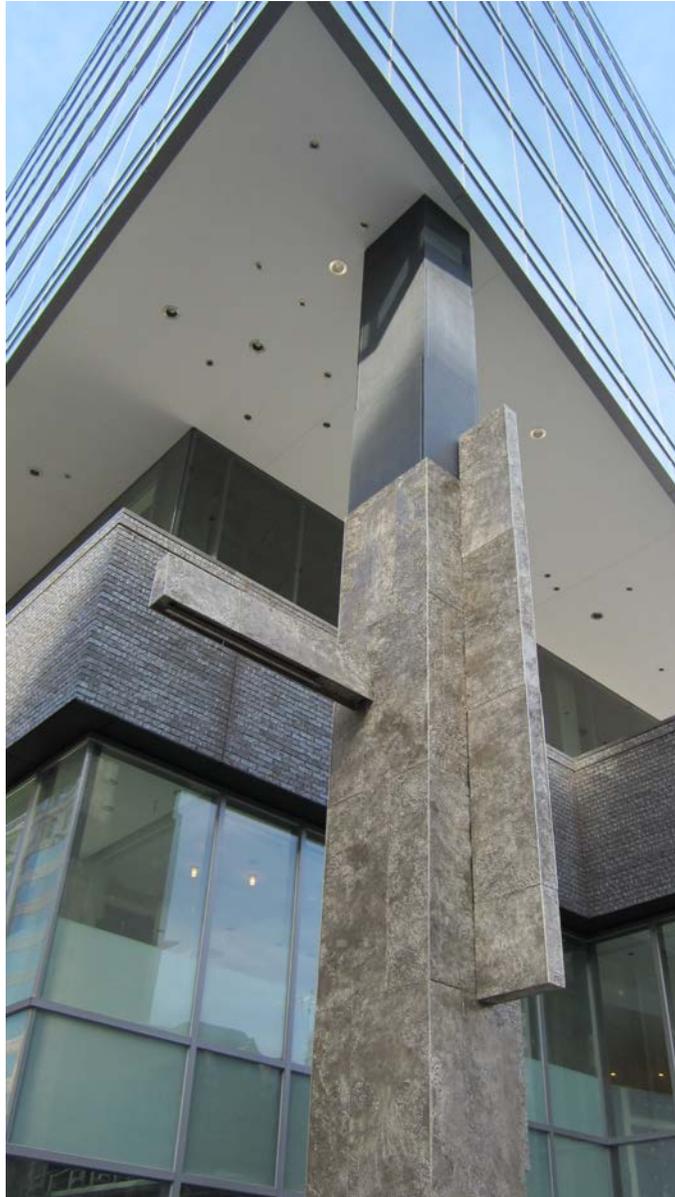


February 26, 2012
Dedication Celebration



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God!"
Psalm 122:1

First Congregational United Church of Christ
945 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome here.

*HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in a - ges past, our
 Un - der the sha - dow of your throne your
 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or
 O God, our help in a - ges past, our
 hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt to se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is your
 earth re - ceived its frame, From e - ver - last - ing
 hope for years to come, Still be our God while
 stor - my blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 you are God, to end - less years the same.
 trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home!

Words by Isaac Watts, alt.; music by William Croft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sidney D. Fowler and Nan McConnell

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please turn to those around you, introduce yourself, and greet one another with words such as "The peace of God be with you."

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Meg Maguire

ANTHEM

What Is This Place?

*Text by Huub Oosterhuis, tr. David Smith; tune: Komt Nu Met Zang, arr. Thomas Keesecker
Sean Neidlinger, cello*

What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor.
Walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed:
names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders sent from the past are all we need.
We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase:
our justice and God's peace.

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 122

Revelation 21:1-5a/Apocalipsis 21:1-5a

John Deckenback and Kwame Osei Reed

Mari Castellanos and Diana D. Gomez de Molina

God of Change and Glory

God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 God of ma - ny col - ors, God of ma - ny signs,
 Fresh - ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace:
 you have made us dif - frent, bless - ing ma - ny kinds.
 you are still cre - a - ting end - less love and light.

In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast
 This we see, as sha - dows part, ma - ny gifts from

grace to our praise. Ma - ny gifts, one Spi - rit,
 one our great fear. heart.

one love known in ma - ny ways. In our dif - fer -

ence is bless - ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise

one Giv - er, one Word, one Spi - rit, one God

known in ma - ny ways, hal - low - ing our days,

For the Giv - er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

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WORDS FOR THIS TIME

From our architects, a minister colleague in the city, and the president of the UCC

Words of Vision

Billie Tsien and Tod Williams

Words of Charge

Susan Newman

Words of Prayer

Geoffrey Black

MUSICAL MEDITATION

(A time for personal and prayerful reflection.)

OFFERING

Michael Zawada

Today's offering is dedicated to Thrive DC. Formerly the Dinner Program for Homeless Women, Thrive DC was started, housed and supported by First Church from its beginning in 1979. Today Thrive DC is an independent nonprofit organization located at 1525 Newton Street NW that offers basic human needs (food, showers, transportation) while providing case management to help clients achieve their goals.

Received by: Jessica Macleod, Director of Social Services of Thrive DC

*DOXOLOGY

I Thank You Jesus

I thank you, Je - sus, thank you, Je - sus, thank you,
 Je - sus, _____ my Sa - vior God, for you
 brought me, yes, you brought me from a migh - ty, _ a migh - ty long
 way. _____ I thank you, Je - sus, thank you,
 Je - sus, thank you, Je - sus, my Sa - vior God, for you
 brought me, yes, you brought me from a migh - ty, _ a migh - ty long
 way. _____

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LITANY OF DEDICATION

Susie Hayward: For the worship of God
through breaking bread
and breaking open the Word,
For the worship of God
through gathering the beloved community,
and pouring the baptismal waters,

All: We dedicate this building.

(Barbara Hayes, longtime member of the church who has worshipped in all three church buildings, pours water into the baptismal bowl with a pitcher that was used in the original church building for fellowship gatherings.)

Kim Darling: For nurturing children and parents,
For their inspiration and protection,
For encouraging young people to wrestle with truth,
and calling them to a life of justice and mercy,

All: We dedicate this building.

Dwan Reece: For the reverent silence into which your still-speaking voice emerges,
And for our voices woven together in a tapestry of prayer and song,
For the drum's boom, the organ's drama, and the piano's cascade
of notes,

All: We dedicate this building.

Tom Knoll: For joining hands with others to break down barriers of religion, race,
class, and politics,
For building up the beloved community: one family, no insiders or
outsiders, each person's gifts recognized, affirmed, and nurtured,

All: We dedicate this building.

Peg Lorenz: For comfort to those who mourn,
and refuge to those fleeing violence,
For guidance to those who are lost,
and sustenance to those who thirst,
For all people who seek a soft place to land,
a place of welcome, a home,

All: We dedicate this building.

Peter Byrne: For working with partners to dismantle systems that foster
racism and heterosexism,
For transforming desires that breed materialism, economic injustice,
environmental degradation, and violence,
For building a city and world in which all God's people will live in dignity,

All: We dedicate this building.

Marian Drake: For the continued unfolding of your vision,
For the continued heartbeat of your mystery,

For our continued turning toward you,
All: We dedicate this building.

Please stand as you are able and place your hand on the shoulder of the person in front of you (or take their hand) — making a human chain connecting the whole congregation to the communion table.

Barbara Brown Zikmund & Barbara Gerlach: Joined here together in hand and spirit, our feet firm upon stone carved from the earth, we seek your blessing for this space, and for this communion table, the center of our life here.

Gracious and Eternal Spirit, empower us to remember that we stand on holy ground with those who have made this church strong. May your presence be ever available to us in this place. Keep us in covenant, walking together in ways revealed to us in sacrament and word, study and prayer, fellowship and mission. Give us courage in the struggle for justice and peace, inspiring us to seek the welfare of this city and reach out to heal our broken world. God, today we dedicate this building to you in the name of all that has come before and all that is yet to unfold.

All: Amen!

*HYMN *God Who Called Us through the Prophets* (see page 8)

*BENEDICTION Sidney D. Fowler

OPENING OF THE DOORS

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on "God Be With You"* Gary Fitzgerald
(Hymn written by Jeremiah Rankin, 1880, former Pastor of First Congregational Church and former President of Howard University.)

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

At the conclusion of the Dedication Celebration, you are invited to a reception on the second floor. Please join us for coffee or punch, a nibble or two and take this opportunity to explore our beautiful new space.

Assisted listening devices are available.
Please ask an usher if you would care for one.

CD recordings of today's service are available following worship.

**Don't forget to validate your parking ticket!
The validator is on the desk in the Narthex.**

God Who Called Us through the Prophets

God, who called us through the pro - phets to be
 When we pon - der sa - cred scrip - tures, when we
 Fill us with your grace and wis - dom, give us
 Make our church a sanc - tu - a - ry for each
 God of mer - cy, God of jus - tice, we give

mer - ci - ful and fair, and in Je - sus, walked a -
 come - to you in prayer, let us see with new - found
 cour - age that we may, like the saints gone on be -
 thanks that we be - long to a peo - ple, loved and

mong us teach - ing us to love and care, send your
 vi - sion what we're called to do and dare. As more
 fore us, meet life's chal - leng - es to - day. Help us
 out - cast, who on kind - ness now de - pend. As we
 lov - ing, rich and need - y, weak and strong. You have

Spi - rit now, re - new us, that to -
 truth and light are spring - ing dai - ly
 trust in one a - no - ther, e - ven
 ga - ther at your ta - ble, may they
 blessed our past and pre - sent, bless the

ge - ther we may be one in faith and one in
 from your Ho - ly Word, and your thoughts in - vade our
 when we dis - a - gree, show re - spect in hard de -
 al - ways find a place and, in shar - ing bread and
 fu - ture we a - wait. Keep us faith - ful to our

mis - sion, one in our di - ver - si - ty.
 think - ing, help us act on what we heard.
 ci - sions, work for peace and har - mo - ny.
 cha - lice, know, with us, your heal - ing grace.
 mis - sion, as your love we cel - e - brate.

Words by Mary Keithahn, music by John Horman.

Commissioned by First Congregational United Church of Christ to celebrate the dedication of this new building.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S CELEBRATION

Words of Vision: *Tod Williams and Billie Tsien* have worked together for over thirty years. In 1986, they founded Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects in New York City, a studio of 30 people working primarily for institutions that value aspiration and meaning, timelessness and beauty. The firm is known for its careful attention to context, detail and the subtleties of materials. National and international award winning projects include the Neurosciences Institute, the American Folk Art Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum, and the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center. Current work includes The Barnes Museum in Philadelphia, a performing/visual arts center at the University of Chicago, and the Asia Society headquarters in Hong Kong.

Words of Charge: *The Reverend Doctor Susan Newman* is the Associate Minister for Congregational Life and Social Justice at All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, DC. She has had a 36-year career as pastor, community advocate, teacher, chaplain, and author. Licensed in the Baptist Church in 1976, Dr. Newman was ordained at Peoples Congregational UCC in 1983, where she served as Assistant Minister. A native of Washington, her ministry has focused upon the challenges facing urban America. When she was the senior pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC, in Atlanta, GA, she chaired the mayor's commission on Community Relations and a Blue Ribbon Panel on Welfare Reform. Here in Washington she served as the Director of Public Policy at the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and was Senior Advisor for Religious Affairs to the Mayor of DC. She is the author of several books. She holds a Bachelors degree in journalism from George Washington University, a Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary.

Words of Prayer: *The Reverend Geoffrey A. Black* is General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Before his election to the Collegium of UCC leaders in June 2009, he was Conference Minister of the UCC's New York Conference (2000 to 2009). From 1994 to 2000 he was on the national staff of the Office for Church Life and Leadership (currently Parish Life and Leadership), a national agency of the United Church of Christ. Before joining the national staff of the denomination he served as Pastor of the Congregational UCC of South Hempstead, NY, assistant chaplain at Brown University, associate minister at St. Albans Congregational UCC in Queens, Lecturer in the Field Education Department at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and as Protestant chaplain at Adelphi University. Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment, and community improvement have always shaped Black's ministry in the church. This has resulted in work with organizations such as the Nassau Coalition for Safety and Justice, The Long Island Interracial Alliance for a Common Future, and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded. Since moving to the national UCC offices in Ohio, he has been an active member of Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Partnership 2000 of the Shaker Public schools.

Additional Participants in today's Dedication Celebration

Rev. Dr. Mari Castellanos, Member, Worship Commission, First Congregational UCC

Rev. Doug Clark, former Interim Minister, First Congregational UCC

Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback, Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference UCC

Mr. Gary Fitzgerald, Director of Music, First Congregational UCC

Rev. Dr. Sidney D. Fowler, Transitional Minister, First Congregational UCC

Rev. Barbara Gerlach, former Minister, First Congregational UCC

Rev. Diana Molina Gomez, Member, Worship Commission, First Congregational UCC,

Rev. Dr. Barbbra Hardy, Associate Minister for Christian Education, First Congregational UCC

Ms. Jessica Macleod, Director of Social Services, Thrive DC

Rev. Tom Knoll, Pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington, DC

Ms. Meg Maguire, Chair, Site Development Task Force, First Congregational UCC

Ms. Emily Marsh, Soloist

Ms. Nancy McConnell, Moderator, First Congregational UCC

Rev. Dr. Kwame Osei Reed, Associate Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference UCC

Rev. LaFayette Seymour, CommUnity Church on the Hill, Washington, DC

Mr. Michael Zawada, former chair of Social Outreach and Awareness Commission, FCUCC

Many other speakers in the Call to Worship and the Litany of Dedication are active participants in the life of First Congregational UCC.

Flowers

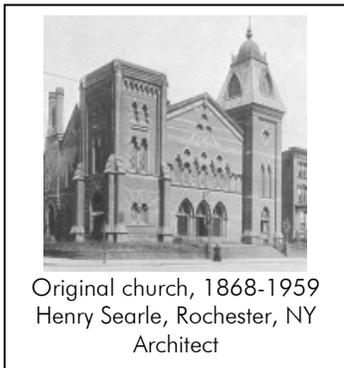
Today's flowers are given in memory of beloved former pastor John H. Mack by Barbara Gerlach, Jessica, Scott, Sofia, Nicole and Larissa Prentice, Antonio Rodriguez, Peter Gerlach-Mack, Sara Palacisos and Lucas Gerlach-Mack. They were arranged by Byron Adams.

THE BUILDING STORY

First Congregational UCC was founded in 1865 by Congregationalists rooted in New England traditions. Led by Christian abolitionists, in 1867 it became the first racially integrated congregation in Washington, DC. In that same year, its Mission Committee played a prominent role in the founding of Howard University.

Earlier Church Buildings

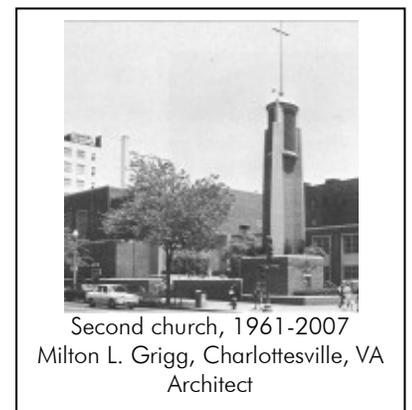
All three church buildings have been built on our property at 10th and Streets, NW. The original church building, dedicated in 1868, was condemned in 1953. The trustees recommended that the building be sold and that the church relocate to the rapidly developing Washington suburbs. The congregation rejected this idea and voted to rebuild in the present location, continuing its downtown ministry in the nation's capital and affirming the church's presence in the city.



In 1961, the congregation occupied what we call the "middle church," including the Howard carillon tower at the corner of 10th and G Streets, NW. During its 46 years, in addition to First Congregational, the building served as home to other congregations, the church-sponsored Dinner Program for Homeless Women (now Thrive DC), and social service and meal programs.

The Move to Today

In 2004, with a deteriorating building and a resurgent downtown, the congregation made the decision to redevelop the property by selling the air rights to a private developer in exchange for a new, accessible, green building designed to carry out our mission. The First Church Site Development Task Force organized and coordinated the extensive legal, design, and financial tasks necessary to develop the project; and fostered an extraordinary partnership between the church and the developers, designers, and construction firms whose skill, labor, and commitment have made this project a reality.



For the past five years the congregation worshipped at First Trinity Lutheran Church, at 4th and E Streets, NW, Washington, DC.

The Organ

On May 16, 1961, Casavant #2618, three manuals, pedal, and more than 3,500 pipes comprising forty-three ranks, was presented by First Congregational Church in a dedication recital performed by Dr. David Craighead, head of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and a world-renowned performer at the peak of his powers. An excellent instrument from its first days in the shop of one of the world's premiere organ builders, it served First Church with distinction until the decisions were made which resulted in today's Dedication Service. The instrument has been redesigned, rebuilt with a brand new console (the part the player sits at) and somewhat enlarged to accommodate its new home by Orgues Letourneau of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. Mr. Letourneau was a member of the Casavant firm before founding his own, and in fact the father of one of his current employees was an important part of the team that constructed #2618, so this instrument is special to the whole Letourneau company.

Significant work was done on the organ in 2003 to repair damage from a leaky roof. Letourneau employees Michell Gendrom and Stefan Langelier worked on the organ then and again in the last few weeks installing what you see before you. Michell believes his father worked on the organ when it was originally built by Casavant. And Stefan met his future wife here in Washington back in 2003.

The instrument was originally scheduled to be delivered in late October 2011; last fall it seemed reasonable to expect that it would be part of today's service. Obviously that was not to be, only because of the sorts of delays typical in the construction of such an important space inside an important new building. We are guardedly optimistic about having the organ for Easter 2012, but whenever it is finally completed and ready for prime time, you will all be invited back to share our joy in this very special blessing.

SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT PREVIEW: Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan

The war in Afghanistan is now the longest in U.S. history, yet for many people it has been rendered largely invisible. In 2009, the American Friends Service Committee put out a nationwide call to artists seeking contributions for a traveling memorial to Afghan civilians who have died in the war. More than 40 muralists donated their talents, designing and painting individual murals on sheets of acrylic cloth. At over 900 square feet, the mural is not a single painting, but an oversized statement on the human cost of war. It is not the voice of one person, but that of an engaged artistic community.

Today is a preview opportunity to see the exhibit in connection with our Dedication Celebration. The exhibit opens formally on March 1 (5:00 – 8:00 pm) with a special reception at 7:00 pm that will include conversations with some of the artists. Throughout the month of March it will be open on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 pm (March 1, 8, 15 and 22). It will also be open on Sunday, March 4 from 3:00 – 7:00 pm. Not all of the murals are here. Another group of murals can be seen at the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue NE, which is open to the public from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, March 1-22.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,
Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Transitional Minister – Rev. Dr. Sidney D. Fowler
Associate Minister for Christian Education – Rev. Dr. Barbra Hardy
Director of Music – Mr. Gary Fitzgerald
Interim Office Manager – Mr. Byron Adams

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WORDS OF THANKS

*With gratitude for their creative gifts and commitment
2004-2012*

Ministers, Music Directors and Office Managers

Rev. John Mack
Rev. Barbara Gerlach
Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson
Rev. Monte Hillis
Rev. Doug Clark
Rev. Dr. Barbra Hardy
Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Rev. Dr. Sidney D. Fowler
Ms. Kay Rogers

Patrick Summers
Loretta Uzzelle
Dennis Turner
Stefan Brodd

John Touchton
Dudley Oakes
Gary Fitzgerald

Barno Murillo
Byron Adams

Moderators

Peter Tracey
Dale Ostrander

Ellen Bushmiller
Randy Herrick Stare

Nan McConnell

First Congregational UCC Site Development Task Force

Meg Maguire, Chair

Design Team, Legal Team, Negotiating Team, Worship Furnishings Study Group,
and Worship Furnishings Fund

Byron Adams • Joe Alfred • Faith Brightbill • Ann Bushmiller • Karen Byrne • Peter Byrne • Bob Crossley
Lucille Dickinson • Phyllis Evans • Anne Griffis • Richard Griffis • Barbara Hayes • Susie Hayward
Randy Herrick-Stare • Randy Jones • Peg Lorenz • Cindy Mazur • Nick McConnell • Nora Marsh
John Smeltzer • Fredda Sparks • Peter Tracey • Barbara Brown Zikmund • Joe Zikmund

Additional Members

Ellen Bushmiller • Linda Carder • Mari Castellanos • Jeffrey Catts • Doug Clark • Virginia Gaddis • Barbara Gerlach
• John Mack • Anne Nelsen • Hart Nelsen • Ruth Shinn • Alisa Tanaka-Dodge • Priscilla Waters

Owners/Developers

First Congregational United
Church of Christ
Skanska USA Commercial
Development Inc.
P.N. Hoffman & Associates, Inc.
E.R. Bacon Development

Church Architects

Tod Williams Billie Tsien
Architects
Aurelie Paradiso, *Project
Architect*

Building Architects

Cunningham | Quill Architects
Ralph Cunningham, Chris
Morrison, Michael Day

Engineers

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Neil Sinclair, *Cost Consultant*
Desa Ruffin, *Development
Consultant*
Orgues Letourneau, *Organ*

And many others whose faith and labor have made this building possible.