



THE VOICE OF EVA

APRIL, 2010
Newsletter
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Eastern Virginia Association*254 Spirit Circle East*Lake Prince Center*Suffolk, Virginia 23434
Telephone: (757)934-3146*Fax: (757)934-6112*email: eva.soc.ucc@charterinternet.com
Website: eva-soc-ucc.org

GREETINGS

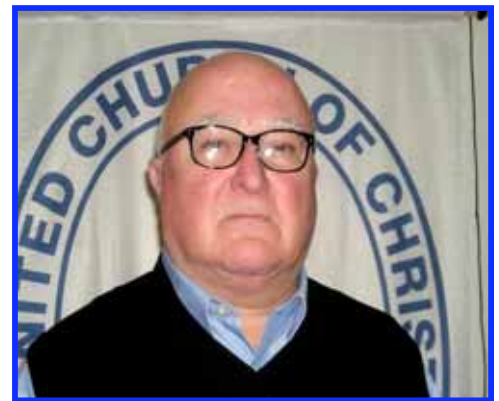
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*From Rev. Drew Morris
Associate Conference Minister for
The Eastern Virginia Association*

Thoughts about Easter

To every member of the Eastern Virginia Association, I wish a very Happy Easter to you. One that is filled with the promises of Christ's resurrection. I pray that each of us take the time to reflect on the magnificent significance of this holiday when we remember the fulfillment of God's call to



his

people for faithfulness and his gift of Jesus Christ, as our savior.

Since I was a child, I have always regarded Easter's coming in early spring time both theologically in the hope of salvation through Christ's resurrection and sense of nature's rebirth as the dark days of winter are transformed by the renewed colors of spring. This year, I especially welcome spring as this season is unusual and a bit harsher; or so I have been told by so many lifelong T

I pray that this particular Easter begins a time of resurrection and rebirth. Enthusiasm and hope, when we move away from the distractions which hold our congregations hostage, into a time of proclamation. Easter has always carried the expectation that together the people of God can do wonderful things, first through the act of proclaiming Christ's resurrection and renewing his presence in our communities. I believe, in the depth of my heart, that the church exists primarily to proclaim the Risen Christ with our words and with our actions.



Calendar dates to Remember

- April**
- EVA Board of Directors Meeting, EVA Office, Suffolk, VA 6:30 p.m. 5
 - EVA History & Polity Workshop at Lake Prince Woods, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 10
 - EVA Clergy Meeting Lake Prince Woods 10 a.m. - 12 noon 20
 - Installation Service for Rev. Marilyn Danner, Pembroke Manor UCC 3 p.m. 25
- May**
- EVA Clergy Meeting 18
- June**
- SOC Annual Gathering at Elon College, Burlington, NC 11-12

GREETINGS

From Dr. Julia Avery Muse,
EVA President



Happy Easter/Resurrection Season to each of you! Certainly this is a very special time in the spiritual life of Christians. I pray that the entire Lenten Season has been a renewing and rewarding experience for you! Let us celebrate: "The Risen Redeemer, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!"

As we recommit ourselves to the work of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28: 18-20), let us recommit to our covenant with UCC, SOC, and EVA. One of the best ways to do this is by understanding our UCC History and Polity. There will be a History and Polity workshop on April 10, 2010 at Lake Prince Woods in Suffolk, VA. The Rev. K. Ray Hill will be the presenter. Rev. Hill teaches UCC History and Polity to his Pastoral Leadership Development (PLD) students at the SOC office located at 252 W. Fifth Street in Burlington, NC. The cost is \$10 per person with lunch included. If you have questions about UCC and how polities and daily operations affect each of us from the National level to the conference level and continues to trickle down to the association and even to the local church. Of course, there's a lot more; but you will have to attend to find out! "Mark your calendars!" (See flyer on page 3)

As we continue to recommit ourselves, plan to mark your calendars and join EVA through the remainder of the year. EVA has a host of activities and events coming in 2010 that should be exciting and of interest for all members. More information will be forthcoming; but, below is a snapshot.

- A wonderful presentation and workshop designed especially for our youth.
- The Second Recognition Banquet.
- EVA Cookbook. Be sure to get a copy for your church and yourself.
- A Labor of Love. UCC churches working with community agencies to provide services for those in need.

Also, don't forget SOC will have its Annual Gathering at Elon in Burlington, NC June 1 and 2, 2010. In this time of change and reconstruction, you want to be there and have your voices heard.





PRESENTS

UCC HISTORY & POLITY

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

PRESENTER

THE REV. K. RAY HILL

Location:

Lake Prince Woods
100 Anne Good Way
Suffolk, VA 23434

Topics Covered:

History
Polity
Theology
Ministry

Cost: \$10/per person

This workshop is OPEN to all UCC members Clergy and Parishioners

Contact the EVA Office
at (757) 934-3146; (757)
934-6112 or E-mail us at

eva.soc.ucc@charterinternet.com

COMMISSION NEWS

CHURCH & MINISTRY COMMISSION

The C&M Commission is, as always, working very hard on behalf of our churches, and congregations. We are here to help.

Please contact us if you need answers, Helen Seldon, Chairman assistance, information regarding the good things that are happening in your church or anything else that we could provide or would like to know. We are here for each of you and your church.



From the EVA Cookbook Committee

Recipes Needed!

The EVA Cookbook Committee still needs Recipes for our Cookbook.

Our goal is to have the cookbook completed and ready to be sold before Mother's Day!

Committee: Helen Seldon, Chairman
 - Susie Keele
 Lillian Wells



INTRODUCING

THE REV. WOODIE REA, D. Min., BCC

We welcome the Rev. Woodie Rea, the new Director of Spiritual Life at Lake Prince Woods, 100 Anna Goode Way, Suffolk, VA 23434. “Woodie,” as he like to be called replaced the Rev. Mary Henderson, who retired in January. Woodie officially started working at Lake Prince in February, 2010.

He is coming to Lake Prince after twenty years as the Director of Care with the Riverside Rehabilitation Institute in Newport News, VA. Woodie is an ordained Disciple of Christ minister. As you know, the Disciples of Christ is a “sister” denomination of UCC. Still living in Newport News, Woodie commutes daily to Lake Prince Woods.

Lake Prince Woods has kept him quite busy especially during the Lenten and Easter/Resurrection Season. The Holy Week: Monday started out with a large gathering of about 100 residents attending. Thursday (Holy Communion) and Friday (Tenebrae) are also expected to be well attended.

When asked about his future goals with Lake Prince Woods and UCC, Woodie replied that he really wanted to get to know more UCC/EVA ministers and congregations. He was excited to have the EVA clergy meet at Lake Prince Woods as this was an excellent way to start implementing that goal. Our EVA clergy meets monthly at Lake Prince Woods.

So, if you are ever in the neighborhood of Lake Prince Woods, be sure to drop by and say, “Hello” to, Woodie. He will be glad to see you!



LEGAL WORKSHOP

On January 16, 2010, EVA clergy were enlightened with legal information presented to them by UCC Attorney, Rick Matthews. Although liability and tax information were the big issues of the day, lots of other questions and scenarios were presented. If you and your church have legal questions and are interested in obtaining legal advice, Attorney Matthews' main office is Pender & Coward, Towne Center Offices, 222 Central Park Ave., Virginia Beach, VA, 490-3000; but, have offices in Chesapeake and Suffolk. Did you know that EVA churches that have UCC insurance are protected under the larger umbrella of UCC; there are a lot of other legal benefits and protection available to EVA churches by being insured with UCC. It's always good to know *before* a legal incident occurs. Below is one abbreviated scenario that was given in the presentation. Did you know this?



Scenario: The church hires a cousin of one of the parishioners as a custodian. While painting the roof, an accident occurs, paint can drops on a lady walking by. The lady sues—everybody. *Where is the liability?* Virginia law has what is called, “A Doctrine of Immunity” for charitable organization; which states: when involved in a charitable duty, and an unintentional act occurs, the church and employee are protected. This changes when the church hires an outside organization (example: caterer) to perform work/job for the church. Of course, there are exceptions and you really need to consult or obtain legal advice before acting, saying, or signing anything.



COUNT DOWN TO THE OPENING OF UNION'S FREEDOM SCHOOL!**By Rev. Dr. Linda Clark**

Union United Church of Christ is moving closer to opening Norfolk's very first Freedom Schools Summer Program! We will begin on June 21, 2010 and end on August 6, 2010. Rev. Brenda Brown is the Executive Director of this program. She attended her first training at the Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee in February. Rev. Brenda returned excited and energized to begin this

awesome ministry to our community.

At the writing of this article our Program Director, Erica Ayala and our Site Coordinator, Marygrace Estrada are attending their training at the Haley Farm. Ms. Ayala is a graduate of Catawba College and has worked with Freedom Schools both as a Servant-Leader Intern and as a Site Coordinator. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our program. This is Ms. Estrada's first experience with Freedom Schools. She is a student in the graduate school of social work at Norfolk State University. In early June the six Servant-Leader Interns along with the Site Coordinator will attend the final training before our program begins.

We are almost there! And we are thankful to all of the individuals, groups and churches that have made donations to this worthy cause. **We still need your financial gifts!** You can make a difference in the lives of children and families. Please send your donations to:

Union United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 1811
Norfolk, Virginia 23501

Write "Freedom Schools Donation" in the memo section of your check. Every donation is greatly appreciated. We hope you will be generous!

Pray for us in this truly exhilarating journey! We know that this endeavor will ultimately glorify God and witness to what we can do when we work together for the cause of Christ! **Stay tuned!** We promise to keep you posted as we move toward our grand opening!

ORDINATION TO MINISTRY

The Rev. Patricia Crawley-Ricks

Sunday, March 14, 2010, was a very special day for the Rev. Patricia Crawley-Ricks. It not only was her mother’s birthday but the day that St. Luke UCC in Sedley, VA held its ordination worship service for her. It was also a very special day for St. Luke. Rev. Crawley-Ricks’ ordination was not only the first female to be ordained; but, it was also the first ordination in the church’s 130 year history!



The Rev. Dr. J. J. Ferguson, Pastor Emeritus presided over the service. The church was packed with well wishers including: EVA clergy, officers and members; clergy from area churches; Rev. Crawley-Ricks family and friends; officers and members of St. Luke. The Rev. Dr. Naomi P. Chambers gave an electrifying message from John: 15, entitled, “Among the Chosen.” Rev. Chambers started out by asking, “What is your level for women in the ministry?” to getting rid of the “old traditions;” and doing what God has for us to do. If that was not enough to get your attention, she then gave illustrations and short stories about being among the chosen by God. Rev. Chambers ended by asking the audience, “How many of you are in Christ and how many are just walking with Christ, there’s a difference; which she proceeded to explain to the audience.



EVA’s ACM, Rev. Drew Morris and President, Dr. Julia Avery Muse, conducted the Order of Ordination with Deacon Cullen J. Ricks, family & friends giving the Vestments and Presentations. We also discovered that Rev. Ferguson has a beautiful singing voice. Rev. Crawley-Ricks in her remarks thanked many friends and family for their support, including her husband, Deacon Ricks. She also stated that she intended to, “Follow with God’s Purpose—Lead with God’s Wisdom and Celebrate with God’s joy.” Her mission: “To lead believers to live a holistic-balanced and spirit filled life by understanding and being obedient to the Word of God.”



The Declaration



Presentation of Ordination Certificate & Bible



Vestments & Presentations

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**Building Trust Preventing Disaster Workshop (Flyer)**

**Building Trust
Preventing Disaster:
Financial Controls for *Your Church***

*(A FREE workshop for treasurers, financial secretaries,
secretaries and church leaders who are responsible for safe
and responsible handling of money in the local church setting.)*

April 24, 2010

9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

**First Reformed UCC
(104 E. Center Street)
Lexington, NC**

Presenters

Carl Kotheimer, Director, Loss Control and Claims
UCC Insurance Board

Jennifer Killingsworth, CPA & WNCA Treasurer

RSVP: email (office@wnca-soc.org) or call (704-633-3191) the WNCA with the number attending so we can prepare enough materials for everyone.

The following article is an announcement about one of our youth who has been accepted into Lancaster theological Seminary's Youth Leadership Academy! WONDERFUL!!!! It is also a call to rally behind this young man. Let's not only pray and congratulate Jake on this accomplishment; but, also help him and his family in this venture. If you can, send a donation. Rev. CoLowder's e-mail is: pastor@lccucc.hrcoxmail.com

This was the letter that his pastor, Rev. Valerie Coe Lowder, sent to her congregation. I wanted to share this with EVA because I feel that whenever our youth are interested in seminary work, it's the responsibility of all of us to see that it happens.

Thank you, Rev. Mark Burns for suggesting to Rev. Coe Lowder to share this information with EVA.

ANNOUNCEMENT (Cont'd): LET HELP OUR YOUTH:**GOOD NEWS:**

Jake Halman, from Lynnhaven Colony UCC, has been accepted into Lancaster Theological Seminary's Youth Leadership Academy!

The Academy is an opportunity for youth leaders (in grades 9-12) to go to the Seminary for a week to study with faculty, peers, and seminarians. It is a limited program, to which the youth must be recommended. It is for those who "have an interest in asking theological questions, vocational discernment, learning about global justice issues or those youth who love worship and want to engage in worship planning and practice." It is a week of "great fun, close community, theological exploration, worship and spiritual practices. It is also a time of nurture and affirmation as we help young people see the gifts and skills they have which can enrich the life of their congregation and community." Completing a Leadership Academy also makes it possible for the youth to apply in the future for a Summer Global Experience abroad with Lancaster Seminary.

I look forward to working with Jake and the Deacons to plan a celebration and commissioning for Jake before the Academy begins (June 26-July 3).

There is a cost (\$450) for him to participate, and Jake and his family have asked the church to help him to afford to go. Please work together with me and each other so that we can support him. There may be funds available that you know of, or we may want to plan for a fundraiser or a special offering. If I haven't already spoken to you specifically about this, let's talk soon!

I am also looking into helping with transportation to and from Lancaster, PA.

This is mission and ministry in which our church wants and needs to be engaged. Let's get creative and work together to make this opportunity really happen for Jake, his family, and our church! Thank you.

Your pastor,

Valerie

ANNOUNCEMENT (Cont'd): 2010 MAR Youth Event**All Eastern Virginia Association Youth - Let's get ready for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Youth Event 2010 this summer!**

Take the Journey...Follow the Holy Brick Road - July 21-25 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA. We will join with other youth from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Washington DC and Virginia. Each day will be filled with workshops, worship, and recreation opportunities. The registration is \$300 per person until May 31st. The cost after May 31 is \$325 per person. Registration information is available on the Penn Central Conference website or from Rev. Lisa Gaul at lgucchot@cox.com or (757) 826-7560 (office); (757) 825-8587.

Mark Your Calendar:

The EVA 2010 Annual Meeting will be at First UCC, Hampton, VA, October 16th. The church is located at 1017 Todd's Lane, Hampton, VA 23666. Telephone number: (757) 826-7560. Rev. Lisa Gaul, Interim.



EVA WISHES EACH OF YOU A BLESSED EASTER/RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

