November 2010

The Seneca Valley Voice

Giving from the Heart ♡

Consecration Sunday Is Coming November 14

Biblical stewardship does not view the money Christians give to their church primarily as a way to pay its bills. Rather, biblical stewardship understands the direct connection between personal spiritual growth in one's relationship to God through the financial support of the church's mission and ministry. Our theme, *Giving from the Hear*, is grounded in Jesus' observation that where our treasure is, there our heart is also. Jesus does *not* say that our treasure follows our hearts, but that our treasure reflects our heart. As Christians, our hearts are centered on God, who blesses us with all of life's gifts.

UCCSV's Stewardship Team endorses these biblical and spiritual principles, which serve as the foundation of our stewardship emphasis this year. We recognize that the need of the giver to give is *essential* for his or her own spiritual development–far more fundamental than the need of the church to receive.

Instead of approaching people like members of a social club who pay dues, we are coming to you as followers of Jesus the Christ, who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. The article in the most recent *Spirit News* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my/our financial resources is God calling me to give?" It is a question we are asking every friend and member of UCCSV to consider prayerfully.

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, quiet time will be give for worshipers to make their financial commitment to our church's mission of hospitality, worship, education, and service in this community and around the world.

Every member and friend who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The service is created in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will offer a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

Church Council leaders are already on board for Consecration Sunday, as are the members of our Stewardship Team. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Christie Holland
Moderator

Thanksgiving Eve with Guests

This Thanksgiving Eve, we have the unique opportunity to welcome members of a variety of faith communities as together, we remember and give thanks for God's generous and grace-filled blessings.

Members of Iglesia Adventista del Septimo Dia de Germantown, known to many of us from our recent Grubby Sundays will be with us. In addition, we will welcome members of the Church of the Open Door, with whom we annually share Ash Wednesday, as well as members of the Islamic Center of Maryland, with whom we have shared Ramadan meals.

What better way to begin a time of Thanksgiving than to share worship with those who bring their own unique gifts and experiences to the table. I encourage you to be present if at all possible, and help UCCSV extend the extravagant hospitality to which we are called.

The service is Wednesday, 24 November, at 7:00pm. Warm cider and treats will be served after worship.

Blessings,
Carolyn

A Thank You from Shaw Community Ministry

Unfortunately, this note got stuck behind unrelated papers in a file, and only surfaced recently. It comes from Anne Troy, Executive Director of Shaw Community Ministry, and is dated August 30, 2010.

Dear Carolyn:

On behalf of the Shaw Community Ministry Board, staff and volunteers, I want to thank you for your generous contributions of school supplies, valued at $650, and the $20 donation received on August 21,2010. You and your church have done it again! We're so grateful that you are willing to support Shaw community Ministry! Please thank the UCCSV members and friends for donating 27 back packs and other school supplies such as crayons, pencil cases, portfolios and notebooks. In the event someone in your congregation would like a written acknowledgment of their donation for tax purposes, email me, annetroy@cox.net, their name and address and what they value their donation for.

With your help Shaw Community Ministry is serving more than 30 children each weekday in our after-school program, more than 20 adults in our nutrition, digital literacy and job readiness programs, and 8 teenagers in our college counseling program. Together we are creating positive change in the Shaw community! Your gift is deductible for income tax purposes, to the extent provided by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for the contributions.

Your support shows that God is ***still*** speaking through the many and varied voices of the people whom we count as our friends. Thank you for your continued confidence in us. Come by and visit us and see what we are doing at SCM located at 1726 7th Street NW, Washington DC 20001.

Thank you all and God Bless!

Peace and grace,
Anne Troy

From the Director of Music Ministry

Chancel Choir invites singers who can't participate year-round to **SING WITH US FOR CHRISTMAS**. We'll be rehearsing Christmas Eve music from 8:30 to 9:00 beginning Thursday, Dec. 2. (Of course, we would love for you to come at 7:30 and join us for the season!)

Notes from Fellowship

Fellowship wants to extend a reminder to our members and friends that there are a couple of opportunities for fun and community during the month of November. Look on the "FELLOWSHIP BOARD", outside the church office, for sign-up sheets.

Nov. 21, 1:00pm Kick off of the Redskins game! Share lunch /beer/cheer (or cry) with fellow fans at **Rockafellas (the old Fudruckers)** at the corner of Rt. 28 and Quince Orchard Rd. Table/s will be reserved for UCCSV members, friends, and family. Food and drinks are individual; this will simply be a meeting spot with a BIG SCREEN TV and an opportunity to experience the thrill of the game together.

Nov. 29, 7:00pm The Ladies Night out! Meet at Café Mileto for an evening of fun, food and fellowship. The restaurant offers us a delicious, fixed priced meal (choice between three entrées including bread and a salad) for $17.00. Remember, you're always welcomed to bring a friend along.

Good Times! See you there!

Looking to the holidays:
Christmas Cookie Exchange, Dec. 12th
Family Caroling Party, Dec. 19th
Information to follow

Board of Property Operations

Please! Please! Please! We need your help!!

If you have a key - *any key* that belongs to *any part* of the UCCSV facility, our church office needs to have a signed "Key Authorization Form" on file. Many of you have already filled out a form and have turned it in, but there are still a few of you that need a completed form on file. This helps us determine how many keys are in circulation and get a better accounting for our safety and security. Please see Marilyn in the church office, or fine Stu Yeany or Laura Lineberger to fill out this form. Please, take care of this at your earliest convenience.

MISSING ROUND TABLE! Have you borrowed one of our round tables and not returned it? If you have borrowed a table from our gathering room, please return it soon - it is needed for our upcoming Feast.

The Holidays are Coming – Social Action

Attention! Believe it or not, Thanksgiving will soon be upon us, followed by Christmas. It is our tradition at UCCSV to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for at least 2 needy families from the Germantown area. This year will be no different. We have put in a request to Germantown Help for the names of two needy families. The makeup of the families is unknown as yet but both will have at least one parent and several children.

This year we decided to make out our lists of requested food for both Thanksgiving and Christmas at the same time. Therefore all nonperishable items can be collected for both Thanksgiving and Christmas before Thanksgiving and we won't feel rushed as Christmas approaches and life for everyone becomes hectic. Perishable items such as fresh potatoes and bread for Christmas baskets can be collected right before delivery of the baskets.

Christmas gifts will also be provided along with those baskets. Once we've obtained the makeup of the families we will inform the congregation of this information so suitable gifts can be provided. Look for this information in the December *Voice* and/or weekly bulletins.

Requests for the food items are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. Please check them out and sign up for an item(s) which you can provide to help make a family's holiday happy. Also if anyone would like to be the bearer of these gift baskets, this can be signed up for too. The selected families will be local & not a long drive from the church. Members of UCCSV who have made these deliveries in the past have enjoyed the experience of seeing the smiles of the recipients. This might be a good way to teach your child about the joys of giving.

On another note, the Social Action board will be having a bake sale on the second Sunday in December with all proceeds going to Emergency Assistance. Requests for assistance come in every week and funds begin to run low as the end of the year approaches. Hopefully, as Christmas nears, members will be doing holiday baking. Why not do some extra things and bring them to church to aid another good cause. This is one way we can be good shepherds as disciples of Christ.

Services for Older Adults

Have you ever heard of Springvale Terrace? Did you know that Springvale Terrace was built in Silver Spring by the United Church of Christ Home to provide housing to low moderate income seniors? Do you know a senior who needs affordable senior housing? Springvale Terrace rates are below market and there may be additional subsidies available.

Springvale Terrace was established in 1965 and is now under the umbrella of Seabury Resources for Aging, formerly Episcopal Senior Ministries. This has been a positive merger for Springvale Terrace and the UCC. Seabury provides a variety of resources to older adults and congregations throughout the metropolitan area. Below are some of its programs.

I. In Ward 5 of the District of Columbia, Seabury is serving more than 300 meals a day at 11 nutrition sites and to the homes of those who are homebound. There are nearly 3,000 clients in Ward 5.

II. Thirty-five participants at the citywide Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired receive transportation to the Center, meals, life-skills and Braille training, the socialization and assistance with daily living. For some, it is their only opportunity to leave their homes.

III. Seabury Care Management is helping a monthly average of 133 clients in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and throughout the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. For some, it is the only advocate they have to oversee their care at home or when they are hospitalized. Most of the clients are in their 80's and older, and have multiple chronic conditions including dementia.

At Friendship Terrace and Christian Communities Group Homes in Washington, DC and Springvale Terrace in Silver Spring, MD, affordable housing and support services are provided to more than 350 residents. The rents and care are below market rates.

There are four UCC members on Seabury's board, including Sandy Renner.

Please consider designating #8904 in the United Way Campaign or #63211 in the Combined Federal Campaign to support Seabury Resources for Aging. For more information about Seabury's affordable services and housing options, visit: www.seaburyresources.org or call 202-289-5690.

Bible Readings

Sunday, November 7
Theme: Hold on to Faith
Hagggai 1:15b-2:0
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or
Psalm 98 or Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
***2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17**
Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, November 14 – Stewardship Sunday
Theme: Infinite Possibilities
***Isaiah 65:17-25**
Isaiah 12 or
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, November 21 – Reign of Christ
Theme: Together in Christ
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79 or
Jeremiah 23:1-6 & Psalm 46
***Colossians 1:11-20**
Luke 23:33-43

Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent
Theme: Ready and Waiting
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
***Matthew 24:36-44**

***Denotes Scripture reading for Sunday**

Regular Use of Church by Community
7th Day Adventists – First Tuesday of month
7:00-9:00p – Narthex
Girl Scouts – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of month
Upper Montomery Assistance Network –
Third Thursday of month
7th Day Adventists – Saturdays –
8:00a-8:00p

Happy November Birthdays

November 8	Damian
November 20	Jeanne
November 22	Stephanie
	John D
November 23	Dan
November 30	Bill

If we have missed your birthday, please let Marilyn know (301-540-3449) or marilyn223@verizon.net **so that we may update our records.**

Important Dates in November

Monday, November 1
10:00a – Staff meeting
7:00p – Deacons

Thursday, November 4
6:30-7:15p – SingFest! (Narthex)
7:30-9:15p – Chancel Choir

Sunday, September 7
9:00a – Chancel Choir
9:00a – Church School for Adults & Children
10:00a – Worship
11:00a – Fellowship/Coffee

Monday, November 8
7:00p – Social Action Board

Tuesday, November 9
7:30p – Mind, Body, Spirit

Thursday, November 11 (Veterans' Day)
6:30-7:00p – Morningstars
7:30-9:150 Chancel Choir

Stewardship Sunday, November 14
9:00a – Chancel Choir
9:00a – Church School for Adults and Children
10:00a – Worship
Celebration Dinner following worship

Monday, November 15
10:00a – Staff meeting
7:00p – Property Operations Board

Thursday, November 18
6:30-7:15p – SingFest!
7:30-9:15p – Chancel Choir

Sunday, November 21
9:00a – Chancel Choir
9:00a – Church School for Adults and Children
11:00a – Fellowship/Coffee
11:30a-1:00p – Chancel Choir
1:00p – Football & Fellowship at Rockafella's

Monday, November 22
10:00a – Staff meeting
7:00p – Council

Wednesday, November 24
7:00p – Thanksgiving Eve Worship at UCCSV with 7th Day Adventists and the Islamic Center of Maryland

Thursday, November 25
Happy Thanksgiving – Church office closed

Friday, November 26
Church office closed
2:00-5:00p – Hanging of Greens

Sunday, November 28
First Sunday of Advent
9:00a – Chancel Choir
9:00a – Church School for Adults & Children
10:00a – Worship
11:00 – Fellowship/Coffee

Monday, November 29
10:00a – Staff meeting
7:00p – Ladies' Night at Café Mileto

The United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
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Phone: 301-540-3449
Website: www.uccsv.org
Email: uccsv@verizon.net
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Reminder: Daylight Savings Ends on Sunday, November 7!

Computer needed: If you have a working computer you no longer are using, Emergency Assistance is in need of a new one. Please contact the church office if you have one to donate.301-540-3449.