



THE VOICE OF EVA

January/February
2010 Newsletter
Volume 11 Issue 11

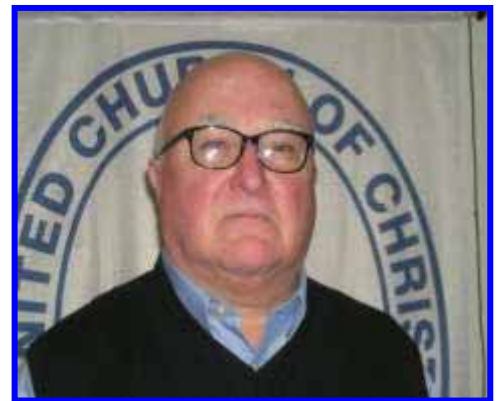
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GREETINGS

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



Now that we have survived all the excitement associated with the holiday season, we can take a look at 2010. Hopefully, with a sense of adventure and with the knowledge that whatever happens during this year has potential for good and for the fulfillment of our Christian mission. Personally, I am in my fifth year as your Associate Conference Minister and I am finding it to be a new experience as I have never been in one setting of ministry for this long. I am accustomed to assignments of two to three years, both as an Army Chaplain and as an intentional interim minister. So for me, this is a new experience, one that offers the opportunity to do something new and exciting, whatever that is, "Thus saith the Lord."

It will be interesting in December to look back over 2010 and see what stayed the same, what changes occurred and what unexpected events popped into our lives. Specifically, it will be interesting to review the year and see how God has called some of us into new directions of ministry or has opened up unforeseen opportunities that forced us to alter our plans, our expectations and perhaps even our lives. Ministry is, and always has been an adventure; so, whatever direction our lives take this year; we need to remember that God is at work giving us direction, support and presenting us with new possibilities.

God Bless
Drew



Calendar Dates to Remember:

- January**
SOC Board of Directors Meeting, Asheville, NC 30
9:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- February** 13
Deacon Workshop (Training)at Pembroke Manor UCC, Virginia Beach
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

GREETINGS

From Dr. Julia Avery Muse,
EVA President

Happy New Year and may the 2010 Church Year be one of your most “spiritually” profitable experience you have ever encountered.



The 2010 Church Year promises to be a busy but rewarding one for Eastern Virginia Association. EVA will continue with the mission, goals, and objectives from the 2009 Church Year (see page 3) EVA will Continue_to:

1. Publishing the monthly issues of, “*The Voice.*” (Newsletter). **Goal:** to get more persons receiving the newsletter.
2. Building positive relationships between EVA Association Office and the local churches and congregation through church visitations, meetings, church activities, etc.
3. Building, increasing and improving communications and technology between and among the local churches and their congregations.
4. Working with churches to increase and improve church missions and mission plans.

The January/February issue of The Voice of EVA will highlight “Church Vitality” as explained by our Southern Conference (SOC) Eastern North Carolina Association Conference Minister (ACM) , The Rev. Vertie Powers. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact her at the SOC office at (336) 222-8771. If you are interested in taking a look backward for the past ten years, C. L. “Curly” Stumb has given us a website to reflect (<http://www.soc-ucc.org/SOC-TenYears.htm>). Please take time to go to the website. Thank you, “Curly”.

A vital part of our mission plan is to provide more opportunities for training to our Association members. Please plan to attend the Deacons Workshop on Saturday, February 13, 2010. All churches should be sending Deacons to this workshop. More information about the workshop can be found on Page 4.

The EVA office needs each clergy/church to send in their 2010 list of church officers and key contact persons in your church. In EVA’s continuous effort to keep you informed and know who are your representatives on the various Boards for EVA and SOC, I have listed the names of our EVA SOC Board of Directors on Page 3. I do wish to thank The Rev. Sallye Hardy and Mr. Neil Wilson for their “Servant Leadership” given to *EVA Board of Directors as they have completed their tenure on the Board, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.*

I am excited about the 2010 Church Year; I hope you are, too. I look forward to working with you.

EVA MISSION, GOALS AND SOC REPRESENTATIVES

Don't forget, "*The Voice of EVA*" is **YOUR VOICE!** Please forward to the EVA office those wonderful accomplishments, activities, and projects you and your church are doing. The Voice needs to know! The Voice needs to speak! The Voice needs to be heard!

EVA MISSION AND GOALS

F R
2009-2010

Mission/Purpose:

To help churches understand and grow in their Christian mission.

Objectives/Goals:

1. To engage congregations in the UCC Congregational Vitality Initiative (CVI).
 - a. Train selected EVA members to become CVI coaches
 - b. Provide regional CVI training
2. To initiate an EVA Conflict Management Program.
 - a. Train select laity/clergy through the Community Mediation Center
 - b. Work through Church and Ministry Commission to engage congregational conflict
3. To increase knowledge throughout EVA of UCC History and Polity.
 - a. Export History and Polity courses to congregations regionally
 - b. Train EVA laity/clergy to provide courses to congregations.

EVA SOUTHERN CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Elna Graves (2010), Lay, 859-6168; elramgrav@hughes.net
2. John Myers (2010), Clergy, 420-4284; john 2122@netzero.net
3. Lorita Mayo (2010), Lay, 657-9431; Lorima7@aol.com
4. Helen Seldon (2011), Lay, 399-1309; helenseldon@gmail.com
5. Madelene Beard (2011), Lay; beardam@charter.net
6. Bonnie Dinges (2011), Lay 481-0061; btdinges@aol.com
7. Carlyle Church (2012), Clergy, 242-6178; hchurchjr@aol.com
8. Linda Clark (2012), Clergy, 548-3674(H); 450-1355(M); revlynn1@aol.com
9. Tom Cantrell (2012), Lay, 460-4017(O); 674-2933(M); 460-4017(H); ptc@cantrell.ws
10. Lilton Marks (2011), SOC Vice-President, Clergy, 357-9062(H); 876-2064(M);
Lilton.marks@verizon.net
11. Julia Muse, (2010), EVA President, Lay, 538-0783(H); 292-9564(M); juliamuse@charter.net
12. Drew Morris, ACM, Clergy, 934-0716(O); 262-6884(M); drewmorris@charter.net

EVA COMMISSION NEWS



*The Evangelism and Church
Life and Leadership
Commissions*



The Evangelism and Church Life and Leadership Commissions are jointly sponsoring our second Deacon's Workshop on Saturday, **February 13, 2010, at Pembroke Manor UCC.**

This workshop that focuses on the duties and responsibilities of being a Deacon will be facilitated by Reverend John T. Myers, the Senior Pastor of Corinth Chapel UCC.

Location	Pembroke Manor UCC 600 Independence Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23462 (757) 490-8290
Registration	9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Workshop Session	10:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.
Registration Fee	\$5.00 per person

Lunch will be provided for this very informative workshop.

All clergy are invited and we thank each of you in advance for promoting this workshop to your Deacons.

We are asking all Deacons to pre-register by Saturday, February 6, 2010. Please complete this pre-registration by calling Gloria Eley at (757) 934-0902 or George Garrison III at (757) 478-2729.

*EVA COMMISSION NEWS (Continued)***CHURCH & MINISTRY COMMISSION**

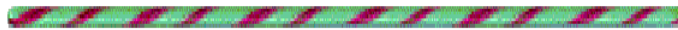
By
Helen Seldon, Chairman



The beautiful decorations, church services, and lovely holiday music - things that we see and hear during the holidays - are over - but will always live in our memories. We have begun a New Year! Members of our commission want you to know that we keep all of our EVA churches and members, in our prayers and wish for each church a blessed year with good works, good will and God's blessings.

Please know that we are here to help with any problems within your church, but we are also here to rejoice with you as your churches carry out the Lord's work with kindness, patience, love and dedication; first to our God, and then to each other.

May all of you be blessed in many ways in this new year - 2010!



HAPPY NEW YEAR
From
THE EVA COOKBOOK COMMITTEE

Now that we've all eaten our way through the holidays, perhaps we can find the time to send our cookbook committee more of your favorite recipes. We need:

Main dishes
Veggies
Desserts

Breads
Snacks
Helpful Tips for the Cook....

... all of the dishes you and your family love. The committee will be meeting this month and beginning to put together the best cookbook --- EVER --- from the best cooks ,,,, EVER..... YOU!!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP ... so please send or take your recipes to the EVA office and one of the members of the committee will pick them up.

Thank you and Happy Eating!!!

Helen Seldon, Chair
Susie Keele and Lillian Wells

INFORMATION YOU WANT TO KNOW!

CHURCH VITALITY

by Rev. Vertie Powers

The Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ is providing fertile ground for new congregations to spring up like daisies. Starting up new congregations and being a part of revitalizing congregations is allowing us to reach out to people we have never been able to reach before. It is a powerful way to advance both our growth and our UCC mission.



The Southern Conference is called to provide resources that channel the energy of the Great Commission into physical form. It is all about making the Great Commission more real in the world. We, in the Conference, are pleased to join with the whole United Church of Christ in affirming Church Development as a significant priority of our mission. We are hoping our leadership will support and encourage others to get involved in this ministry that is truly revitalizing our church.

Land of the Sky a new UCC start in the Asheville area was a dream of a couple of friends chatting about their notion of the ideal church. The conversation was about a church where diversity could be something that was truly celebrated. That conversation led them to not just talk about it, but to go ahead and do it.

Agape for All Ministries, in the Durham area believes that their new start is a place for changing people's hearts. The Pastoral Team of two dynamic African American women is committed to the belief that the church should be a place where we celebrate our diversity and also the type of change that only Christ can make within the heart. They believe today's church should be like the early church on the day of Pentecost, where everyone heard their own language and that of everyone else's too.

Living Waters in Virginia Beach says that being in a church like this has meant wonderful opportunities for creative, outside the box thinking about ministry. They have all learned tons about what it means to lead from scratch and wrestle with opportunities for ministry. They believe that growing a congregation is not for the faint of heart, but doing it truly touches your heart.

Pinehurst Congregational Church in Pinehurst believes it has come upon the opportunity of a lifetime. Taking their lead from their visionary pastor they began to see possibilities and opportunities for ministry in places they had not dreamed of before. They were open and flexible to embracing new ways of being a congregation. They are committed to welcoming diversity and partnering with other faith communities within the Association and Conference.

Union in Norfolk is very clear about what God is calling them to be and do. They know that it is just a matter of sticking with the plan and trusting God's call. Their Freedom School Summer Camp is the first part of their vision which will culminate in

Church Vitality (Continued)

their Education Center. They are developing some wonderful opportunities to pioneer and reach out to so many in their neighborhood.

These are but a few of the ongoing projects that are being supported through the process with encouragement and ongoing assistance. There are no blueprints for what we are doing here, trying to be Christians and members of the United Church of Christ. We are learning together, as we go along, what it means to do that. You can help. Listed below are six things that you can do right now to help.

1. Look around your community. What are the needs you see? What is the potential?
2. Talk about it. Is there real interest in your congregation?
3. Gather information. Get in touch with your Association office or Conference.
4. Pray about it. Discern God's will for your ministry.
5. Partner with a church that is already at work during church development.
6. Give through your Association/Conference offices for church development.

Are you ready to get started? Ask yourself these questions:

1. Is my congregation healthy and stable spiritually, organizationally, and financially?
2. Is evangelism and outreach already a key priority of your mission?
3. Do you have a visionary pastor who is excited about reaching new persons for Christ?
4. Do other key leaders have a passion for evangelism?
5. Are you in an area where many new businesses and neighborhoods are springing up?
6. Can you identify an area that is not served by a UCC presence?
7. Do you have the energy, time and genuine interest in your congregation to begin and stick with the process over the long haul?

If your congregation is ready or interested in participating in the Southern Conference Church Development Plan you may reach your Associate Conference Minister, any of your Southern Conference Board members, or Reverend Vertie Powers. Check your Southern Conference Directory for contact information.

Blessings upon you, your families, and all the people of God.



SUPPER MEETING

Supper meeting with speaker Peter Panagore on Sunday, March 7.

by Dick Dinges



The Rev. Peter Panagore of Maine is an ordained UCC minister and a near-death experiencer. In Maine he serves as Fifth Minister on First Radio Parish, Church of America that reaches a million people every week.

He will be speaking in Virginia Beach over the weekend of March 6 and 7, and will be available to speak to a UCC gathering in the late afternoon of Sunday, March 7.

Briefly, Peter Panagore died of hypothermia while ice-climbing in 1980. He separated from his physical body and entered a timeless and beautiful Void where he talked with God telepathically. Peter became agonizingly aware of his sins, but God said, "I love you. I made you this way. You're my creature; you're forgiven."

God added, "In the same way that I love you now I have always loved you, only you couldn't feel it. In the same way I love you now I love your family. I love your sister and your mother and your father, and all will be well. All is well. All has been well. You just don't know it while you are on earth."

The experience changed Peter's life. Now he says, "I think people go to church because they are afraid of death. They want to be assured that there is something bigger than death. I'm here to tell you that there is. And that something bigger is talked about in the Bible, but it's bigger than all of that. It's the indescribable, inexpressible God who loves all of us always even though we don't feel it, even though it doesn't seem like it.

"That's what I bring back with me, and that's what I'm here to tell you. God is real. Death is not the end. We have a home that is other than here. We are from God and we return to God again."

Contact Dick Dinges at (757) 481-0061 and RichardADinges@aol.com if you would like to help plan a dinner meeting and hear Peter Panagore in person.

THE DE-INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR THE REV. MARY HENDERSON



The Rev. Mary Henderson has officially retired as Director of Spiritual Life at Lake Prince Woods in Suffolk, Virginia. The Farewell Service was Sunday, January 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lake Prince Woods Chapel. This was a very emotional service as Mary has worked as the Chaplain for the



facility since 2003. In that time, Mary has made a positive impression on the residents as well as a lasting impact within the facility. As Mrs. Celia Soper, Director, of Lake Prince stated, "Mary has taken Lake Prince from a "start-up" community to a loving and caring community."



The Rev. Mark Burns, of Oakland UCC, and Mary brought the message entitled, "Giving, Giving Back and Going On." They did an excellent job. Rev. Burns spoke about the three gifts/talents he had given Mary when she first started working as he compared them to the biblical personalities of Miriam, Moses' sister (Tambourine); Lydia (purple cloth/business woman/entrepreneur and Mary

Magdalene (oil/ointment). Rev. Mary Henderson returned the three gifts/talents and explained how she had "used" each in her covenant with Lake Prince.

Other EVA members on the program were: Rev. Drew Morris, ACM; Rev. John Myers and Rev. Michael Halley. The room was packed with Lake Prince residents, family and friends. EVA was well represented by clergy, dressed in their ceremonial regalia and lay persons who came to witness the Certificate of Release presented to the Rev. Mary Henderson. Rev. Henderson also thanked her husband, Ron, for his continuous support through the years.



Announcements

Installation Service:

Everyone is invited to Bayview UCC at 1051 Bayview Blvd. Norfolk, VA for the [Installation Service of Rev. Daniel Wickert on Feb. 21, 2010 at 3:00 PM.](#)
Reception to follow.

