



THE VOICE OF EVA

March
2010 Newsletter
Volume 12 Issue 12

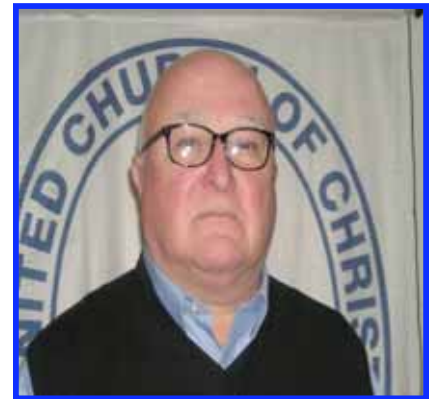
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GREETINGS

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



THE SEASON OF LENT

Each year about this time, I like to share with you a brief history of Lent. Although most of us are familiar with the Lenten Season, it is always good to review this most important season in the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent—a season of self-examination, prayer, fasting and works of love. In many churches, ashes are placed on the forehead as a reminder of mortality. The word, Lent, is from the Middle English verb meaning, “to lengthen.” In the Northern Hemisphere, the season corresponds with the lengthen of days during winter and early spring.

During Lent, Christians prepare themselves spirituality for the celebration of Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday. The season spans 40 days: the number 40 symbolizes the spiritual journey home, corresponding to the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert in preparation for ministry and the 40 years Israel journeyed through the wilderness towards the Promised Land. The traditional color of lent is purple. During Holy Week, red is sometimes worn to symbolize the bloodshed by Jesus for the salvation of humanity. In some traditions, following Maundy Thursday’s service, the sanctuary are stripped of color and ornament as a gesture which may suggest keeping vigil with Christ on the cross and in the Tomb.”

(ucc.org/lent/2-26-09)

Have a blessed Lenten Season.

Calendar Dates to Remember:

March

- EVA Clergy Meeting
Lake Prince Woods 16
- SOC Executive Board Meeting 17-18
- SOC Board of Directors Meeting 22
- 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

April

- EVA Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
EVA Office, Suffolk, VA 5
- Church & Ministry**
Commission Meeting
9:00 a.m., EVA Office 13



GREETINGS

From Dr. Julia Avery Muse,
EVA President

I pray that you are finding the 2010 Church Year spiritually gratifying. I pray, also that as we enter the Lenten Season, you will find it revitalizing and rewarding. The Lenten Season gives all of us a time to reflect on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, his suffering, sacrifice, life, death, burial and resurrection.



As we spiritually "join" Jesus in the Lenten Season with fasting and penitence, let us also join together in "mission" to assist our EVA members in building awareness, growth and understanding of the UCC church life together. It is important that EVA members recognize how the individual church plays such a vital part in the daily operations of UCC on all levels: national, regional (conference), and local. The EVA workshops can assist us in learning more and growing in knowledge and understanding about EVA, SOC, and UCC.

The Deacon workshop presented on Saturday, February 28, 2010 was an excellent time for all Deacons to recapture the focus of their original "mission" to church and pastor in the service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Even if you were not a Deacon in your church, attending the workshop gave you a clearer understanding and appreciation of the work our Deacons perform so selflessly in our local church. We thank The Rev. John Myers for providing us the tools needed for continuing the "good work" as Deacons.

On April 10, 2010, EVA Board of Directors will offer another workshop opportunity. This time the focal point will be, [UCC History and Polity](#). The Rev. K. Ray Hill will be the presenter. The workshop will be presented at Lake Prince Woods, 100 Anne Goode Way, Suffolk, VA 23434-9236. The information given will cover four areas: History, Theology, Polity, and Ministry. The purpose of the workshop is to raise the level of awareness and understanding of the History of UCC. [This includes parishioners as well as clergy](#). You do not want to miss this most inspiring and inspirational presentation. The workshop is open to all UCC members.

Our next workshop will spotlight our youth. The workshop will zoom in on those areas of interest for youth. Youth Advisors, you do not want your young people to miss this workshop! Look for more information about this upcoming event in our next editions of, "[The Voice of EVA](#)."

Jesus taught us how to be Servant-Leaders. He was the perfect example. He kept his disciples informed and aware of their "purpose" at all times. His disciples were "willing participants." EVA prays that each of you will be a "willing participants" in our efforts to "share information" with you. Attending the workshops can create a more knowledgeable, a more confident, and a more spiritually informed Servant-Leader.



WHAT SHOULD I GIVE UP FOR LENT?

Chocolate? - Ice Cream? - Soda?

Many of us try to be more disciplined for Lent and give up something that we really like. That's great! Fasting has always been an important tradition of Lent. This year however, let us also consider other things that we can give up. This is good advice for the young and seasoned Christian.

Give up complaining - Focus on gratitude Philippians 2:14 &15 - Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.

Give up bitterness - Turn to forgiveness Ephesians 4:31 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Give up worry - Trust in God

Matthew 6:25 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life. who by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Give up discouragement - Be full of hope

Deuteronomy 31:8 - The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you: he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint..

Give up hatred - Return good for evil

1 John 2:9 - Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

Luke 6:27 - "But I tell you who hear me; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

Give up anger - Be more patient

Matthew 5:22 - But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.

Proverbs 15:18 - A hot tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

Give up gossiping - Control your tongue

Psalms 34:13 - Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

Proverbs 21:23 - He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

EVA COMMISSION NEWS



Helen Seldon, Chairman

FROM THE CHURCH & MINISTRY COMMISSION

WE NEED YOU!!

1. To Let Us Know if You Need Us!
2. To Tell Us What Wonderful Things Are Happening In Your Church!
3. To Communicate With Your EVA Sister Churches!
4. To Work Together with Those Churches and with this Commission to Help Your Youth, Your Elderly, Your Neighbors in need and to Help EVA become a Cohesive Group of Workers for Christ!
5. Give Us Your Ideas to Help Us Come Together, Work Together, Pray Together and Make Our Association the Best it Can Be. Together We can Work Wonders as We Show Others the Love, Joy and Compassion of God Through Our deeds.

Let this be our plan, our mission, our goal and the evidence of our obedience to our God and our love for our Savior.



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
Lilliam Wells



EVA COMMISSION NEWS (Continued)



The Evangelism and Church Life and



By Gloria Eley and George Garrison

Reverend John Myers to the Rescue

At the request of several interested persons, Church life and Leadership and Evangelism Commissions held a second Deacons' Workshop on Saturday, February 13, 2010, at Pembroke Manor United Church of Christ, Virginia Beach, Virginia, Reverend Marilyn Danner, pastor. As before, Reverend Myers, pastor of Corinth United Church of Christ, Suffolk, Virginia, came with "blueprints and tools" to help the deacons improve in serving the members of their congregations and communities. He informed some and reminded others as to their importance in carrying out their responsibilities.



In Reverend Myers' presentation, he used the biblical basis and a history of deacons as his blueprints, and duties and responsibilities as his tools. If you were not there, you missed a very informative workshop. Mr. Samuel Armstead must be mentioned for the outstanding job that he did in assisting his pastor, Reverend Myers, during the presentation. Mr. Armstead is the chairperson of deacons' ministry at Corinth Chapel.

There were thirty-four participants. The ten churches they represented were Chapel Grove, Fellowship, Galatians, Lynnhaven Colony, New Macedonia, Pembroke Manor, Providence, Suffolk Christian, Trinity, and Union (Norfolk).



EVA CHURCH MINISTRIES IN ACTION

Fellowship United Church of Christ joins Angel Food Ministries to feed its local community.

“What good is it, my brothers (or sisters), if a person claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food, if one of you says to him/her, go I wish you well, keep-warm and well-fed, but does nothing about his/her physical needs, what good is it? In the same way faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2: 14-17 (revised) NIV

In its effort to have an action faith, Fellowship UCC, in November, started an outreach ministry by becoming a host Church for the Angel Food Ministries. As a host Church, Fellowship UCC is providing to the Chesapeake and Portsmouth communities, in which Fellowship UCC is located, healthy and affordable food. Since November, Fellowship UCC has provided food to over fifty (50) households. Each month we have experienced an increase in persons ordering from Angel Food.



Orders maybe placed online at www.angelfoodministries.com or at the church the first week of the month on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Below are pictures of items in the standard order and Fellowship's young adults preparing the orders to distribute to people coming in to pick up their orders.

The following is information taken directly from the Angel Food Website:

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States. The program began in 1994 with 34 families in Monroe, Georgia (between Atlanta and Athens), and has grown to serve hundreds of thousands of families every month across 44 states. Blessings by the box

Angel Food is available in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$30 per unit. Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of approximately \$60. Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES CONTINUED

almost a month. The food is all the same high quality one could purchase at a grocery store. There are no second-hand items, no damaged or out-dated goods, no dented cans without labels, no day-old breads and no produce that is almost too ripe.

Additionally, there is no limit to the number of units or bonus foods an individual can receive, and there are no applications to complete or qualifications to which participants must adhere. There are no qualifications, minimums, income restrictions, or applications. Angel Food Ministries also participates in the U.S. Food Stamp program, using the Off-Line Food Stamp Voucher system. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Some churches even encourage participants to apply the money they saved to help someone else in need.

Sample Menu: (actual content of orders change monthly to provide a variety of meals)

- 4 lb. IQF Leg Quarters
- 4 oz. Beef Back Ribs
- 1 lb. 80/20 Lean Ground Beef
- 2 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenders
- 1.5 lb. Bone in Pork Chops (4 x 6oz.)
- 1 lb. Ground Turkey
- 18 oz. Stuffed Manicotti (Cheese)
- 12 oz. Smoked Sausage
- Betty Crocker Seasoned Potatoes
- 7 oz. Cheeseburger Dinner
- 16 oz. Green Beans
- 16 oz. Baby Carrots
- 2 lb. Onions
- 1 lb. Pinto Beans
- 1 lb. Rice
- 7 oz. Blueberry Muffin Mix
- 10 ct. Homestyle Waffles
- Dessert Item

Fellowship UCC's outreach, through Angel Food Ministries, helps those families in our community, who are struggling to make ends meet. We at Fellowship UCC believe that God will provide and that the way others can receive God's gift is through our sharing and assisting in people receiving God's resources. Therefore, we will 'Give God our Best' by reaching out to the community in which we live and worship.



WILLIAMSBURG SINGERS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY AT CORINTH

By: Terry Miller
(757-537-8194 (cell) or 757-657-9129 (fax))

To a capacity audience at Corinth Chapel United Church of Christ in Suffolk on Sunday, February 21, 2010, the "Sensational Gospel Tones" of Williamsburg, Virginia, electrified listeners with a two-hour concert in honor of Black History Month.

From the first string of the bass guitar to the mellow lyric of David Scott, the Sensational Gospel Tones led the appreciative audience through its first-set opening of *I Ain't Got Tired Yet* to a medley of *Glad I've Got Jesus Down in my Heart* and *Fix It, Jesus, Fix It*.



Sensational Gospel Tones members are primary vocalists David Scott, Tyronne Green and Woody Green; electric guitarists Ivery "Butch" Wilkins and Jimmy Armstead; bass guitarist and master harmonica player Ralph Payne; keyboardist Renee Payne; and drummers Arthur Brooks and Raymond Billups

The group opened the second half of their program with *My God*, an elegant interpretation to the tune of The Temptations' first number one hit, *My Girl*. By the time they began their last song, *Payday is Coming*, the group had carried their audience from the knees of our collective grandmothers to the imaginary banks of the Jordan River. Audience members were also invited to sing. Master of Ceremonies, Lester Cross, led the group in *I Want to be at the Meeting*, while Suffolk's Raynor Hunter, along with Donnie Adkins and local keyboardist extraordinaire William Lawrence, roused the crowd and closed the event with their rendition of, *Jesus, I'll Never Forget*.

At intermission, the audience was entertained by Corinth Chapel youth and adult members who impersonated famous African American singers. There were Lauryn Hill (played by Jasmine Copeland), legendary blues singer Bessie Smith (played by Brittany Artis), the queen of gospel Mahalia Jackson (played by Cheryl Armstead), and musical pioneer Ray Charles (played by LaTroy Faulk). Silky soul singers Luther Vandross (Preston F. Faulk), Sam Cooke (Albert Goodman), and a Marvin Gaye made their special appearances. Machel Yvette Copeland donned her fur jacket and belted out, "Stop! In the Name of Love" by Dianna Ross and the Supremes, and finished the presentation by having her protégé, Michael Jackson (played by her nephew Jaden Gary) strut and spin down the aisle in a fedora and waving his silver glove.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION AT CORINTH CHAPEL UCC(Continued)

A reception in the church's fellowship hall followed the program. Corinth Chapel United Church of Christ is located at 7945 Corinth Chapel Road in Suffolk. Its pastor is Reverend John T. Myers.

The Sensational Gospel Tones was organized more than 50 years ago, and its legacy continues with the rich voices, varied talents and spiritual camaraderie of its current members. Organizations interested in booking the Sensational Gospel Tones should contact Jimmy Armstead at 757-565-2895 or Ralph Payne at 804-694-0084.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! TO THE REV. DANIEL WICKERT

The Rev. Daniel Wickert was installed at Bayview Christian UCC on Sunday, February 21, 2010. Rev. Wickert had been serving as Interim at Bayview until they called him as their Pastor. Before a very highly spirited-congregation, EVA Church and Ministry Commission installed Rev. Wickert. Rev. Wickert become Bayview's 16th pastor since its inception in 1920. The Rev. Carlyle Church, Pastor of Chapel Grove UCC, Windsor, VA gave an inspiring message entitled, "Resolute Faithfulness;" where he asked the church, the question: "Does the Pastor or the People Lead the Church? Pictorial highlights are give below.



EVA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ordination:



St. Luke United Church of Christ
14166 St. Lukes Road
Sedley, VA 23878

Rev. Dr. J. J. Ferguson, Pastor Emeritus

*“But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by His grace,
 was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him...”*

Galatians 1:15-16

ORDINATION TO MINISTRY

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. J. J. Ferguson, The members of St. Luke United Church of Christ,

And the Eastern Virginia Association-UCC,

Invite you to the Sacred Service as the Ordained,

Patricia D. Crawley-Ricks, is ordained in Christian Ministry as God’s servant.

Sunday, the fourteenth of March

Two thousand and ten

At Three P.M.

St. Luke United Church of Christ

14166 St. Lukes Road
Sedley, VA 23878

Rev. Dr. J. J. Ferguson, Pastor Emeritus & St. Luke UCC Family

EVA ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**History and Polity WORKSHOP:****MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

The EVA Board of Directors will be sponsoring a History & Polity Workshop, Saturday, April 10, 2010 at Lake Prince Woods, 100 Anne Goode Way, Suffolk, VA from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Rev. K. Ray Hill will be the presenter. Registration is \$10 per person. You can Pre-register at the EVA Office: (757) 934-3146; (757) 934-6112; E-mail: eva.soc.ucc@charterinternet.com; or you can register day of the workshop.

This is a “must attend” workshop!

VOICES AND VOCATION (WORKSHOP)

I hope you have marked your calendars for a special opportunity on Saturday, March 20, 10-4 pm. Rev. Stephen Lewis, National Director of the Fund for Theological Education's Calling Congregations Initiative, will lead a workshop on developing practices to help congregations identify and nurture gifts and vocations (callings) of parishioners, young and old. Rev. Lewis is noted for being inspirational and practical in his presentations, and we as a Conference hope that this workshop will help breathe new life into many congregations and the Southern Conference as members come to understand their gifts and talents in new ways.

The workshop will be held at Trinity Reformed UCC, 217 Second Avenue NE, Conover, NC 28613. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$25 for the first person from a church, and \$15 for additional members.

Please let me know that you will be there by replying to this email or calling Rev. Margot Pickett at 919-493-2722.

EVA ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**Conference at Franklinton Center, Bricks, NC**

There is still time to register for this Powerful Conference!



A Conference about Black Congregational, Afro Christian and
other African American UCC Churches

Exploring and acknowledging our history and charting our future!

**For: Any clergy or lay member or friend of the
UCC**

March 8-10, 2010

This Conference is particularly timely and will definitely be educational,
inspirational and
full of fellowship !

Fees and Costs

Costs have been kept low because of a Neighbors In Need grant from Justice and Witness Ministries. We are now able to process credit cards. To pay via credit card, call the Center at 252-437-1723 or at 800-345-1850. (Checks should be made payable to Franklinton Center at Bricks)

Non-refundable Deposit...\$25 (Required to register and to hold a room.)

Day Only..... \$30/day
(Includes registration, materials and meals)

Hospitality House I.....\$100 Single* \$50 Double*
Dormitory Type Accommodations (Common bathrooms, similar to a college dormitory, from 1-4 beds per room.)

Hospitality House II.....\$300 Single* \$160 Double*
Motel Type Accommodations (Two double beds per room, each with its own full bath.
(*includes deposit, registration, room, meals and materials)

For Reservations, contact us at 252-437-1723 OR 800-345-1850

Franklinton Center at Bricks, PO Box 220, Whitakers, NC 27891, 281 Bricks Lane
Whitakers, NC 27891; E mail: FranklintonCenter@ucc.org;
www.franklintoncenteratbricks.com

EVA ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**MOTHERS' RETREAT**

Mothers' Retreat at Johns River Valley Camp boasts a time with "No cooking, chores, kids; a time for renewal, relaxation and recreation; a time for personal meditation, study and worship; a time for fellowship, food and fun. Retreat is scheduled for April 16-18. Register by April 1. Details can be found on the SOC and JRVC websites

There's some interest in a group going from LCCC-UCC and/or with other women from EVA churches. If you know of anyone interested in going (group or individual); Let us plan to coordinate and make arrangements for the women in our churches to go together?

Please contact The Rev. Valerie Coe-Lowder at (757) 481-7674 (office); (757) 496-0264 (Fax); E-mail: Pastor@cccucc.hrcoxmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Syracuse University has 10 Full Rides for African American Men and Women Interested in Studying Architecture.

Contact: Mark Robbins, Dean, School of Architecture (315) 443-2256
(315) 443-2256 (315) 443-2256 (315) 443-2256 (315) 443-2256 (315) 443-2256
(315) 443-2256 (315) 443-2256

<http://soa.syr.edu/index.php> (<http://soa.syr.edu/index.php>)
<http://soa.syr.edu/index.php> (<http://soa.syr.edu/index.php>)>

The College of Engineering at Virginia Tech is embarking on a long term plan to increase the numbers of African American, Hispanic, American Indian and women students admitted to and enrolling in our undergraduate engineering and computer science degree programs.

We are seeking sophomore students with an interest in engineering or computer science to travel to Virginia Tech on Saturday April 24th to attend a tailgate party and the Virginia Tech Spring Football Game. We are providing travel arrangements from three locations; the Northern Virginia Region, the Tidewater area, and the Richmond area. It

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (Continued)

will be an exciting day, filled with campus tours, activities and the opportunity to meet and mingle with College of Engineering students, faculty and staff. Not to forget


excellent accommodations for attending the spring football game - the South End Zone box seats!

Please note that the application may be downloaded from the Spring Fling web page: http://www.eng.vt.edu/academics/spring_fling.php


If you have any questions, please contact me at ceed@vt.edu. Thank you for your assistance.

Dr. B.A. Watford, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

Director, Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity College of Engineering
Virginia Tech, (540) 231-3244



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!



**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU IN ALL
YOUR ENDEAVORS**