



**Mission Statement**

*North Chevy Chase Christian Church is an open, caring congregation committed to serving God and building community through education, fellowship, outreach and worship.*

**Rev. Dr. Cheryl L. Tatham, Minister**

[northchevychase@verizon.net](mailto:northchevychase@verizon.net)

[www.nc4disciples.org](http://www.nc4disciples.org)

September 5, 2014

Dear Church World Service and Justice for Our Neighbors,

We at North Chevy Chase Christian Church are part of the Disciples movement to bring wholeness to a fragmented world. Today we are calling for justice and action on behalf of the thousands of unaccompanied children escaping dangerous conditions in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala who are in great need of legal defense.

It is our moral obligation to help these children, who are fleeing gang and drug violence in their homeland, to receive their right to protection, due process and basic needs. They must be held humanely upon arrival within our country, and as they are released to a suitable family member or to an approved center. Each child is entitled to a fair hearing to assess their unique circumstances. Since many are brought here by smugglers or coyotes, they are victims of human trafficking--and we believe they should qualify for refugee status. We strongly pray they will continue to be offered the existing protections within the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

We understand that, in the current crisis, there are not nearly enough lawyers to hear their stories and prepare their cases as the children await required immigration hearings. We are grateful that Week of Compassion from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has already sent in a gift of \$1,500 for legal services last week—which represents an additional tithe of the full amount they have previously given this summer to support the children. We now offer a match to their tithe from our congregation within the Christian Church Capital Area. And, with our gift of \$1,500, we challenge others to join us in offering gifts of compassion in support of aid to these children seeking safety among us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Cheryl L. Tatham, Minister and  
the Congregation of North Chevy Chase Christian Church  
Phone 301.654.3631

Fax 301.654.3632

Rev. Dr. Glenn Zuber, Minister of Family Life  
Ms. Christine Schadeberg Wydro, Adult Choir Director  
Glenn Pearson, Pianist/Organist  
Dorothy Drennen, Secretary  
Joan Sidell, Custodial Supervisor  
Eric Pernell, Custodian  
Simona Escobar, Nursery Attendant