Invest IN THE Vision

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

About Strengthen the Church

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking.”

About Stillspeaking

Stillspeaking: It's the shorter form of "God is still speaking," a campaign by the United Church of Christ to simply remind us that God still has a lot more to say. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to make religion relevant again and to extend an extravagant welcome to all—because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here. Here at the United Church of Christ.

Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry for these purposes.

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Dreaming Big in Rural North Carolina

Bethany United Church of Christ in Claremont, NC decided to "Pay It Forward" with a $1,000 gift to the New and Renewing Churches Endowment Fund. Why? We have "benefitted greatly from the Renewing Church Grants we have received. We are grateful every day for the support of our national church." That means YOU! Your gifts to the Strengthen the Church offering make these grants possible.

A small rural church in a conservative Southern area, Bethany embraces renewal as a way of life. Four years ago their church building was used only twice a week.

The congregation started the Bethany UCC Before and After School All Stars, serving K-7th grade in their low-income, ethnically diverse community. From 16 students the first year, the ministry has grown to 10 before school, 26 after and over 20 in All Star Summer Camp. It's a tutoring program with a director, assistant director, and four counselors from local high schools. Every child is routinely on the A or A/B honor roll.

The congregation installed a new playground and provides scholarship funds and snacks. The All Stars students do a Christmas program with the Bethany youth and attend Bethany's Sensational Sunday Events. The Rev. Colleen Samson, Pastor at Bethany, says, "Parents are so pleased with the program... Bethany is intentionally creating relationships with parents and youth through this ministry to introduce them to the church."

Small rural churches can dream big dreams and make a great impact in their community!

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