

# **Christ Congregation Princeton, New Jersey 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Invitation**

You and yours are invited!

On Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24, 2005, Christ Congregation will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a congregation, one affiliated with the United Church of Christ, the American Baptist Churches in the USA, and the Alliance of Baptists.

We have a wonderful weekend planned, with a special Anniversary Dinner on Saturday night, a choir from all the ages of the church, a sculpture exhibition by Charles McCollough, and guest presentations by Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the Rev. Dr. John Thomas, General Minister, United Church of Christ.

Along with the weekend, a collection of histories and remembrances is being put together for all participants. Audrey Staats has done a wonderful personal memory and history of the early days. It is still not too late to include some of your thoughts and memories about the significance of Christ Congregation in your life.

We also cordially invite all past choir members to join with our choir at the April 24 worship service for a Choir Reunion. It would be wonderful to have everyone together again for what we are sure would really be a "joyful noise"! It would require a one hour rehearsal on Saturday afternoon at 2:00pm at the church and another rehearsal at 9:00am prior to the worship service on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join us please e-mail Joanne Hardgrove at as soon as possible. She will contact you directly and make sure you have copies of the anthems well in advance. We hope to see all of you there !

With this invitation, we also want to include a "Thank You" and a second invitation to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Fund. Thanks to about 25 current donors, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Fund has raised close to \$70,000. This exceeded our initial goal, due in part to one very generous donation by a friend of the congregation. We have already completely repaid the costs of the thermal windows that were completed last spring. At the upcoming 2005 Annual Meeting, we will be developing a committee to explore our best options for repair or replacement of the organ, the second major area of need to be addressed by this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Fund.

Like all campaigns, the number of participants is even more important than the size of individual gifts. So we would like to invite you to participate if you have not done so. A new Memorial Book will be inaugurated on the weekend of April 23 and 24 to list these and future memorial gifts to Christ Congregation.

Most of all, we want your presence on this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary April weekend, and, if you cannot be present, your prayers of thanksgiving and hope for the past and future of Christ Congregation. Wherever you are, we hope that weekend will be a joyful one for you.

Gratefully,

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and Current Members of Christ Congregation  
(including Rev. Jeff Mays, Bill Gaventa, Beverly McNally, Winnie Vogt, Audrey Staats, Tonie Forbes, Carol McCollough, Joanne Hardgrove, Bethany Hoffman, and Joy Staller)

**Christ Congregation's Fiftieth (50) Anniversary**  
**April 23 and 24, 2005**  
**Remembering, Celebrating, Envisioning**  
**Weekend Schedule**

**Saturday, April 23**

Church will be open from noon on.

Sculpture Exhibit by Charles McCollough at the church for the weekend.

Alumni and Friends Choir Rehearsal from 2-3 p.m.

Reception at 5:00 at Conference Center, New Jersey Hospital Association, with historical displays, pictures, remembrances, catching up.

Dinner at 6:00. Two entrée buffet dinner. Kids' Meal also available.

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, General Secretary, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

**Sunday, April 24**

- Continental Breakfast at Christ Congregation. 8:30 – 10:00
- A Celebration of Worship, with special music, guests, and sermon by the Rev. Dr. John Thomas, General Minister, United Church of Christ.
- Extended Fellowship Time and Light Lunch after church.

**Lodging**

We will have some rooms in homes of current members for out of town guests, and suggestions for motels in the area.

**Reflections on Christ Congregation**

A collection of reflections is still being prepared. Deadline is March 1. Email to [bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu](mailto:bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu) or mail hard copy to the church.

