets should be completed by all. The Re-envisioning Steering Committee is very important to the long-term future of OCC. OCC should consider attracting the “spiritual but not religious” in the community to become OCC members.

Outgoing Moderator Remarks---Nancy Peterson

Being the Moderator has been a fun job, thanks to Frank. Nancy highly recommends everyone in OCC should be the Moderator.

Liz Armstrong gave the Benediction.

Motions:

- Receive the 2010 Church Annual Report. Passed unanimously.
- Accept last year’s meeting notes. Passed unanimously.
- Accept the 2011 budget as presented. Passed unanimously.
- The nominations for new OCC officers as presented by Babs Winbigler. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Hoppock, Clerk

Moderator
Nancy Peterson

There is a bittersweet ending to this year as Moderator. As everyone is now aware, we will be facing the future without Frank and Margaret. It has been wonderful to know them and even more special to work with Frank as our Senior Pastor.

Once again, the Council has worked hard in their respective commissions to keep all aspects of our church life vital and productive.

Our Ministers in Training have been such a blessing. To Frank, although they were his mentees, they also shouldered some of the burden of his planning and executing all the Sunday services himself. And to the congregation, with their wonderful sermons and projects and curriculums that opened up new programs and ideas to us.

The Re-envisioning Steering Committee made great headway with the input of many of our congregants. There are now several of us working on the different work groups formed from the new Vision Statement that was their goal.

We have made some headway toward our contribution to the community's efforts to provide low cost senior housing in Orinda. There have been many meetings and conversations regarding our role in this vital project. It is my hope that a consensus can be reached as to our final involvement based on common ideology and belief in the vision of our church.

As we head into 2012 we have many exciting events and projects ahead. More fundraisers will be planned, more hard work around our church campus will be done, and new unforeseen beginnings will be implemented.

As I have maintained all along, this is an exciting, enlightening and educational experience. It is my hope that each of you will have the opportunity to serve the church as Moderator, or in some other equally vital capacity.

Clerk's Report
Dave Hoppock

Membership as recorded on January 1, 2011 **274**

Additions during the year

Confirmation 4

Losses during the year

Death 7

Total Membership as of December 31, 2011 **271**

Baptisms 2

Weddings 2

New Members

Daniel Burnes
Charlie O'Brien

Anna Fields
Eli O'Brien

In Memoriam

James Abriel
Nancy Cox
Ruth Monosmith
Harry Anderson

Mary Grah
Vivian Moore
Howard Bell
Mary Kendall

Jeanette Raaka
Gloria Brobeck
Robert Milligan
Elizabeth Wagner

Treasurer's Report
Richard Long

This report describes the financial operating results for the Church, the cash position of the Church, and the status of all holding accounts, as of the conclusion of last year, 2011. The financial budget for next year, 2012, is described in the report of the Finance and Operations Commission elsewhere in this Annual Report.

2011 Financial Results

The financial performance of the Church for 2011 was unexpectedly positive. The 2011 results shown below reflect a substantial net gain for the year. The original 2011 budget had forecast a break-even, but the actual 2011 result improved to a \$19,915 gain. That compares to 2010 - when we had a \$13,800 net loss.

	<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenue	\$400,880	\$392,497	\$ < 8383>
Expense	\$400,880	\$372,582	\$<28,298>
Net Gain		\$ 19,915	

The 2011 Budget-to-Actual Comparison Report which can be found later in this Annual Report provides more detailed 2011 operating results.

Turn Up the Heat

The impact of the 2003 TUTH campaign continues to be reflected in the Church's healthy balance sheet. By the end of 2007, all of the major TUTH upgrade projects were completed at a cost of slightly over \$500,000. The details have been reported in previous Annual Reports. During 2011, \$20,104 of TUTH funds were spent primarily for the cladding of the fascia boards on the exterior of the eastern sanctuary wall. As we begin 2012, \$134,003 of TUTH funds remain on hand, providing a significant financial reserve to help cover the Church's future needs – particularly for the maintenance of our extensive facilities.

Working Capital

The working capital during 2011 went from a negative \$12,095 on December 31, 2010 to a positive \$12,270 on December 31, 2011.

Holding Accounts

Holding accounts are those accounts which contain funds of the Church, but which are not included in the Church's annual budget. The Summary of Cash Position at the end of this Treasurer's Report shows that there is \$238,249 in the church's various holding accounts as of the conclusion of 2011. Included in this amount is \$134,003 for TUTH, and \$40,173 for 2012 pledges "paid in advance". (This amount will be transferred from the Finance and Operations Holding Account to the 2012 Pledge Revenue account in January 2012.) The remaining holding accounts have a total value of \$76,343.

Staff

The Church is fortunate to have a very professional and talented volunteer team who keep our financial systems running smoothly. However, their considerable skills were tested this November when our old financial computer system suddenly, with little warning, died. There was much stress for a few weeks while a new upgraded system was installed and all records were converted to the new system. Our staff had the new system fully operational by late December. Please express your thanks to each - Betty Karplus (Financial Secretary), Lani Shepp (Accounts Payable), and Kathi Kling (Accountant). As always these volunteers have done an outstanding job!

Financial Outlook for 2012

The Finance and Operations Commission has prepared a budget for 2012 which forecasts a break-even for the coming year – with budgeted income matching budgeted expenses. To meet those goals we will need more pledges and a significant fund raising event in 2012. Without significant revenue increases, expenses will have to be reduced during the year. Thus, we enter the new year cautiously hopeful that the Church can achieve the break-even budget being proposed.

Copies of all 2011 financial reports have been completed and are available to interested parties in the Church office. Please contact me if you have any questions. (Richard Long, 274-1786)

Summary of Cash Position
Orinda Community Church
As of December 31, 2011

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Total</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Church Funds:			
1 st Republic Bank – CD 3/201	\$ 62,795		
1 st Republic Bank – Savings	77,254		
1 st Republic Bank - Checking	37,870		
Schwab Account	<u>72,600</u>		
Total Church Funds	\$250,519		\$250,519
Holding Accounts:			
Lifelong Learning and Spirituality	\$ 4,020		
Buildings and Grounds	4,823		
Care and Fellowship	23,872		
Children & Youth	7,937		
Finance & Operations (1)	41,183		
Mission & Outreach	5,523		
Worship & Music	5,382		
Staffing & Personnel	<u>3,574</u>		
Total Holding Accounts	\$96,314	\$ 96,314	
Memorial Funds			
Memorial Garden	\$ 2,023		
Designated	1,760		
Undesignated	<u>4,149</u>		
	\$7,932	\$ 7,932	
Turn-Up-the-Heat Campaign			
Funds Received	\$677,974		
Expenditures to-date:			
2003-2010 Expenditures (2)	(\$523,826)		
2011 Expenditures:			
Clad Trim - East End Sanctuary (19,144)	(19,144)		
Deposit on Sanctuary Lights	<u>(1,000)</u>		
Total TUTH Expenditures to-date	(\$543,940)		
Net Remaining TUTH Funds		<u>\$134,003</u>	
Total Designated "Holding" Funds		<u>\$238,249</u>	<u>\$238,249</u>
Net Year-End Working Capital			<u>\$ 12,270</u>

Notes:

(1) Includes \$40,173 of 2012 Pledges paid in 2011. Will be transferred to the 2012 Accounting System in January, 2012.

(2) Details of earlier TUTH expenditures (2003-2010) have been described in the Annual Reports for prior years.

2011 BUDGET - 2011 ACTUAL

SUMMARY

	2011 Budget	2011 Actual
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 400,680	\$ 392,497
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ (400,680)	\$ (372,682)
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ 19,815

REVENUE		EXPENSES			
Account Name	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	Account Name	2011 Budget	2011 Actual
Fees/fees	286,864	297,795	Buildings & Grounds		
Lease Offerings	7,500	3,887	Building & Grounds Maintenance	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,673
Facilities/Rental			Custodial Supplies	1,000	1,361
TOPS / Holden School	51,884	65,743	Vacation Relief	1,000	0
Other	19,018	10,516	Libraries	30,000	29,609
Total	70,000	76,259	Total	42,000	42,653
Interest/Incomes	2,500	2,191	Life Long Learning & Spirituality		
Fund Raising			General	500	247
Various Events	12,078	709	Total	500	247
Designated Special Mission Giving	14,000	14,000	Children & Youth		
Total	26,078	14,709	Supplies & Food	1,000	600
Escrow/Other	3,000	1,248	Camps & Trips	600	635
Other	-	-	Child Care	1,500	45
Special Gifts (2)	17,138	10,319	Curriculum/Books	500	267
SUBTOTAL REVENUE	414,866	406,497	Total	3,600	1,647
Designated Special Mission Giving	(14,000)	(14,000)	Music & Worship		
REVENUE	400,866	392,497	General	700	547
Notes:			Music Purchase	250	
			Paper/Honoraria	380	600
			Choir Section Leaders	17,100	14,725
			Other Musicians	600	1,550
			Repairs / Tuning	2,600	1,610
			Total	21,400	18,682
			Care & Fellowship		
			General	1,550	1,533
			Total	1,550	2,639
			Mission		
			CCWM-UCC Fair Share	16,000	15,000
			Designated Special Mission Giving	14,000	14,000
			Other Giving	11,000	12,000
			General	250	59
			Total	43,250	41,638
			Total Finance & Operations		
			Admission/Annual Meeting	1,000	238
			Stewardship	300	114
			Evangelism / Publicity & Ads	2,500	624
			General F&O	500	(41)
			Insurance - Property	25,500	24,708
			Insurance - Workers Comp	4,500	1,788
			Property Tax	3,200	3,283
			Total	37,500	30,695
			Total Finance & Operations	302,600	279,197
			TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 400,680	\$ 372,682
			Mission as a % of Total Revenue	10.8%	10.5%
			Designated Special Mission Giving	(%) 114,000	(14,000)

(1) Designated Special Mission Giving is deducted from Total Revenue and Total Expenses to provide a true reflection of actual revenue and actual expenses.

PASTOR
Frank Baldwin

There are many, I am sure, who will not be sorry to see the year 2011 disappearing in the rear view mirror. It was a year of dramatic international conflict and upheaval; a year of grinding financial uncertainty, homelessness and unemployment; a year of disturbing economic uncertainty, income inequality, and domestic protest; a year of frustrating political incivility, government stagnation, and cultural polarization; a year of peculiar weather, climatic extremes, and environmental disasters both human and natural. In the midst of these unsettling conditions and reoccurring storms, Orinda Community Church held a steady course of ministry, service, work and worship inspired by the love of God and our inclusive, progressive Christian faith.

A few of the highlights along the way: OCC's hosting of the Winter Nights Family Homeless Shelter for seven successive years. This ever-expanding outreach of fifty or more area congregations to the homeless community under the capable administration of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County had its origins in our Fellowship Hall. Special thanks to project director Betty Karplus, and volunteer coordinator Patti Grier for their tireless leadership. It is also gratifying now to be planning a reversal of our hosting and supportive roles for 2012 with our long-time Winter Nights partner institution, Santa Maria Catholic Church.

Another, even longer-term mission project came to a fitting satisfactory conclusion last spring when the OCC Hunger Project Team led by Jeane Samuelsen retired after twenty years of faithful service on the soup line at South Berkeley Community Church (UCC). OCC's commitment to minister among the hungry and homeless has continued through a number of food-distribution trips to Berkeley and San Francisco by our young people, as well as a large contingent joining in the annual Contra Costa CROP Walk, both mobilized by Leslie O'Brien; as well as a good participation, orchestrated by Bill Peebles, in the UCC's far-reaching "Mission: 1" project. Our church's international outreach efforts were enhanced by another Vision Team trip in support of Common Hope in Guatemala. Eleven of our members under Roger Samuelsen and Chris Mead enjoyed a rich experience of service and learning, and were enabled by OCC to convey contributions of close to \$9,000 to help fund Common Hope's continuing education program for Guatemalan staff.

In June we hosted a celebrative service of ordination to the Christian ministry for Jeff Crews, who has served us richly as a minister-in-training, pastoral intern, and sabbatical interim pastor. The Rev. Jeff will be installed on March 11, 2012 as senior pastor of Spring Glen United Church of Christ in Hamden, Connecticut. Our calling as a teaching parish in conjunction with Berkeley's Pacific School of Religion has deepened as both Leslie Moughty and Liz Armstrong returned for a second year as pastoral interns at OCC.

During the year the Chancel Choir attained new heights under the inspired leadership of David Milnes and the Worship & Music Commission; the Learning Community and our ministries to children, youth and their families thrived under Leslie O'Brien and the Children & Youth Commission; the Rev. Lee Cruise got our new Women Helping Women group off the ground, and, with the assistance of the Parish Callers Team re-invigorated our deeply-felt ministries to seniors and home-bound members. Unflappable Office Administrator Dagmar Slovak and devoted Caretaker Dion Maskaleris somehow kept it all organized, neat, clean, and running on schedule.

The amazing expandable Care & Fellowship Commission under force-of-nature chair Sabine Hathaway kept us eating, talking, laughing, and tapping our toes in cabarets, Oktoberfests, picnics and congregational meetings. A special word of thanks to two-term Moderator Nancy Peterson and her patient and insightful Church Council. And heartfelt thanks also to the Pastoral Relations Committee for wisdom, encouragement, guidance and support beyond my ability to describe.

In January a year ago, the Annual Meeting adopted a just-barely-balance church budget totaling just over \$400,000. Through the generous and faithful stewardship of our congregation and the assiduous management of the Finance & Operations Commission the church staff, and the careful work of our financial office volunteers Betty Karplus, Lani Shepp and Kathi Kling, the year ended with an unanticipated budget surplus of just under \$20,000. A big part of this present fiscal wellbeing is due to the hands-on know how and dedicated attention of our the Building & Grounds Commission and our maintenance and repair volunteers: John Creech, Pete Hartdegen, and Les Simmonds.

OCC's multi-year re-envisioning project completed a round of ten insightful and revealing "town hall" meetings, out of which emerged an eloquent and evocative new Vision Statement [see the front cover of this Annual Report] that was adopted by a Special Congregational Meeting in October. The next phase of this re-envisioning effort is now underway, with the formation of six "working groups" charged with discovering creative and effective ways of moving our church into closer alignment with the cultural insights, spiritual values and sense of God's calling reflected in the Vision Statement. Our Re-envisioning Steering Committee, which provides extraordinary leadership to this process: Sabine Hathaway, Anne Long, David Milnes, Susan Russell, Roger Samuelson, Kurt Sunderbruch (chair), and Bob Winbigler.

Another multi-year project that required a heightened level of congregational engagement during the year has been the City of Orinda's plan to build 67 units of rent-supported senior housing on the site of the old Orinda Library at the foot of Irwin Way. With the housing project scheduled to occupy the parking area widely used by Community Park visitors, the city required developer Eden Housing to mitigate this loss by providing alternative parking in the immediate vicinity. Subsequently, the church was asked to lease space on our lower hillside sufficient to park ten cars. Finance & Operations Commission Chair/Church Counsel Larry Shepp and I represented OCC in conversations between the church, the city, and the developer, with the church council and congregation being kept abreast of these plans through *The Neighbor*.

The affordable senior housing project – including the proposed new community parking at the church – was approved in July by the City Planning Commission. Eden Housing offered to build the parking with vehicular access to Irwin Way, as well as provide a number of additional site improvements in lieu of lease payments: a sidewalk on the north side of Irwin Way connecting the Holden High parking lot, the new community parking area, and Orinda Way; removal of dying Monterey pines adjacent to Irwin Way; environmentally sensitive lighting and drainage; project landscaping; and repaving-restriping of the nearby Holden High School lot; at an estimated aggregate cost of \$150,000. The City offered to provide all necessary maintenance of the community parking area, as well as electricity for lighting purposes.

In September, an informational packet describing the evolving project was distributed to the congregation. The Church Council, charged by our bylaws with the responsibility to enact lease agreements, voted 10-1 in favor of proceeding to negotiations leading to a mutually satisfactory construction and lease agreements. A lengthy congregational informational meeting on this topic was held in October, and a detailed FAQ sheet (Frequently Asked Questions) was sent to the church a month later. Currently, the called-for negotiations are underway with the City and Eden Housing.

For me, the most important considerations include the following: 1) our congregation's historic and continuing mission commitment to affordable housing and homelessness (as represented by our sponsoring of both Orinda Senior Village and the Winter Nights shelter); 2) our natural "green church" interest in promoting community access to our beautiful local park; 3) the opportunity to put an under-used corner of our campus to a practical use benefiting the entire community; and 4) the much-needed site improvements offered that will take a good deal of financial pressure off our budget in the years ahead.

As the year 2012 begins, I have sent to the OCC Church Council and Congregation a letter of resignation as senior pastor, effective upon my retirement from active ministry in June. Therefore, this will be my last-ever annual report. I truly appreciate the expressions of affirmation, thanks, and best wishes that have come my way in these past weeks; and I want you all to know how profoundly grateful I am for these 14 years that seem to have somehow gone by so quickly. There will be an appropriate times later to say good-bye, and in the meanwhile, I am looking forward eagerly to the busy months ahead. May the beautiful new Vision Statement be our guide for this next important stretch of the way, for, as it says: *We are moved by the grace of God to walk together on life's journey, caring deeply for one another... We have fun...and We are committed to love.* Amen!

Adjunct Pastor
Rev. Lee Cruise

These are the programs I serve:

Women Helping Women has completed a full year of service to women in need. We have focused especially on needs of women in Africa. In January, we presented a workshop with the congregation to study the oppression of women in the Congo. The film, "Breaking the Silence" was an important resource for that workshop. As the year progressed, this newly-formed women's group kept growing. We offered two bead sales to support the jewelry businesses of Ugandan women living in dire poverty. We also served dinner to our guests in the Winter Nights program. In fellowship, prayer, and service, we are blessed in our journey together.

The Bible Class meets regularly at Orinda Senior Village (OSV), as it has for many years. This small, but dedicated group has gathered to discuss the Scriptures and share in the journey of life. We have re-named our group the **Senior Connection**. We not only study the Bible, but now we sing hymns and share our life stories. Meeting in the dining hall of OSV has been a refreshing change; the bright and comfortable room has a wonderful piano. Passersby often pause to listen. This summer, we celebrated our second annual **Summer Senior Gathering**. A delicious lunch was prepared under the direction of Loni Schepp with many in assistance. How thrilled we were to be joined by the Vacation Bible School students led by Leslie O'Brien. We sang along with their wonderful, uplifting songs.

The **Parish Callers** review the pastoral needs of the congregation, pray for those in need, and connect regularly with those needing pastoral care. This group has expanded this year, to meet the many needs, particularly of those who are home-bound.

In addition to these programmatic areas, I have served pastorally, covering vacation and other times for the Pastor. In this capacity, I have had opportunities to preach, lead worship, and officiate at weddings and memorial services. God is good...all the time. I am grateful to serve.

Director of Community Life Leslie O'Brien

I wanted to get really philosophical writing this annual report, and yet what stands out for me this year is the feeling of holding little children's hands as we are skipping over to the chapel to sing. Another indelible memory is sitting in the Reflection Café with Betty Karplus, who is in her 80s, along with Beatrice who just turned three. Many of us are transplants to California and don't have the luxury of multigenerational relationships. Our church enables that to happen.

The theme for the children this fall was, "God Knows My Name." The children sing it with gusto, and the lyrics really resonate with me "God sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call..." I hope that if a child feels the love of God, s/he may be able to better cope with whatever gets thrown their way.

We begin Sunday School by lighting a candle, to remind us that we must carry the warmth and light of God wherever we go. Then we sing songs like God Knows My Name, Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart or How Great Thou Art. Next, we have a Sunday School lesson that usually coordinates with the lectionary.

I thank the team of volunteers who have so sweetly stepped up to teach Sunday School—especially Craig T., Amy P, Robin Weber, Leslie Schonborn as well as Gwen M. and Karen N. who so lovingly lead our acolytes.

In addition to our Sunday morning program, we have truly tried to be the community's church. Some of the highlights include:

VBS - We again partnered with St. Stephen's and Holy Shepherd for Vacation Bible School this summer, where about ninety kids joined in the fun – many of them hearing about God in a formal way for the first time. I was a goose bump practically the whole week of "Pandamania – Where God is Wild About You" because of the incredible leadership of Brian Henson, the Director of the camp and because of the outpouring of love to the community. We have included VBS kids in our OCC service projects as well.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition - I have been serving on the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Our goal is to keep kids safe, raise awareness in our community and change norms. We are launching a program called Lamorinda Listens. Each month Lamorinda families will talk about a specific topic related to the health of our young people. We are hoping to use the faith-based communities to spread the word, in a grass-roots outreach program.

34 Hours - Last February during our "34 Hours of Service," teens and adults got to know each other better by working with four homeless agencies. We served turnips to little old ladies, learned about calm from Thom Longino of San Francisco Night Ministry and shared in worship at the Outdoor Cathedral. A highlight was laughing with the teenagers as we rode the cable car together to Ghirardelli Square.

Other community focused highlights for OCC include the Crop Walk, taking sandwiches to People's Park and Halloween cards to OSV, caroling at Orinda Convalescent Home, hosting a Relationship Building workshop, hosting an evening of dialog for teens and their families about sex, relationships and faith, not to mention our fuuuun Mardi Gras and Advent Celebrations!

Confirmation has been a highlight, with thoughtful discussion and a field trip to San Francisco that included the City of Refuge and Grace Cathedral. Additionally, Carson and Cooper's sermon from Graduation Sunday will forever be etched in my heart (and on my youtube!).

As in the past, I would be lost without Amy Parlett, the capable, funny, cheerful leader of the Children and Youth Commission and without Leslie Moughty who has added creativity, spunk and wisdom to many of our programs (and has introduced some new ones!) I am also grateful to Dagmar, Dion, David, Lee and Liz. Finally, with the transition for Frank, I want to say a special thank you to him – for his leadership, his humility, his humor, his grace and for being a perfect boss. And I thank YOU the congregation. You continue to inspire me to share God's love.

(Please see the Children and Youth report for a list of more of the programs.)

Director of Music Report
David Milnes

OCC's fabulous choir accepted two new wonderful section leaders this year, Emily Bozentka and Nik Nackley. They join Christina Schiffner, Julia Hathaway, Judy McCall, Susan Russell, Garrett Wellenstein and Bob Steiner in the leadership of our music program. Greg McCall has performed several times on the jazz bass, and the OCC Family Choir and Orchestra continues it's long run each month with swinging favorites. The musicians at OCC have contributed to jazz cabaret fundraisers as well as Sunday afternoon fellowship gatherings.

The church's musical instruments continue to be regularly maintained. The Fellowship Hall piano underwent an extensive renovation this last year, and is now in good working condition. The sanctuary organ will require some electrical reworking on the fifty year old console; Swain and Kates, the original builder, will be submitting a proposal for that work this month.

Thanks to Frank Baldwin for his extraordinary support of our fine music program!

Office Administrator
Dagmar Slovak

All went well in the office in 2011. After many years of use, we had to replace the financial computer, including an updated version of the bookkeeping program. The transition went well and we now have a stable computer for our important financial data.

The website has been updated weekly with events, announcements, and pictures. We created a new "Re-Envisioning" tab and posted all agendas and minutes of the town hall meetings held in 2011, as well as the new Vision Statement. My vision for the website is to create a photo gallery with lots of pictures of all of you attending events and meetings to let the outside world know what a vibrant and fun place Orinda Community Church is. I also want to explore the possibility of publishing the church calendar online.

We are now advertising some of our events and special worship services in three local newspapers and on the web at www.lamorindapatch.com. To improve communication with the congregation we regularly sent out email reminders about upcoming meetings and events. Please sign up for the email list so you don't miss what is happening at OCC.

Every year the church calendar becomes more complex with meeting requests from church committees and commissions, special events, forums and many community groups. I enjoy scheduling and managing outside groups for the opportunity to represent OCC to the wider community.

Thank you to Ruth Riddell and Jean Fadavi for their continuous help with office mailings.

Working with Frank has been a pleasure and I know I am among those who will miss him greatly. I am thankful for five years of excellent teamwork with one of the finest bosses I have ever worked with.

I am ready to welcome our new Interim Minister soon and will do my best to be hospitable, supportive, and a loyal source of information to them. Change can be unsettling, but I know here at OCC we face challenges with courage, faith and love - and that's exactly why I feel very blessed to be among you all.

Caretaker
Dion Maskaleris

On February 1st 2012, I will have been at Orinda Community Church for three years. I continue enjoying so very much the physical work and the logistical communication work of maintaining Orinda Community Church's buildings and grounds.

Please give any suggestions on how to improve Orinda Community Church buildings and grounds and enjoy the physical and spiritual beauty of our church as I do.

Upon many people's minds is the retirement of Frank Baldwin. I want to take the opportunity here to say quite honestly of the many, many supervisors I have had in my life Frank has been the greatest - an honor and joy to work with in so many administrative and tender ways.

I am looking forward to working with an interim minister and then a called minister - new Orinda Community Church leaders manifesting in new and exciting ways their love of God and their love of the members of Orinda Community Church. I hope in doing my work I can be of assistance to all future ministers - helping them with their weaknesses and needs and affirming their strengths and love as I try to do for OCC members and my friends - for family and strangers - as Orinda Community Church staff and members do for me.

Minister In Training **Leslie Moughty**

Last year at this time, I had been serving as a Minister in Training with Orinda Community Church for about 5 months. I am so thrilled to be able to learn and serve with you for a second year. This community is so supportive and has helped me mature and grow in my pastoral role. Working with Frank this year has been such an honor and a blessing. I am so grateful for the support and advice of my Teaching Parish Committee. Their ability to provide me with truly constructive feedback in a compassionate way has helped me to grow in my role as a future pastor. I am also grateful for the time I have spent working beside Leslie Obrien with children and youth as well as learning from and working with David, Dagmar and Dion. In addition, I feel truly blessed to be able to walk this journey with fellow Pastoral Intern, Liz Armstrong.

Living as a student for the last few years, it feels a bit awkward to write an annual report in the middle of the academic year. Last spring was my second semester here at OCC and the end of my first year of field education. I partnered with Leslie O'Brien to offer two programs to our youth. In February, we took a group of teens on an overnight service trip to San Francisco. We volunteered at City of Refuge's "Word of Mouth Pantry" distributing fresh and canned food to people in need. The highlight of the trip for many of us was walking with Thom Longino of San Francisco Night Ministry and witnessing the challenges faced by so many homeless on the streets of San Francisco. I was especially honored to help with the ministry's Open Cathedral service which takes place in an alley/driveway near the Civic Center.

Our next project together was "Saturday Night at the Church: A Family Conversation about Love, Sex, Faith and Relationships". We gathered with more than 20 participants (teens and their parents) to foster dialog within families around sexuality. The event received extremely positive feedback and we are planning to repeat it again this spring. As most of you know sexuality, education is one of my passions and I have been working diligently to introduce a fantastic curriculum to the OCC community called Our Whole Lives or "OWL". This comprehensive and progressive curriculum is available for ages as young as kindergarten all the way through adults. If all goes according to plan, OCC will offering the 8th – 9th grade levels starting in February but my hope is that this program will be so well received that other age groups will also be offered in the future.

Leading worship was a key objective for me last year and remains so in this year as well. Last spring I organized a worship service featuring the experiences of three participants in the service weekend, I participated in the Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunrise services and preached on Palm Sunday. This fall, I preached three sermons and led the Blessing of the Animals service as well as the recent Taize New Year service. In the next few months before the semester ends in May, I will be challenging myself to introduce more creative elements into worship. I am looking forward to bringing in more visual elements as well as some new ways of engaging in Communion, prayer and the sermon.

Over the past year, I have been able to get to know many of you better. Some of you have shared your struggles, questions and losses with me as well as your joys and hopes. I feel so honored that this level of trust has developed and I am looking forward to deepening my relationship with everyone in the OCC family.

It is hard for me to believe that my role as Pastoral Intern will be ending in May. This community has become a new family of faith for me. Each Sunday I look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you. I cannot thank you enough for the teaching support the members of Orinda Community Church have offered me and other seminary students. Your nurturing, care and support is an investment in the future of our ministries and the ministry of the wider United Church of Christ. Wherever I end up serving after I graduate, I will be a better pastor for that community because of the education and experience I received from everyone at OCC.

Minister-in-Training
Liz Armstrong

It has been a full year, and once again I am so grateful to all the staff and Congregation at Orinda Community Church for your support, and the opportunity provided for me to serve and learn on my path to pastoral ministry.

Pastor Frank generously allowed us to preach several times this year, and my Teaching Parish Committee met with me diligently after each of those Sundays. From them I received excellent feedback, support and suggestions, as well as support and help with academic and logistical issues along the way.

My weekly mentoring sessions with Frank continue to be an excellent way for me to evaluate my growth and performance, as well as to problem solve. I have learned an enormous amount from Frank's example of outstanding interpersonal skills (as well as knowledge, experience and intelligence!)

I have enjoyed my time with the choir, the Re-envisioning Committee, Women Helping Women, Betty Karplus' "budget lessons", the Confirmation class, story telling with the children, and collaborating with the Dancer's Circle.

Most especially, I have been blessed by invitations to stay in congregant's homes on Sunday nights, and an opportunity to make pastoral visits on a regular basis, whenever possible.

Buildings and Grounds **Bob Winbigler & Andy Weber – Co-Chairs**

Andy Weber became a co-chair with Bob starting in 2011. Once again our crack team of highly skilled volunteers were on the scene helping us to keep our wonderful, but needy buildings and grounds together. Beyond that they also took on a few projects to actually improve the place, not just maintain it. Only if they ask, do we call for outside help.

Dion has been proactive in working with the committee to recommend maintenance work to prepare and refinish the floors in Fellowship Hall. While the work will occur in 2012, his pursuit of quotes and evaluation of the bids received was in 2011. This is just one example of how he has worked to preserve our asset in good, serviceable condition for the future. Thanks Dion.

Some of the highlights of this year's events are:

1. The control wiring for one of the furnaces was unsnarled, and let in a professional condition such that future generations will have a chance of figuring out what controls what.
2. Drainage from the site area around the TOPS playground was scoped and repaired, saving the church thousands of dollars for surveying, estimating, design and repairs.
3. Issues with water infiltration in and around Holden were also addressed, some for the second or third time.
4. The furnaces in TOPS again showed their age, but have been once again fixed and are working as needed.
5. The latch on the main doors to the sanctuary were repaired right before the Christmas services, proving that if something is going to break it will happen at the most inconvenient time possible.

The grounds section of our committee oversaw the removal of many, many dead and overgrown plants, especially in the area around the peace pole patio. Thanks to Mike Kersten for his efforts in that regard.

Thanks to Lani Shepp for her wonderful expertise in directing the cleanup of our grounds. Lani has coordinated the services of a professional landscape company to assist the church in the effort to stay ahead of the our numerous plantings as they all keep growing ahead of our ability to keep the roped in. The grounds look much better recently, and there are plans for even more of the same in 2012.

Our Spring-A-Frolic was lightly attended, but successful as always. Again, thanks to all!!!

Care & Fellowship Sabine Hathaway

Members: Allan Popper, James Siva, Patti Grier, the Entire Congregation

Not many changes in the life of C & F – our commission is still run the same way as before, with ad-hoc members and no meetings. We like it that way.

In 2011, OCC's Care and Fellowship Commission was involved in the following events:

- **May:** Camping in style! For the second time, the annual OCC weekend trip to Yosemite featured a Saturday night dinner near the banks of the Merced River, this time with tri-tip and salmon, ably prepared by Chef James Siva. This has now become a tradition, so remember to sign up for this year's trip (May 18-20).
- **June:** Candlelight Cabaret Jazz fundraiser - jazz, appetizers and wine, and happy faces on and off the dance floor.
- **August:** All-Church Picnic at Kennedy Grove. We gathered again at our new favorite campground, Abbie Lane, and enjoyed our usual BBQ fare as well as a song, with lyrics by Bob Winbigler and sung to the tune of "16 Tons", made famous by Tennessee Ernie Ford, to celebrate Frank's 40 Year anniversary as a pastor. Fun!
- **October:** The Famous OCC Oktoberfest! No fundraiser this year, just a great party, with delicious Bavarian fare and lots of help from the congregation, most notably aforementioned Chef James and our outstanding musicians David and Greg, including our new bass, Nik. Loads of fun for everyone (I heard people call it a 'smashing success' and I couldn't agree more). Just to let you all know, in 2012 the Oktoberfest will once again be a fundraiser. It's never too early to start thinking about donations... I will get back to you about that.

Throughout the year: Many more after-church luncheons for the Re-envisioning Town Hall Meetings. We have concluded the actual Re-envisioning process with the unanimous adoption, in October, of a new Vision Statement, and have now embarked on the next steps. I can see more after-church meetings on the horizon... and I promise, no one will ever leave hungry.

We are planning another Candlelight Cabaret for late May/early June. Please put this on your radar and don't miss it!

Also, we throw really good weddings at OCC, so get the word out. We have a lovely campus, great preachers, great music, and excellent helpers to make everything happen.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped with all the festivities and events this past year in one way or another. Whatever you do to support this commission is important work – bringing cookies to share, driving coolers of food up to Yosemite, staying after a church lunch to put away chairs and do the dishes, decorate Fellowship Hall for a party, providing music for a festive atmosphere... Thank you all so much – without you, none of the good times we have here at OCC would be possible!

Children and Youth Amy Parlett

It's hard to believe another calendar year has passed. For the Children and Youth Commission it was a year of many activities, but one that held much less change than the past two years. I was honored to again work with Leslie O'Brien, Gwen McNeilus, Leslie Schonborn, Robin Weber and Jackie Popper (for half the year). They provided tremendous energy, ideas, and support of our programs. Minister in training Leslie Moughty also joined us for much of the year and offered some wonderful new traditions and ideas. We have continued to meet once a month, with the exception of July, and I am proud of what was accomplished in 2011.

The late winter months were filled with many activities. In February our high school youth took part in a service trip in San Francisco one weekend. Participants assisted in the City of Refuge Food Pantry, went along a Night Ministries walk with former OCC MIT Tom Longino, prepared lunches for the hungry, and attended services at Grace Cathedral and City of Refuge. Additionally they did get to have a little fun in the city as well. Overall it was an amazing experience for all those who went, and they were able to share their adventures through a slide show presentation to the congregation one Sunday during worship.

Shortly after the service weekend our kids helped put on an "unbirthday" party for the kids that were staying on OCC's campus for Winter Nights. Although there were only three guest children, fun was had by all. Then in March we put on our Mardi Gras event: a Sunday evening filled with fantastic music, mask making, and southern food. It required minimal preparation and was a huge success.

When Easter arrived we decided to try something new for the children that allowed everyone to stay in worship together. The kids were given paper butterflies and crayons, and during the service they were to color them brightly, thinking of someone they loved each time they changed colors. Then all of the butterflies were placed on a cross creating a beautiful art piece. In following weeks the butterflies were moved around the chancel and sanctuary representing the love of God spreading. It proved to be a subtle, but lovely activity that we will repeat.

In April we hosted an evening workshop for youth and their parents that focused on love, self-worth, relationships, and sex with a faith perspective. Billed as "Saturday Night at the Church: A Family Conversation" we were pleased to have 29 attendees. Given it was our first event to focus on this topic it was successful, and we came away with several ways to improve discussions for next time.

By the end of May it was already time for our end of the (school) year recognitions. Youth Sunday provided the young adults in the church to participate in the service (Cooper and Carson Mead gave the sermon), as well as a time to thank Sunday School teachers, celebrate graduates, and acknowledge our acolytes. We are so grateful for all of our volunteers who teach classes and watch the little ones in the nursery each week; they nurture the children's spiritual development on an ongoing basis. Tremendous thanks also goes to Karen Norris and Gwen McNeilus for running the entire acolyte program.

Over the summer we instituted a fish (and also fishing) theme for our Sunday School curriculum. As done in the past, we used the summer months, where attendance is sporadic, for fun lessons around a central topic. In this case, kids fished for bible verses, played a type of Go Fish game with bible characters, and even went on a real fishing expedition to the Lafayette Reservoir.

Also during the summer, our own Leslie O'Brien was the music director for Vacation Bible School at both St. Stephen's and Holy Shepherd. Teaming up with these two churches for VBS gives our kids a chance to participate in a large and lively group of youngsters for an exciting week of singing, learning, and community building. One of the nice carry overs from VBS is the weekly singing in the chapel before starting the Sunday School lesson. Dedicated Leslie has taught the children a handful of songs from the VBS curriculum, and the kids love this new tradition. Some of the favorites are "God Knows My Name," "Give Thanks," and "How Great Thou Art."

When fall arrived we decided to have two classes available each week for Sunday School as well as the nursery. Generally one class is for preschool or kindergarten through fifth grade, and the other is for 6th graders on up through high school. We've continued to have flexibility due to the population of our children and attendance purposes. However, we could benefit from having a few more volunteers for both the nursery nannies and the older class. Ideally we are aiming to have teams of teachers/nannies for all three groups where adults commit to one week each month on an ongoing rotation. This system worked well during the previous school year, but has been slightly more challenging this time around since we have a few "holes." If you'd like to help, we'd love to have you!

Our fall calendar did keep us busy as well. In September we had the lovely Blessing of the School Year (an idea given to us by Chrissy Siva) once again, followed by the Crop Walk where we had 20 OCC participants who raised over \$800! The popular Blessing of the Animals came in October. We were delighted to have a confirmation class this fall as well. Three youth participated in several meaningful discussions, outings, and activities all led by Frank. We are looking forward to confirmation Sunday this coming January 15.

Suddenly December was upon us and it was time for the annual Advent Celebration. As in past years, we had three hours of fun filled crafts, dinner, and wonderful caroling. It was a wildly successful night with approximately 80 attendees! We are fortunate to have so many people in the congregation that helped with the event...craft table workers, kitchen helpers, and music makers. Many thanks to all who contributed to the event. Additionally, on Christmas Eve we held the traditional Christmas Eve Pageant, no rehearsals necessary. All were invited to don a costume and join the cast. We had a large contingent of angels and animals this year!

One of the things that we have been actively planning these past few months is the OWL program, otherwise known as Our Whole Lives. Starting this January we excited to start a series of weekly meetings for our youth that focuses on spirituality and sexuality. It will be a powerful and meaningful experience for all.

As evident, our commission has been busy throughout the year with all types of events and activities. The children and youth are always at the core of all of our plans and we feel that we have built a caring community amongst the kids as well as offer them a loving environment where service and God's love is shared by all.

Finance & Operation Lawrence R. Shepp

A review of the 2011 Income & Expense Budget and the Actual Income & Expenses for 2011 reflects that income for the year exceeded expenses by \$10,397, primarily due to the fact that receipts from pledges and facility rental exceeded the budget amounts, and expenses were less than anticipated in the budget.

Expenditures in 2011 from Turn Up the Heat funds (from the 2003-2006 campaign) were in the amount of \$20,144 for outside repair and maintenance of the sanctuary, and sanctuary lighting. The current balance in the Fund is \$134,003. It is anticipated that these funds will be available to pay for major repairs and maintenance over the next few years as the church campus ages and expenditures increase.

The church financial outlook for 2012 is as follows: 92 stewardship pledges received to January 7, 2012 amount to \$254,770 which is \$64,000 short of the preliminary pledge goal. As a result, the 2012 pledge budget has been reduced to \$271,000. Fundraising for 2012 has been budgeted at \$10,000 and if substantial additional pledges are received, then fundraising receipts would be available for special programs or projects.

The proposed expense budget for 2012, in the amount of \$364,000 includes adjustments for staff costs, office costs, and related matters, to reflect reduced income and Frank Baldwin's anticipated retirement as of June 30th. Our contribution to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission Program funding programs of Northern California and National UCC including support for new churches, disaster relief, and worldwide missions) is maintained at \$18,000. Commission Budgets remain the same as last year except for Buildings & Grounds which has been increased.

Our congregation, friends, and community have all been directly affected by the economy as reflected in the 2012 pledges received through January 7th of this year. Last year our pledge income was supplemented by post-stewardship campaign letters from the Moderator, as part of a supplemental pledge campaign for new or increased pledges. It is anticipated that a supplemental pledge campaign may be forthcoming this year as well, depending upon how financial matters go as the year progresses.

Contributing to our pledge income problem has been the death of church members or the relocation of older members of the church who were able to support the church with larger pledges. The newer, younger members replacing these families have responsibilities and expenses which often impact both their financial and time commitments to our church. In 2012, the Church Council will again look carefully at priorities for expenditures to enable OCC to remain financially sound and provide for the needs of our members and the community.

Committee Members: John Kaiser, Ron Loos, Dixon Grier, Larry Shepp. Ex Officio members: Betty Karplus, Financial Secretary; Lani Shepp, Accounts Payable; Kathi Kling, Accounting; Dick Long, Treasurer. Thanks to everyone for their work and support during 2011.

Lifelong Learning & Spirituality
Gary Nye & Katrina Staten – Co-Chairs

The LL&S Commission organizes forums and retreats, encourages and supports bible study groups, the Wednesday Breakfast group, the Theological Book Club, Women Helping Women events, as well as other lectures and special events to enhance the continued study of religious, philosophical and social issues that complement our worship and spiritual development. The Commission also has under its prevue the church library which is currently undergoing some reorganization in lieu of a functioning Library Committee.

Examples of forums and major events sponsored by the Commission in 2011 include: Rev. John Staten's series on the God of Jesus and the God of Today, Re-Connecting with Ourselves – Our Earth and Each Other workshop, Saturday Night at Church: A Family Conversation about Love, Sex, Faith and Relationships; OCC's Common Hope Mission to Guatemala, a forum on Keith and Margie Browns' Mission in Bulgaria, John Creech's Mercy Ship trip to Africa, and a Life Journey Forum honoring Mary Grah.

More events and programs are being planned for 2012, and the Commission is always open and appreciative of suggestions from members of the congregation or other committees and commissions.

Members: Katrina Staten and Gary Nye, co-chairs
Joy Elkinton-Walker, Doris Lander, Gail Mead, Bill Peebles, Kurt Sunderbruch

Mission and Outreach Joyce Crawford

OCC's Mission and Outreach Commission has the task each year of making decisions regarding the distribution of allocated funds for the church charitable giving. Some of our gifts are pledges to groups we consider "mission partners" such as Orinda Senior Village, Pacific School of Religion and Holden High School. Other outreach projects in which a member or a group in our church has an affiliation or interest are evaluated annually.

In addition to our monetary giving, OCC reaches out to its community by providing free or reduced-fee space to nonprofit groups such as the scouts, support groups, and musical ensembles. Special offerings that are collected throughout the year are also reflected. Two of these are national funds for the UCC. "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the spring supports our overseas missions and "Neighbors in Need" in the fall supports our homeland missions. The other two offerings which are at Christmas and Easter, go to groups designated by the Commission each year.

In 2011 the priority for the Mission and Outreach Committee was to examine closely the priorities and strategic vision for mission giving. Our key question was "What focus should Mission and Outreach have for 2011? We met four times during the year and examined past spending priorities and discussed and developed criteria for funding. One key criterion for allocating funds is to support organizations where there is strong OCC-member involvement with first-hand knowledge and accountability so that we can be assured that the funds allocated are well-spent. (A perfect example of this is our church's on-going support for Common Hope where our members are in the field and see the value and effectiveness of the organization up close and personal.) Further, the committee discussed the wide range of interest and concern in our committee and in our church community for both domestic and international missions. Examples of the key areas of priority that we discussed are summarized below:

- Middle East Peace, a personal and social justice issue; (Mission and Outreach on behalf of OCC will be sending \$250 to Middle East Peace project).
- Fighting "isms" to deflect prejudice and also support work in Haiti.
- Offer an Interfaith approach such as Contra Costa housing is an outreach program where OCC serves meals to homeless. Other activities, such as Interfaith Housing are highlighted and scheduled.
- Highlight action against domestic violence. Two nearby locations are available to offer protection against domestic violence and are located in nearby Concord and Richmond, which OCC supports.
- International support - a group of 12 people signed up to go to Guatemala through Common Hope on April 2 – 9, 2011, to help people there. The traveling team took supplies, including, but not limited to school and medical supplies.

- Green Faith was introduced as a form of contemporary spirituality, endorsed and supported by both Mission and Outreach and the church youth who have been working on projects to help the environment and consider it an important mission focus.

At the final 2011 meeting, members discussed the best way for Mission and Outreach to allocate the Mission and Outreach Orinda Community Church funds. A review was made of the Church "Categories of Mission Giving" and the "Principles of OCC Mission Giving" prior to the final decision. The table below shows the allocation. The Church Council has since given approval for distribution..

I. **UCC/NCNC "Fair Share" = \$18,000**

II. **Mission Partners**

	PSR	\$1,000
	OSV Emergency Fund	\$1,000
	Holden High School	\$1,500
	Interfaith Council/CCC	\$1,000
	CC Interfaith Housing	\$2,000
	TOTAL	\$6,500

III. **Mission Programs and Projects**

Continue funding

Ch.Middle East Peace	\$250
Common Hope	\$500
Mercy Ships	\$500
Winter Nights Shelter	\$500

New Funding

CA Intrfth Pwr & Light	\$500
Friends of Tents to Nations North America	\$500
Teresa Freeman "Food of God 4 the People of God"	\$500
PINCC	\$500
Monument Crisis Center	\$250
UCC Mission 1	\$500

TOTAL \$4,500

The Christmas Offering will be designated for Stand (Domestic Violence).

The 2011 Mission and Outreach members are Eartha Newsong, Bill Peebles, Liz Simmonds, Joyce Crawford, Elisabeth Kersten, and Frank Baldwin. Note: We sadly miss Elizabeth Wagner who passed away this year.

Worship and Music John Welland

To accomplish its responsibility of overseeing worship, music, ushering, the altar and the sacraments, the Commission met regularly throughout the year. Each member - Dorothy Ferguson, Beverly Finlayson, Anne Long, Jeane Samuelson, Christina Schiffner Santschi and Dave Starkweather - contributed.

Revision to the opening of Sunday worship begun in 2010 continued and reached a point of general satisfaction late in the year.

The Sanctuary sound system (rebuilt in 2007) received a tune-up, which should be repeated at about four-year intervals.

During 2011, OCC's canvas labyrinth was used as a part of worship during both Lent and Advent. Services incorporated waling the labyrinth as part of the experience. The labyrinth also made available for several days during each season for individual walking and meditation. This pattern seems to be an effective one for use of the labyrinth in the future. Co-chairs of the Labyrinth Committee continue to be Anna Johnson and Dave Starkweather.

Display of art on the Sanctuary wall continues to receive wide support and required several decisions during the year. To avoid confusion with a similar project in Berkeley, the wall was renamed the Doug Adams **Sanctuary** Gallery. Gwen McNeilus assumed leadership of the informal group which prepares and mounts exhibits. At year-end, she was engaged in mounting posters acquired from UCC so that they can be displayed in the future.

At mid-year organ builders Swain & Kates reported that the organ console was in need of a major re-build and the Commission has begun to consider how best to approach this large task. Toward this end we will meet with David Milnes early in 2012.

Bazaar
Rudi Thomas

The Church Bazaar is that little room off the entry to Fellowship Hall. We sell new and gently used donated items and quilts and products from the sewing circle. We are open before and after the Church Service and other times by appointment. All profits from the Bazaar are used for our Church buildings and grounds upkeep. We are looking for a new manager and a few new salesmen, or women. If interested call Rudi at 254-5585

Doug Adams Memorial Art Gallery Gwen McNeilus

The mission of the Doug Adams Sanctuary Gallery, as established upon its' founding, is as follows:

- To enhance the spiritual experience of our congregation through the visual arts hung in the Doug Adams Sanctuary Gallery.
- To provide an opportunity for our church family to reflect and connect in a deeper way as they look at works from a variety of themed exhibitions.
- To provide an opportunity for us to learn about each other with exhibitions from personal collections and from artists amongst us.

We have very few volunteers and little participation beyond a few key people. The regular volunteers who make these exhibits happen include: Frank Baldwin, Eartha Newsong, Dave Starkweather, Joy Elkinton-Walker, Sue Boudreau & Anna and Morris Johnson. Andy Weber has expressed an interest in supporting our efforts and I thank him and also take this opportunity to extend an invitation to others in the congregation to join us. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28th @ 9:00 with the hanging starting @ 10.

In 2011, I contacted the Doug Adams Gallery at the Pacific School of Religion. We have been asked by the director of the Doug Adams Gallery to refer to the Orinda gallery as "The Doug Adams Sanctuary Gallery" in an attempt to avoid confusion. We have already implemented this change.

John Welland invited me to attend a Worship & Music committee meeting. I did so and greatly appreciated their encouragement and offer to support the gallery endeavors whenever possible. One of the missions of the gallery is to enhance the spiritual experience. It is my hope that each of you will feel comfortable sharing your ideas with me and the committee for future exhibits and providing feedback to ensure that we stay true to that purpose.

Exhibitions in 2011 have included:

"A Child in the Family": We started 2011 with this themed exhibit from the collections of the congregation.

"The Work that Reconnects": Explored our relationships with ourselves, nature and others through this exhibit.

"God Bless America, Land that I Love": submissions by the Contra Costa Camera Club depicting scenes from the United States of America.

"All Creatures Great and Small": a collection of botanical prints by local artist Dorothy Stack paired with verses from the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*.

"Peace on Earth": a solo mixed media exhibit by Karl Schonborn featuring Gandhi, Jesus and St. Francis. Currently on display and running through Jan. 22nd.

Ideas for Future Exhibitions include:

- Watercolors by local Lamorinda artist George Ehrenhaft
- An exhibit from the personal collection of OCC's Pastor Frank Baldwin
- A solo photography exhibit by OCC's Sue Boudreau
- Collaborating with a local photographer to take pictures of the senior members of our faith community and featuring their portraits in a themed exhibit.
- A display of hand worked fabrics from different parts of the world
- Wall hangings by OCC's Rudi Thomas

May God's grace continue to shine on our efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as committee chair for the Doug Adams Sanctuary Gallery.

Endowment Fund Dick Long

Under the by-laws of the Endowment Fund, the principal of the Fund remains perpetually intact. Much of the Fund's annual investment income is available for expenditure on special needs of the Church.

Investment Performance

The total assets of the EF which were worth \$998,200 on January 1, 2011 increased to \$1,042,000 by December 31, 2011. Of the EF's assets, 42% are invested in equity mutual funds and 17% in fixed income funds all managed by the United Church Foundation. Mortgages for the homes of current and former ministers of OCC are another 31% of assets (all earning 6% interest). The remaining 9% is invested in: an annuity, a loan to OCC, and cash (normally about 1%).

The equity (stock) investments of the EF are held for the long term. Those stock values increased in 2009 and 2010. During the past year, however, stocks declined slightly in value. We expect that the EF's equity investments will grow in value in the future.

Loans and Grants

A portion of the EF's earned income each year is made available for grants for special needs of the Church. During 2011, the Endowment Fund made grants to cover the cost of several non-budget items benefiting the Church. Here are some examples:

1. At the time the 2011 Church Budget was prepared in 2010, it was anticipated that the Church would hire only one intern in the 2011-2012 year as has been our practice in recent years. However, early in 2011, it was determined that Liz Armstrong could continue with OCC for a second year. The EF was able to make a \$4500 grant covering her salary for that time. Thus Liz has enriched the Church with her ability and experience for a second year.
2. During 2011 the Church's aged financial computer and related software unexpectedly began to fail. The Endowment Fund was able to make grants totaling \$1700 for replacement computer equipment, software and outside computer expertise to convert our old records safely and accurately into a new system in a sound and timely fashion.
3. Late in 2011, Leslie O'Brien, Pastoral Intern Leslie Moughty, and the Children and Youth Commission asked for a grant of \$2500 to bring the "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) educational curriculum to OCC. The funds will be used to provide training and resources for up to ten facilitators who will lead OCC's pilot program using the excellent UCC-UUA curriculum. Their request was granted and preparations are well underway for introduction of this program early in 2012.

Memorial Funds

The Endowment Board also administers the Church's Memorial Funds. During the past year, 31 memorial gifts totaling \$2575 were received. The memorial fund balance at year end was \$5908.

In addition, the Endowment Board is responsible for the Memorial Garden. In 2001 an EF loan of \$61,000 was made to facilitate construction of the Memorial Garden. That loan has been steadily paid-down as additional niches and plaques on the Memorial Wall have been purchased. At year end of 2011 the remaining loan balance was \$19,500.

Endowment Fund Growth

Over the past 25 years the Endowment Fund has received several significant gifts from the wills and trusts of deceased members. They have ranged in size up to \$67,000. and each has contributed to the growth of the Endowment Fund. During 2011, three major gifts were received. One for \$30,000 was from the estate of Vivian Moore. A bequest of \$10,000 was received from the estate of Ruth Monosmith. An additional gift of \$5000. came from a Fund directed by a current church member and held at the San Francisco Foundation. We are grateful to these donors for their generous contributions.

In twenty-four years, the income generated from the endowment has permitted the Fund to make more than 65 specific grants totaling over \$294,000 in value. These grants have each met special needs of the Church. In addition, another \$ 434,000 of repayable housing loans have made it possible to call four different ministers to serve OCC.

Without the foresight of our predecessors who did remember the Church in their wills and trusts, the grants and loans described above could not have been made. As we look to the long-term future of the Church, it is important that the Endowment Fund continues to grow.

Legacy Circle

Six years ago EF Board members embarked on an educational campaign to encourage church members to make future bequests from their will or trust. As these bequests have been recorded, the donors have become members of the church's Legacy Circle. A complete listing of members can be found in the Legacy Circle section of this Annual Report.

Many thanks to the Board members who have contributed their knowledge and judgment so consistently during the year: Scott Ferguson, Susan Russell, Larry Shepp, Gail Mead, Lucy Williams, Dixon Grier and Richard Long. We particularly recognize and thank Frank Baldwin who has served in an advisory capacity on the Board for over thirteen years. Frank regularly attends our meetings, and has consistently provided wise and thoughtful perspective to our deliberations.

A copy of the year-end Endowment Fund financial statement is now available from Fund Treasurer, Scott Ferguson.

Legacy Circle Richard Long

If in the future, we expect the Church to be able to support its physical plant, to provide affordable housing in the Lamorinda area for its ministerial staff, and to support vibrant Church programs, then we must continue to grow the basic Endowment Fund of the Church.

Bequests from past members of the Church have been the primary source of funds for the Endowment during its first 25 years. Similarly, future bequests from current members will determine if the EF can continue growing and supporting the type of needs described above.

In 2004 the Legacy Circle of Orinda Community Church was established. Its members have modified their will or trust to leave a bequest to the Church upon their death. In some cases members have purchased a Gift Annuity naming the Church as the charitable beneficiary.

To create a Gift Annuity, the donor who desires to leave a gift to the Church makes their donation to the United Church Foundation which in turn guarantees to pay the donor a fixed rate of annual interest on the donated amount for the remainder of the donor's life. The interest rate paid is based upon the donor's age. A 75 year old, for example, receives 5.8% interest – an 85 year old receives 7.8%. Upon the donor's death the remaining value of the annuity is paid to the Orinda Community Church as the beneficiary. The Annuity becomes a WIN – WIN for both the donor and for the Church. Thus far, ten Church members have purchased Gift Annuities naming the Orinda Community Church as the beneficiary.

We are most thankful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of the following Church members who are already members of the Legacy Circle:

Frank Baldwin	Mollie Blue
Scott and Dorothy Ferguson	Beverley Finlayson
Bruce and Trudi Garland	Peter and Grace Hartdegen
Tom and Sandra Hill	Margie and Don Hitzl
Ilene Holmgren	Kay and Dalton James
Betty Karplus	Anne and Richard Long
Lloyd MacDonald	Jeanne Milligan
Priscilla Nelson	Elva Rust
Roger and Jeane Samuelsen	Betty Ann Williams

If you would like more information about the Legacy Circle, or about various methods for leaving a gift to the Church, you are invited to contact a member of the Endowment Fund Board.

Nominations – January 2012
Babs Winbigler, Chair

OFFICERS (1 year terms)

Moderator	Babs Winbigler (1/13)*
Vice Moderator	Craig Taajtes (1/13)*
Clerk	Bill Peebles (1/13)*
Treasurer	Dick Long (1/13)*
Financial Secretary	Betty Karplus (1/13)*
At Large Members (2 yr. terms)	Linda Moeller (1/14)* Chris Mead (1/14)*

COMMISSIONS (2 yr terms) minimum 5 members including Chair

Building and Grounds

John Creech (ex officio)
Peter Hartdegen (ex officio)
Dion Maskaleris (1/14)*
Jeanne Milligan (1/14)*
Leslie Schonborn (1/14)*

Bob Winbigler - co-Chair (1/14)*
Sis Curtis (1/14)*
Andy Weber co-Chair (1/14)*
Les Simmonds (1/14)*
Sally Chappell (1/14)*

Care and Fellowship

Babs Winbigler (1/14)*
Patti Grier (1/13)

Sabine Hathaway – Chair (1/14)*
James Siva (1/13)
The Entire Congregation!

Children and Youth

Patti Grier (1/14)*
Sarah Bennett (1/14)*

Amy Parlett – Chair (1/14)*
Leslie O'Brien (1/14)*
Robin Weber (1/14)*

Finance and Operations

John Kaiser (1/13)
Kathi Kling (ex officio)
Don Hitzl (1/14)*

Larry Shepp – Chair (1/14)*
Betty Karplus (ex officio)
Dick Long (ex officio)
Dixon Grier (1/13)

Lifelong Learning & Spirituality

Doris Lander (1/13)
Kurt Sunderbruch (1/13)
Gail Mead (1/13)
Bill Peebles (1/14)*

Gary Nye Co-chair (1/13)
Katrina Staten Co-chair (1/13)
Dave Starkweather (ex officio)
Joy Elkinton-Walker (1/14)*

***Delegates to the UCC Bay
Association and Northern
California Nevada Conference***

*The Moderator and Vice Moderator
typically serve as OCC delegates
in lieu of elected delegates*

Mission and Outreach
Eartha Newsong (1/14)*
Elisabeth Kersten (1/14)*

Joyce Crawford – Chair (1/13)
Liz Simmonds (1/14)*
Bill Peebles (1/14)*

Worship and Music
Dorothy Ferguson (1/14)*
Dave Starkweather (1/14)*
Christina Schiffner Santschi (1/13)

Beverley Finlayson –Chair (1/13)
Jeanne Samuelson (1/14)*
Marjorie Hitzl (1/14)*

**Endowment Fund Board
(5 yr terms)**
Scott Ferguson (1/13)
Dixon Grier (1/15)
Susan Russell (1/15)

Dick Long – Chair (1/14)
Larry Shepp (1/17)*
Gail Mead (1/16)
Lucy Ann Williams (1/13)*

***Note: All positions with an * are beginning new terms and will be voted on Jan. 2012.**

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR or COUNCIL

Accounting

Kathi Kling

Accounts Payable

Lani Shepp

eScrip

Linda Moeller, Coordinator

Historian

Joy Elkinton-Walker

Nominating (3 year terms)

Anne Long (1/14)
Dave Starkweather (1/15)*

Craig Taatjes – Chair/(Vice Moderator)
Don Hitzl (1/15)*
Sis Curtis (1/15)*

Orinda Senior Village Board (3 year terms)

(OCC Members)
Christine Robinson (1/14)
Sally Chappell (1/15)*
Tom Norris (1/14)
Liz Simmonds (1/13)
Sabine Hathaway – Secretary (1/13)

(Community Members)
Tania DeGroot (1/14)
John Fazel (1/14) - President
Dave McDonald–Vice President (1/15)*
Rev. Ron Swisher (1/15)*

Pastoral Relations (5 year terms)

Hilly Hoppock – Chair (1/15)
Dixon Grier (1/16)
Anna Johnson (1/13)

Chris Mead (1/14)
Nancy Peterson (1/17)*

Re-envisioning Steering Committee

Kurt Sunderbruch – Chair	Roger Samuelsen
Sabine Hathaway	Anne Long
David Milnes	Susan Russell
Bob Winbigler	Frank Baldwin – ex officio

Staffing and Personnel (2 year terms)

Lani Shepp – Chair (1/13)	Dorothy Ferguson (1/13)
Patti Grier (1/14)*	Anna Johnson (1/13)

Teaching Parish Committee

Team Liz Gary Nye – Chair	Patti Grier
Sally Chappell	Karl Schonborn
Eartha Newsong	Betty Karplus
Team Leslie Elisabeth Kersten – Chair	
Anne Long	Hillary Hoppock
Dave Starkweather	Fred Matteson
Annie & Robin Weber	

COMMITTEES AND GROUPS
FORMED BY THE COMMISSIONS or STAFF

Climate Change Group	Sue Boudreau, Coordinator
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Communications and Website	Susan Russell Anne McCarten-Gibbs
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Doug Adams Art Gallery	Gwen McNeilus, Coordinator
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Green Team	
John Kaiser	
Elisabeth Kersten	Dion Maskaleris
Katrina Staten	Robin Holmes

Labyrinth Committee	Dave Starkweather, Coordinator
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Librarian	To be determined
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Parish Callers	Lee Cruise, Adjunct Pastor
Frank Baldwin – Senior Pastor	Joy Elkinton-Walker
Mollie Blue	Dorothy McIntire
Mary Jo Durham	Betty Ann Williams

Pastoral Relations Committee **Hilly Hoppock**

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) meets monthly with OCC's pastoral staff. The purpose of the PRC is to support the pastoral staff in their service to the church and its membership. The PRC met regularly with members of the OCC pastoral staff in 2011, including monthly with Frank Baldwin and occasionally with Leslie O'Brien. The PRC offers support and reflection on the roles, responsibilities, challenges and successes of OCC's pastoral staff.

Below are undertakings and accomplishments for the 2011 year by Frank Baldwin:

- worked with Director of Community Life Leslie O'Brien, Director of Music David Milnes, Adjunct Pastor Lee Cruise, Office Administrator Dagmar Slovak, Caretaker Dion Maskaleris and Pastoral Interns Leslie Moughty and Liz Armstrong on their mutual ministry to OCC. OCC is blessed by Frank's exceptional leadership skills in ensuring the stability, continuity, shared commitment, creativity and satisfaction of our core staff.
- provided ongoing encouragement and support for the work of the Re-envisioning Steering Committee as their work progressed through the re-centering, refocusing and restructuring process.
- gave encouragement and support for Leslie O'Brien, Amy Parlett and The Children and Youth Committee in their nurturing service to the Learning Community families of OCC.
- fostered the goals of Lee Cruise, Leslie O'Brien and Lifelong Learning and Spirituality to support OCC's opportunities for significant spiritual growth
- ongoing pastoral leadership and support to OCC's music, care and fellowship, mission and outreach, financial, learning, church council and worship committees and commissions
- provide continual guidance and support to the congregation as well as excellence in pastoral preaching and ministry

The PRC is deeply grateful to Frank Baldwin for his 13 and ½ years of dedicated service to OCC. The committee respects and cherishes his pastoral ministry, recognizing how crucial his exceptional leadership, administrative as well as pastoral preaching and ministry skills were to our church when he joined us in 1998. He leaves OCC with a tremendous legacy in June, 2012 and with a firm foundation for OCC in the future.

Sewing Circle
Rudi Thomas

The Sewing Circle is still meeting on Mondays at 10 AM in Room C-7 under the Sanctuary. WE make quilts for babies in need and articles for sale in the Church Bazaar. Members are Peggy Moe, Liz Thompson, Beverley Finlayson and Melody Ferreira. We recently donated \$1000 to Holden School, the Alternative School that meets under the Sanctuary. Our quilts are given to Foster Care of CCounty, Children's Hospital of the East Bay, the Center for Early Intervention on Deafness and Interfaith Housing. We also sell quilts in the Church Bazaar and use that income to buy supplies. We make cloth grocery bags that can be recycled for years. We use yarn that has been given to us to make hats and caps for cancer patients. Most of our materials are donated to us by Church Members. We certainly would like to have more members. So if you have a Monday free and are interested in helping please come. There is a job opening for a "Square Knotter", male or female, to help tie the quilts on 4 inch centers. We work until we are tired with a break for lunch and chocolate. Come, join us. More information Rudi Thomas 254-5585.

Teaching Parish Committee **Gary Nye and Elisabeth Kersten**

Both Elizabeth Armstrong and Leslie Moughty have continued their work at OCC for a second year, and made an excellent transition this past fall from Ministers-in-Training to Ministerial Interns. Each have their own Team to interface with.

Team Liz (for Elizabeth Armstrong) has been composed of: Sally Chappell, Patti Grier, Betty Karplus, Eartha Newsong, Karl Schonborn and Gary Nye as Chair. The team has continued to meet approximately monthly to discuss Liz' work at OCC, course schedule at PSR, and preaching. Because of Liz' commute from Murphys, CA, she has continued to rotate staying over with several OCC members to help minimize her commute and spend more time with us. This arrangement has worked well. Liz and the Team are grateful for all the support from OCC members who have hosted Liz. The challenge for Liz was heightened for several months when she also had to attend her husband after his injury from a fall. Fortunately he has recovered , and Liz is now on a three week study trip to India. She will rejoin us at OCC, Sunday, January 22. The team agrees that Liz' progress has been excellent. Her preaching/worship leadership skills are highly regarded, and her pastoral care, as well as other OCC activities, have been increasingly appreciated. In the months ahead Liz will be completing her course work at PSR, working on her Ordination paper, and profile for her post graduation ministry.

Leslie Moughty And her TPC committee (Elisabeth Kersten, chair; Anne Long, former chair; Dave Starkweather, Hilly Hoppock, Fred Matteson, Annie/Robin Weber) meet monthly to review her service covenant objectives at OCC. This year her focus is on three priorities:

1. Implementing Our Whole Lives sexual education curriculum for older youth;
2. Pastoral care, with particular focus on families, wellness calla and one-on-one time with parishioners;
3. Worship leadership with focus not just on the sermon but communion, liturgy, youth engagement in service, and use of multimedia, music, and drama.

We offer input and feedback and have grown to appreciate Leslie's tenacity, creative spark and willingness to challenge the status quo. She is a strong champion for engaging and empowering youth and finds new and interesting ways to get them involved in both worship and the life of the church.

Holden High School **Abby Tuttle**

For over 40 years, Holden has been a safe haven for non-traditional learners. This is now our 41st year in the basement of the Orinda Community Church. The founder of Holden recognized that too many students in traditional school systems were not being served well, if at all. This is as true now as it was 40 years ago.

Students graduate from Holden with academic confidence and intellectual curiosity, the ability to advocate for themselves, a strong sense of community, a passion for learning, and solid plans for their futures.

This year there have been many changes and exciting events at Holden.

Last year our enrollment was unusually low. We also graduated a total of 14 students, 5 in January 2011 and 9 in June 2011. Despite having low enrollment and graduating a large number of students, we are proud to say we are officially at capacity for spring 2012 and already interviewing applicants for 2012-2013. This was accomplished with some creative marketing and lots of hard work on the part of all staff.

In May 2011, our students performed in a rendition of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*. This fall, students have been practicing for their Roberto Aguirre Sacasa's *The Muckle Man* performance which opens January 13, 2012. Our Black Box Theater, formerly known to the OCC as the "Youth Room" or to Holden as the "Crypt", has seen many changes in the past year. Risers have been built, the floor has been painted black, and electrical work has been done to bring the theater lighting up to code.

This summer, we received full accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) which opens many doors for our students heading on to college, and makes us a more viable choice for many prospective students.

In August of 2011, Co-Director and OCC/ Holden liaison, Joel Weber, retired after 36 years. He remains a member of our Board of Trustees and still provides learning support tutoring for students with learning differences at Holden one day a week. Abby Tuttle is taking over as liaison with OCC. This fall, Jenn Payne stepped up as a Co-Director in Training and is now officially joining Renee Beck as Clinical Co-Director. Daniel Dickinson changed his role from Co-Director to Head of the Drama Department with other teaching and administrative responsibilities.

Holden is eternally grateful for the generosity of the Orinda Community Church for supporting our mission. We would especially like to thank Reverend Frank Baldwin, Youth Minister Leslie O'Brian, Dalton and Kay James, The OCC Sewing Circle, Dion Maskaleris, John Creech, Les Simmonds, Pete Hartdegen, Dagmar Slovak, and, last but certainly not least, members of the OCC who serve on our board, Lani Shepp, Gail Mead, and Kay Norman. We could not be the school we are today without you!

The Orinda Preschool ("TOPS")
Kristin Burcham, Co-Director
Lorraine O’Kane, Co-Director

TOPS, The Orinda Preschool, is a cooperative preschool and a transitional kindergarten open to children of all races, creeds and nationalities. We offer morning programs for children from 2 to 5 years old, with an optional afternoon playgroup program for the 3s, 4s, and 5s.

First established in 1938 as a private non-cooperative school for supervised play, TOPS received its more official beginning as a licensed cooperative in 1943 with about 30 children in attendance. The school has been located on the property of The Orinda Community Church since 1948 and enjoys a warm working relationship with the church. Over the years our programs have expanded to include a program for 2 year olds, as well as a transitional kindergarten for 5 year olds. Our use of the Church’s space has expanded as well, including the Mayflower and Washington Rooms. TOPS has recently renovated some of the outside space to include more areas of child interest – a house in the trees, a trickle stream, willow hut, stairs and benches which will be permanent on the church’s property. Having reduced our class size for a more intimate environment, we currently enroll a total of 103 students, and have 12 staff members.

While the physical plant has been the product of our long and unique friendship with The Orinda Community Church, the broad play-based program is the product of the wealth of the talent and experience that is a cooperative school's strength. Children participate in experiences in art, math, dramatic play, music, science, language arts, outdoor play and cooking. Activities are presented in accordance with the developmental level of the children by a credentialed staff with the support of the participating parents.

Christ Loves the Church

590

1. Christ loves the church, with grace beyond all mea - sure.
 2. Christ bears the church, cor - rupt - ed or con - form - ing,
 3. Christ feeds the church, and fills us with a vi - sion,
 4. Christ needs the church, to live and tell his sto - ry,

We bear his name, for all the world to see.
 ob - sessed with tri - fles, bless - ing greed and war.
 through praise and preach - ing, wine and bro - ken bread,
 to praise his love and mar - vel at his trust,

He will not let us go or let us be,
 His love out - wits us, spin - ning gold from straw,
 of shar - ing peo - ple, do - ing what they've said,
 till, bathed in light, a - wak - ened from the dust,

but choos - es earth - en ves - sels for his trea - sure.
 through saints and proph - ets, pray - ing and re - form - ing.
 who win the world's re - spect, or op - po - si - tion.
 we walk with God, a - live in grace and glo - ry.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985
 MUSIC: Jane Marshall, 1986

HIGH STREET
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