

# The Seneca Valley Voice

**The United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley**  
13421 Clopper Road ♦ Germantown, Maryland 20874  
Phone: 301-540-3449 ♦ Website: [www.uccsv.org](http://www.uccsv.org) ♦ Email: [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net)  
[uccsvuccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsvuccsv@verizon.net)

## *Carolyn's Column*

One of the hopes we've been holding out for Kate and Aaron's wedding was the slim possibility that my mother would be able to attend just the service itself. Sadly, it is clear that will not be possible. And so goes the roller coaster of ups and downs familiar to all who are part of the "Sandwich Generation," familiar to all who have had loved ones diminished by such personality-robbing diseases as dementia.

As recently as the week before Holy Week, we'd been able to walk around the retirement complex with Mother in her wheel chair. She ate lunch with us at the dining room table, and was able to comment about the plants needing water.

By Maundy Thursday, Dad and I were meeting with the doctor and residential nursing staff to discuss end-of-life care. Mother was refusing to eat or take in liquids; she was bedridden and barely responsive. We wondered if she would make it to Easter.

Yet a week later, she was ingesting small amounts of yogurt and measureable quantities of juice and water. She was sitting up with help from a massive number of pillows, and once again could interact on a limited basis.

The physical unpredictability is a given with this late stage of dementia, and it means that there can be major changes with each visit...even when the visits are less than an hour apart. At one point, she can be reasonably responsive, and the

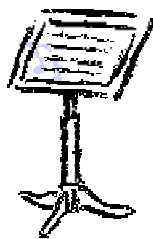
next visit elicits only a vague stare. But the plus side is that there are still relatively good days, when Mother can respond with a warm smile and a kiss hello and goodbye. Recently, the goodbyes bring a frown and a scowl—but the kiss is still forthcoming...at least thus far.

As hard as it is to see the deterioration, I am grateful that she is close enough to visit regularly, that she has good care, and that Dad not only is able to be with her, but also to be with us on a regular basis. It has been a gift to be close enough to share a meal together, to help with incidental tasks, to celebrate birthdays. And it has been a gift to be a part of this stage of Mother's life, to know that she is not alone, to know that she is surrounded by those who love her and care for her.

Billy Graham says we do not know what the future holds, but in all but the niggling details, we have a pretty good idea when it comes to my Mother. Graham is fully on target, though with the second half of his quip: we do know who holds the future, as well as each one of us.

I also know that journeys such as the one our family is on with my mother is one many, many others have taken or are taking. For myself, I cannot imagine how much more difficult that journey would be without the support and care of family, friends, and the faith community. For the care each of you extend to me and to others in similar situations, thank you and bless you.

*Carolyn*



Below is Diane's Annual Report. My apologies for inadvertently leaving it out. ~Marilyn

The congregation of UCCSV greeted me warmly and graciously when I became Director of Music Ministry on March 1. With only a few weeks until Easter, the Chancel Choir willingly extended their rehearsal time and learned a folderful of new anthems. Given the group's dedication, spirit and energy, rehearsals are lively and productive. And while not everyone reads music, there is an eagerness to learn fundamentals or to improve one's skills.

During UCCSV's interim between music directors, Beth and Laura dedicated, capable and continued leadership not only provided music for worship but also played a critical role in easing the congregation's transition to a new music director. Planning and leading rehearsals, they kept the Chancel Choir intact. They worked with soloists and spent hours tidying the music library for the new director's arrival. (The entire library needs to be re-organized, however. If you would enjoy working in the library, please let me know. Laura has agreed to lend her expertise in designing a more efficient system.)

Membership in the all-volunteer Chancel Choir is open to adults and students of high school age. The choir sings September through May and rehearses Thursday 7:30-9:15, and Sunday morning at 9:00.

If you have questions or would like to discuss UCCSV's program of music ministry, please call me in the church office at 301-540-3449.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane, Director of Music Ministry

## Social Action

### Shaw Community Ministry Scholarship Program

Once again spring brings a sense of joy and anticipation to Shaw Community Ministry (SCM) as our scholarship program begins accepting applications from talented high school students hoping to be able to attend college.

Nothing is more important for the future of these young people than the combination of the free college counseling that SCM offers and the possibility of a scholarship. Together these programs offer young people a bright future and an alternative to the cycle of low paying jobs and hopelessness that might otherwise await them.

What a gift it is to help a young person realize a dream. Please consider giving generously to the SCM scholarship and college counseling programs this year. The board gives as many \$1000 scholarships as possible in June to a carefully screened group of high school seniors.

If you are able to support this program this year, please send your check made out to Shaw Community Ministry with "scholarships" in the Memo line, to Julie Holm, Treasurer, Shaw Community Ministry, 1726 7<sup>th</sup> St NW, Washington, DC 20001. The deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you from the Board of Directors of SCM, and from the young people we serve.

### Ash Wednesday Collection

Trinity United Methodist reports that the collection taken on Ash Wednesday netted \$599.00 for Germantown Help. Thank you to members of UCCSV who contributed to this collection.

**Christian Education**

Mind, Body, Spirit will meet on Monday, May 17, 7:30pm,. If you have any questions please call the church office at 301-540-3449.

**Fellowship**

**UCCSV's PULP PILGRIMS BOOK GROUP**

We have a great time together sharing our thoughts and ideas which spark spirited discussions and ***we welcome everyone to join us and bring book ideas to read.***

Our next book is **From Beirut to Jerusalem: Revised Edition** by Thomas L. Friedman. Make sure to get the **Revised Edition, September 1991.** This book makes a difference in interpreting the Middle East because it is so well written and captures the psychological mannerisms of the people of Lebanon and Israel. A condensed, inclusive history of the Middle East is proffered, as well as personal reflections on his 10 year sojourn there as a New York Times correspondent. This book is a provocative, absorbing memoir cum political and social analysis and is a must read for everyone in today's world. (This preview of the book was paraphrased from the following Editorial Reviews: Publishers Weekly, Library Journal.)

A date to meet has not yet been set; please watch Sunday bulletins & the bulletin board outside the office for the meeting date for this book. Our meetings take place in the Narthex, @ 11:30am after Worship.

Questions? Call the church office at 301-540-3449..



**Choral Concert to Support Bethesda Cares  
May 22, 7:00 PM  
Westmoreland Congregational UCC**

Enjoy an engaging evening of mid-twentieth century choral music at [Westmoreland Congregational UCC](#) featuring eighty singers from Westmoreland Congregational UCC, Christ Congregational Church, and the Silver Spring Cooperative Parish. The concert will feature sacred music by composers including Benjamin Britten and Leonard Bernstein. The choirs will be accompanied by timpani, harp, percussion, piano, and organ.

A reception and art show will follow immediately after the program. Admission to the concert is Free, but a donation will be collected to support the work of Bethesda Cares.

**June Birthdays**

- June 1 Colby Laura
- June 2 John E., Meghan
- June 6 Wayne Richards
- June 8 John T.
- June 13 Sally, Ronna
- June 20 Pam V.
- June 26 Alex, Hannah
- June 28 Bill
- June 29 Jasna s

If you have missed your birthday please let us know!

**Special thanks to:**

Ann, Cathy, and Floyd for helping to put the Annual Report together. You folks are the best!

## General Minister President Geoffrey Black

New United Church of Christ General Minister and President Geoffrey Black (center) is congratulated at his installation Saturday, April 17, 2010, by Conference Minister John Deckenback (left) and the Rev. Arthur Keys, President of Arlington, Va.-based International Relief and Development. Keys is a former national UCC staff person and a member of the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley in Germantown, MD. The installation took place at the Federated United Church of Christ in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Black assumed his responsibilities in October 2009 after ten years as Conference Minister of the New York Conference.

Use this link to see a video of Geoffrey Black's installation as President and General Minister of the UCC held this past weekend in Cleveland.

<http://www.ucc.org/news/installation-weekend-packed.html>



## Worship Overview – May

### **Sunday, May 2**

Theme: Imagine

Acts 11.1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21.1-6

John 13.31-35

### **Sunday, May 9**

Theme: Disciples Together

Acts 16.9-15

Revelation 21.10,22-22:5

John 14.23-29 or

John 5.1-9

### **Sunday, May 16**

Theme: Breaking Chains

Acts 16.16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17.20-26

### **Sunday, May 23**

Theme: Gathered and Scattered

Acts 2.1-21

Genesis 11.1-9

Psalm 104.24-34, 35b

Romans 8.14-17 or

Acts 2.1-21

John 14.8-17 (25-27)

### **Sunday, May 30**

Theme: Wisdom Calls

Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Roman 5.1-5

John 16.12-15