



By Rev. Beth Williams

Before there was plastic, we preserved summer's bounty in simple mason jars, so that even in the barren days of winter, we could taste God's goodness and foretaste the bounty and harvest to come. This year we invite you to make the season of Advent a time for simple things, and for keeping things simple.

Step away from the frantic busy-ness, the clutter of stuff wrapped in plastic - and this Advent season embrace instead a time to slow down and to preserve what is really important: Hope and Peace; Joy and a jar full of Love. It's a time to slow down and to see anew God wrapped in flesh and lying in a manger. Join us this Advent season as we slow down, breathe, and refocus on God's love and goodness.

We will begin the season of Advent with the Christmas Festival on December 2 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. This will be a time for people of all ages to come together and enjoy a variety of simple ways to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.



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Full worship calendar for Advent and Christmas

By Jerry Hebenstreit, Worship Ministry

As always, UCP has an array of opportunities for the Advent/Christmas season. Some involve services, others involve times outside of services. Let's see...

Sunday, December 2 is the 1st Sunday of Advent. We start off with our usual two morning services, with a different twist to the Advent candles this year! Sunday, December 2 is also the Christmas Festival from 4-7 pm, with a wide array of activities planned by various UCP Ministries and Teams. Of special note for worship will be a time of holiday music, including both numbers by some of the parish musical groups and a carol sing.

Sunday, December 9 is the 2nd Sunday of Advent, with our usual services.

Wednesday, December 12 is Advent Quiet Day, 9 am - 9 pm. We will have meditative music and an array of prayer stations in the Sanctuary to give you a chance to retreat from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and spend some time with God.

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Simple Christmas

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4:00 – 5:30 pm

- ◆ Make an Advent wreath with fresh greenery to use in your home.
- ◆ Make an Advent calendar in a mason jar with gift tags, each with an Advent prayer, activity, conversation starter, or social media prompt. As each day unfolds, you simply draw a card - and day by day, week by week, prayer by prayer, action by action, together we count down to that holy night when God slips into the world.
- ◆ Children can shop for family and friends with the assistance of youth “elves” in the Christmas Shoppe.
- ◆ Make an ornament to help decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree, a Mason Jar Nativity candle, and a jar of delicious cookie mix that you might share God’s goodness and bounty with others.
- ◆ Shop in the Preschool Book Fair for children in your family or to donate to the toys being collected by FISH
- ◆ Buy a raffle ticket to benefit the Preschool Scholarship Fund
- ◆ Help tie the ends to make fleece scarves for those who will be out in the cold this winter.
- ◆ With the aid of our Justice and Peace Ministry Team, go online and write to your congress people to advocate for those things that will help bring Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love into our nation and the world.

5:30 – 6:15 pm

Join us for a simple dinner. The Fellowship Team is providing turkey, ham, and macaroni and cheese. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring plenty as we are not asking our guests from the community to bring something, but rather to experience the gift of our hospitality.

6:15 – 7:00 pm

We will gather in the sanctuary for a time of holiday music, a combination of carol sing-alongs and presentations by some of our wonderful UCP groups such as Total Praise, Tintinnabulation’ and Three Theological Troubadours.

And before you leave, be sure to pick up any Christmas greenery you ordered from the Youth Group. There will be a few extras if you hadn’t previously ordered any.

Advent Quiet Day – December 12

From 9:00 in the morning to 9:00 in the evening the sanctuary will be filled with meditative music and an array of simple prayer stations to give you a chance to retreat from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and spend some time focused on the gift of God incarnate. A light lunch/dinner will be available throughout the day.

Lighted Labyrinth Walk – December 16

In the late afternoon and evening the labyrinth will be lit with Christmas Lights. Enjoy the simplicity of walking the labyrinth as we remember Christ’s light coming into the world.

Sunday Mornings during Advent – Sundays, 9:50 – 10:50 am

In our Sunday morning Adult Ed classes, we will be focused on the Advent Season as well. Bible 101 will continue to explore the narrative lectionary readings for Advent and Living our Faith (formerly known as the Issues Class) will be venturing on an exploration of a credible Jesus for the third millennium and engaging in a conversation around the relevance of Jesus for today.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Join us on Wednesday mornings as we study “The Songs of Advent.” As familiar as we are with the songs of Christmas, there are four songs recorded in the Bible to celebrate the birth of Jesus that most of us aren’t familiar with. The angels sang a song to the shepherds. Mary sang a song to God after she had time to get over the shocking news that she was going to be the mother of the Savior. Simeon also had a song. Then there’s Zechariah’s song. Zechariah was an elderly priest who sang after being visited by an angel. This wasn’t like a Broadway musical—these people didn’t suddenly burst into song. But the ancient church captured their words and created songs known as canticles.

November 28 Zechariah: A Song of Faith

Luke 1:67–79 Even in silence, God is at work.

December 5 Angels: A Song of Peace

Luke 2:13–14 This is a peace that passes our understanding.

December 12 Mary: A Song of Trust

Luke 1:46–55 Like Mary, we can move from anxiety to adoration.

December 19 Simeon: A Song of Hope

Luke 2:29–32 The reward is worth the wait.



The challenge to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger

By Laurie Callahan

In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus tells the Pharisee that the second greatest commandment after “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” is “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” And throughout the Old and New Testaments, we are told to welcome strangers. For example, Leviticus 19:34 reads, “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt...”

At a time when many in our country are fearful of their neighbors—of those who are different from them—even to the point of hating and harming them, I’ve been thinking about how we, as individuals and as faith communities, can turn the tide back to love of our neighbors and love of the stranger.

The coming together of people of all faiths after the horrific killing of 11 Jewish people during Shabbat at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh brings us hope. The beautiful Yizkor (memorial) Service and Solidarity Shabbat at the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation was a wonderful example. Their congregation was joined by community members of all faiths, praying and singing together and dedicated to building a better world where love prevails.

I struggle and imagine we all struggle to go outside our comfort zones – to reach beyond our circle of the like-minded, those

with the same faith, same political views and similar backgrounds.

As we enter the joyous season of Thanksgiving and Christmas and look forward with hope to a new year, how can we individually and collectively do more to listen to others without judgment and truly be there for our neighbors and for those new to our community?

In the Bible, it comes down to “love.”

Romans 13:8 says “...the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

That sounds simple but takes a lot of ongoing effort that involves concrete actions.

Each of us at some point in our lives has felt an outsider, a newcomer. What did you wish to hear and receive from others at that time?

If we can tap into that feeling, perhaps we can, in turn, reach out to welcome others and even speak up on their behalf.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for your love and the many blessings in my life. Help me to open my heart and to see and love each person as a child of God. Give me the strength and understanding to reach out to my neighbor and the stranger with love and active support.

Worship Calendar

Continued from p.1

Sunday, December 16 is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, again with usual morning services. But in the late afternoon and evening we will have a lighted Labyrinth walk (weather permitting) on the patio.

Sunday, December 23 is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Also on December 23 at 7 pm we will hold a Blue Christmas service. This is a time of reflection, meditation, and prayer for those whose life experiences make Christmas a less-than-exuberant time of year.

On Christmas Eve, *December 24* we will celebrate the Nativity with a child-friendly service at 4 pm and a Service of Lessons and Carols at 8 pm.

Sunday, *December 30* we will celebrate a single, lay-led service (with Communion) at 10 am.

Finally, Sunday, *January 6, 2019* is Epiphany, the last Sunday of Christmas-time.

Sharing Christmas with Seniors

By Barbara Schell

At Christmas we are all children and so we try to make the holidays special for the seniors at Lake Anne Fellowship House. Once again tags will be hung on a tree in the narthex with the name of a recipient. Please take a tag and a card home and return the card with the name and a \$25 gift card from Target, Giant, Harris Teeter, or Walmart.

A personal note on the card is always nice. Also, remember to sign for the tag on the provided spreadsheet.

The cards and gift cards should be returned on Dec 2 or by Dec 9. If you cannot make it to church, please return to the church office.

Contact Barbara Schell 703-758-1309 for information.

Solitary Confinement – A Form of Torture

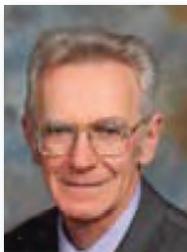
Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. (Hebrews 13:3)

Solitary as Torture: The National Religious Campaign Against Torture, of which all our denominations are members, considers solitary confinement to be a form of torture. The Presbyterian Church USA notes that “Scientific studies have found that prisoners held in isolation for extended periods experience ... hallucinations, perceptual distortions, heart palpitations, panic attacks, and suicidal intention. The impact of isolation on mentally ill prisoners and juveniles is especially damaging.” Scientific American magazine reports that prolonged social isolation can do severe, long-lasting damage to the brain. And the Sentencing Projects organization has declared that solitary is ineffective.

In the United States: Every day, 80 to 100 thousand prisoners are held in solitary confinement, many for weeks, months or even years. Solitary confinement means that a person is held in isolation in a cell for 22 to 24 hours a day with little human contact or interaction; and often includes:

- ◆ Reduced or no natural light;
- ◆ Restriction or denial of reading material, television, radios or other property;
- ◆ Severe constraints on visitation; and
- ◆ The inability to participate in group activities, including eating with others.

The American Civil Liberty (ACLU) organization of Virginia reports that prisoners are often unnecessarily and falsely determined to be at-risk or dangerous. Prisoners may be placed in disciplinary or punitive solitary confinement as punishment for violating minor rules, filing grievances or lawsuits, or annoying correctional officers. In most of these



By Rob Gehring

Answering God's Call

instances, prisoners in disciplinary segregation do not pose such an extreme management challenge to warrant solitary confinement, according to the ACLU.

In other instances, prisoners may be placed in solitary confinement for their “protection” indefinitely by default if the prisoner is perceived as vulnerable. Placing these individuals in solitary confinement only further stigmatizes them and decreases the chances that adequate services, treatment, and programming will be provided. Moreover, people in solitary confinement are more likely to be subjected to excessive force and abuses of power.

Reform in Virginia? In 2011, the Washington Post reported that 1 in 20 prisoners in Virginia was being held in solitary confinement, including 500 out of 750 prisoners at the supermax Red Onion State Prison. Individual cases ranged from two weeks to almost seven years of solitary confinement, with an average length of isolation of 2.7 years.

In the same year, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) implemented reform efforts aimed at reducing the number of prisoners held in “administrative segregation” at Red Onion State Prison and Wallens Ridge State Prison. VDOC developed and implemented an incentive-based “step down” program

that provides prisoners with opportunities to behave their way out of solitary confinement.

In 2016, the Department of Justice highlighted Virginia’s reform efforts as a case study, but questions remain about the effectiveness and operations of the program. Prisoners report many issues with the program and the use of solitary confinement in Virginia prisons.

VDOC procedures for due process for assignment to solitary confinement and periodic status reviews have not consistently been followed.

- ◆ Often prisoners do not know how long they will be there.
- ◆ There is a lack of clarity about the length of time it takes to progress through the program.
- ◆ There is abuse from correctional staff including: abusive and racist language; destruction of personal property; withholding of recreation and showers; and pervasive interference with prisoners’ access to the grievance procedure. Some prisoners, designated “intensive management,” appear to be held in permanent isolation, even if they complete the Step Down Program.

What Can We Do?

Learn:

- ◆ About National Religious Campaign Against Torture, including solitary confinement <http://nrcat.org/torture-in-us-prisons>
- ◆ About Solitary Confinement in Virginia: <https://acluva.org/en/silent-injustice-solitary-confinement-virginia>
- ◆ For a national perspective, read more at: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/news/opinion-solitary-confinement-widespread-ineffective/>

Act:

- ◆ Support a prisoner in solitary through letter writing: <http://nrcat.org/torture-in-us-prisons/write-a-letter>
- ◆ Write to Brian J. Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Howard W. Clarke, Director, Virginia's Department of Corrections and to your state and national legislators to protest solitary confinement.

Interfaith Principles Guiding Work on U.S. Prisons and Why Ending Prolonged Solitary Confinement Is a Moral Imperative

(From the National Religious Campaign Against Torture)

GOD-GIVEN DIGNITY. Holding people in solitary confinement for years and decades until they become mentally broken is immoral because it violates the inherent God-given dignity and worth of every person.

COMMUNITY. Community and fellowship are essential to our faith traditions. Solitary confinement severely restricts the ability to grow and develop spiritually and mentally through the company of others.

PRESERVING AND RENEWING THE MIND. Prolonged solitary confinement can lead to paranoia, delusions, and other long-term mental effects. It severely damages prisoners' capacity to think critically and reform behavior.

HEALING. Solitary confinement does not transform prisoners' behavior in a positive way. We should not deny the opportunity for rehabilitation by holding prisoners in solitary confinement for months and years.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE. People of faith are called to bring justice, not vengeance. Vengeful punishment is beyond the bounds of justice.

DEFENDING THE WEAK. We are called to speak for those in our community who have no voice – the poor, orphaned, and imprisoned. As people of faith, we must be advocates for justice and catalysts for transparency in prisons.

GOD'S GIFTS OF DAY AND NIGHT. Solitary confinement conditions rob people of God's gift of night and darkness for sleep as lights are often left permanently on in prisoners' windowless cells.

Note: All four of our denominations are members of NRCAT.



Chili/Dessert Cook-Off



To raise funds for the Youth Group's Puerto Rico Trip
January 13, 2019 • 12:30 pm • Room 107

By Debbie Aschenbach

Instead of the usual "Second Sunday After Church" (SSAC) in January, we will have a Chili/Dessert Cook-Off. The congregation will be invited to bring their favorite chili and/or their favorite dessert to be judged. Everyone will have the opportunity to taste the pots of chili and desserts. For the dishes liked the best, show your appreciation by placing money in a jar next to the chili pot or dessert. The chili and desserts having the most money will be the winners. The winning cooks will receive a small prize and the bragging rights that they are the best chili or dessert maker in the land of UCP.

If you don't want to make a chili or dessert, come, eat, and bring your money to vote for your favorite dish and enjoy. Cornbread, salads and drinks will be provided by the Fellowship Team.

All the funds collected will be used for a Missions Ministry project to support our Youth Group's trip to Puerto Rico in the summer. The Youth Group will be cleaning and making repairs in the areas of the 2017 hurricane destruction in Puerto Rico.

If you have any questions please contact me at 703.585.8216 or deborah.aschenbach58@gmail.com.



MISSIONS CORNER

"AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, I AM SENDING YOU."

JOHN 20:21, NIV

By Anneriekte Owen

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

In our October Missions Ministry meeting we discussed which organizations to support to close the budget for 2018. As committee members we each had prepared in thought and prayer, but as you can imagine the decisions weren't easy to make, as the overwhelming need in this world was deeply felt by all of us; we wished we had won the lottery that night. Two local organizations included in our final budget decisions were FISH and Lake Anne Fellowship House.

FISH stands for Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help and has as a non-profit organization for 50 years fulfilled its mission to help Herndon and Reston residents cope with short-term financial crises and stabilize lives by preventing an eviction, keeping utilities from being turned off, and helping to finance immediate medical needs. FISH is funded by individual donors, grants, corporations, churches, fund-raising events and the Bargain Loft thrift store.

In the November newsletter Bob Reed and Kathy Kelly both wrote about FISH. Our proceeds of the Harvest offering this year will support FISH, and you can also help to provide food and toys for the Christmas holidays to families in need in our area.

The following items are needed:

- ◆ Donations of food - non-perishable canned food (tuna, meat, vegetables, soups, and fruits), and staples such as cereals, rice and pasta
- ◆ Donations of toys appropriate for children 1-11 years of age
- ◆ Donations of \$25 gift cards from Safeway, Giant, or Target for food and gifts for teens.

All donations need to be received by Thursday, Dec. 13, at UCP. For more information, you can contact Mary Jo Baedecker, coordinator for the holiday program, at mjbaedecker@cox.net or Barbara Schell at barbschell15@gmail.com.

Lake Anne Fellowship House is part of the Fellowship Square Foundation (FSF) and located close to our church. The FSF provides affordable housing in the DC area for older adults and people with disabilities who have limited income and resources. Since 1960, the FSF founders aspired to not only provide shelter, but also caring staff, a comfortable and secure living environment and amenities such as libraries, social halls and opportunities for pastoral support and religious worship. The Foundation receives government funding, but also relies on the generous support of individuals, faith communities, businesses and organizations. UCP supports Lake Anne Fellowship house with donations in the form of gift cards, and also funds and organizes occasional meals, where all residents are welcome and can interact with UCP members. If you would like to participate in this activity you can contact Debbie Aschenbach: Deborah.aschenbach58@gmail.com

Please see the separate article: "Sharing Christmas with Seniors" by Barbara Schell (on p.3).

It is through your donations that our church can be an instrument in sharing God's love and compassion with others in our own neighborhood and around the world. THANK YOU for your generosity. As a Missions Ministry team we wish you a Merry Christmas; that the Light of Christmas will shine in your heart and home this holiday season and in the year to come.

Youth Babysitting Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Babysitting for Parents to go Christmas Shopping on Saturday, December 8 from 10 am – 2 pm is offered by the Youth Group as a fundraiser for their Puerto Rico mission trip. Parents may sign up their children in advance and the youth will have a variety of Christmas games, crafts, music, and lunch to entertain them while you shop. Payment is by donation. To sign up, please contact Beth at Beth@ucpreston.org.



4 Keys to More Effective Church Communication

By Joel Snider - 50 Ways, Uncategorized

Joel Snider explains that a healthy church culture requires constant attention to good communication. Effective communication requires a consistent process that begins with a healthy approach to decision making and requires accuracy and repetition when sharing messages.

Want to know the best practices of a healthy church? Here's one: healthy churches communicate well. They recognize it is almost impossible to communicate too much. Sounds simple, doesn't it? If it's so simple, why don't more congregations do it well? One reason is that they fail to see that communication is more than making announcements or designing a Facebook page. In fact, it is more than any one task. It is a core process with many related components. The full process includes:

1. Quality of decisions

A good communication process begins before there is anything to announce. This fact is particularly true when communication includes information about a change or something new. Church initiatives and changes almost always derive from a decision. Quality decisions include as many people as possible in the development stage. They are collaborative.

You may wonder how joint decisions play a part in effective communication. The more people you include in developing a decision, the more people you have who can inform others about the decision. Whether you are deciding on a new ministry, a change in an existing schedule, or a policy revision, you should invite people to work with church leaders. By doing so, you enlist a wider group of informed advocates who can speak about the decision and answer questions asked by people you might never encounter. Participant buy-in will lead to some of the most effective communication possible.

2. Quantity of messages

Communication specialists estimate that it takes telling a message 16 times for the information to spread throughout an organization. That number may seem like overkill, but it rarely is. The larger your church, the more you should consider 16 times as a bare minimum.

Today, people get their news from a variety of sources: Twitter, TV, websites, etc. In the same way, church members get their information about congregational life in many ways. Therefore, effective church communication is multi-channel: Facebook page, Twitter, newsletter, group texts, website, and targeting small group leaders who can help disseminate information. Simply making 16 announcements on Sunday morning will not get the message to everyone. By increasing the number of communication channels, you improve the likelihood of reaching more people.

A corollary of this principle is the need for appropriate lead time to get information spread throughout a congregation. It's difficult to communicate important matters 16 times in a week. If you have information vital to a decision, a new ministry, or a schedule change, it's better to delay a target date to allow time to communicate thoroughly than it is to abbreviate communication to meet a deadline. Start early enough to give your message time to permeate the church family.

3. Clear and accurate information

Accurate facts and clear information are basic components of healthy communication. The more channels you use to disseminate information, the harder it is to keep facts accurate across them all. One person may be responsible for posting an event to Facebook, while another develops the newsletter. A third sends out an email blast. We increase the chance for factual mistakes every time we add a person to the list of those responsible for getting the word out. The process of checking and rechecking times and locations is as mundane as it is important. Facts must be accurate. Changing the time of a meeting or event may not seem like a significant issue to you, but it may be to individuals who are embarrassed when they arrived late because they received inaccurate communication.

4. Consistent practices

The next component of healthy communication is the alignment of what we do with what we say. If you don't see this consistency as important to communication, consider an incident involving my mother-in-law years ago. She attended a church meeting where the members voted to spend money on resurfacing the parking lot. When she left the meeting, she realized the parking lot had already been resurfaced. You may think this is not a communication problem, but the message she "heard" was that the congregation's decision didn't matter. Policies that are unequally applied, procedures that are ignored, and information provided to a few — all these carry damaging unspoken messages that undermine relationships and trust.

All these components are parts of the same process. They are interrelated and require constant coordination. Staff meetings and calendar checks bore most ministers. I can't imagine that any person who felt the call to ministry would have anticipated spending hours each week in such dull and ordinary tasks. There is a way however to view paying attention to these components of the communication process as a higher calling. Try seeing them as a part of congregational care. Every time you practice effective communication you are safeguarding the congregation from conflict and self-inflicted injuries.

This article is reprinted by permission from Leading Ideas, a free e-newsletter from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary and available at churchleadership.com.

UCP Election Prayer: A Thanksgiving Devotion

By Craig Palmer, Board Co-Moderator

Though the elections and Thanksgiving have passed, Craig wanted to share this devotion with you.

The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. —

Colossians 3:15

Creator. Father. Mother. Lord. We have elected You as our spiritual leader and we are ever thankful that You give us freedom of choice in this election and opportunity to choose at any time in any place by any name we may know and understand You. We are thankful You have chosen us and we are thankful for our companions on our faith journey. We know we are never alone.

We pray for our relationships with each other whatever our individual characteristics and for the diversity that journeys with us and invites our welcome. We pray for our governments even as we choose those who will govern. We are grateful for what God reveals in these earthly elections. What has been revealed in the choices we make is a gift that touches and reveals our hearts. We are thankful for that opening and for the understanding it encourages.

May we become aware of the hatred that prevails in our hearts even as we recoil from hatred in our communities and the world. Open our eyes to our hearts, Lord. We pray for the young people and others who march in protest and hope that love will overcome hatred. Lead us

into conversation with those who may disagree with our point of view and even, Lord, Yours. We pray for more opportunities to embrace differences of opinion even as we gather at the table You prepare.

We pray for a table somewhere for everyone, a Thanksgiving in which nobody is alone. We are thankful for the kindness and compassion given to us in this life. Open our eyes to need and when we see need in others beyond our circles of family, friend, community and church, may we extend kindness and compassion.

Bless our Thanksgiving gatherings in this golden age of grandparenting. These children are such a gift of innocence and openness, and this is our opportunity to influence their morality and values.

We ask much of You even as we offer thanks for all You give. Open our hearts and our eyes to ourselves that we might recognize our opportunities to serve.

Let us come
before him
with thanksgiving
and sing joyful
songs of praise.

—Psalm 95:2



The Beat children's choir from ADAMS sang "America the Beautiful" at Tuesday night's Thanksgiving interfaith worship service at UCP.

Photo by Ashley Aschenbach

Church Conference date set for Feb. 3

By Rev. Beth Williams

One Service at 10:00 am with Rev. Cathy Abbott preaching followed by the conference and a potluck lunch. There will be no Sunday School that day, but there will be a special Godly Play for all the children.



UCP received recognition from Reston Community Orchestra

by LaVerne Gill

The Reston Community Orchestra's first concert of their 2018-2019 season was dedicated to UCP. Beverly Cosham, the RCO Board of Directors president, presented Pastor Marcus Leathers with a plaque as a token of appreciation for UCP's support of the orchestra and for UCP's commitment to the Reston community and interfaith outreach.

The next RCO concert—a play-along, sing-along holiday concert including Christmas carols is at the Hunters Woods Reston Community Ctr., Saturday, December 15 at 4 pm. For more information see www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.



Pastor Marcus Leathers accepts the Reston Community Orchestra's plaque honoring UCP for its support of the orchestra and UCP's commitment to the community and interfaith outreach.

Photo by Katarzyna Kryca

UCP Youth Ski Trip January 24-27, 2019

By Rev. Beth Williams

The Youth Ski Trip to Wisp is scheduled for a long weekend (Fairfax County school holiday), departing from the church at 4:00 pm on Thursday, Jan. 24, skiing or snowboarding on Friday and

Saturday, and returning by 3:00 pm Sunday, January 27.

We have 12 youth spaces reserved and it will be on a first come first serve basis.

Cost: \$400 (including lift tickets and rentals)— \$325

if you have your own equipment.

Complete a Registration Form and pay a \$100 deposit by Dec. 16 to reserve a spot.

Final balance and forms are due January 20.

There will be a mandatory Ski Trip planning meeting Sunday, Jan. 20, at 6 pm at the beginning of Youth Group.



Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers:

To submit prayer requests, you may go to the UCP website at www.ucpreston.org/prayers or call/email the Church Office at 703-620-3065 or heidi@ucpreston.org. Please let the office know when a name can be removed from the list.

All who are serving
in the military
Dorothy Aeschliman
Sean Aldo
(Bonnie McKenna's friend)
Milton Arnesen
(Kristy Pullen's father)
Barb
(Kathy Leatherwood's sister)
Gloria Barber
(Larry & Jan Gsellman's friend)
Aurora Belle
Barbara Bonner
Lowell Ray Coleman
(Tammi Leathers' father)
Thelma Cofie
Corey
(Jeff & Cheryl Smith's nephew)
Rebecka Cota
(Rudiselles' family member)
Kathy Dally
Janette Dally
(Kathy Dally's sister)
David
(Judy and Doug Pew's neighbor)
Susan & Ben Erdman
Dennis Derr
(Sandy Derr's brother)

Cheryl Fields' father
Lynn Franklin
(Laurie Callahan's sister)
Norma Freeman
(Brenda Meyer's mother)
Patty Gehring
Kennedy Gilbert
Jim Hall
(Penny Johnson's friend)
Douglas Hallar
(Kim Baum's father)
Frances Hurley
(Suzanne Rudiselle's friend)
Conrad Kilinski and family
(Jane & Ken Plum's grandson)
Anne Lamar
(Rudiselles' friend)
Burt Lamkin
Kathy Lamkin
Greg Leatherwood
(Kathy Leatherwood's brother-
in-law)
Darleen Marcini
(Jeff Smith's aunt)
Joe McGregor
(Karen Young's father)
Elsa Nygard

Edward Pelzner
(son of Adrian & Barbara)
Walt Peterson
(Jeff Smith's Friend)
Pauline Pittman
(Eulene Bevans' sister)
David Plum
(Ken & Jane Plum's son)
Suzanne Rudiselle
Janet Ruhan
(Sheila and Richard Allen's
daughter)
Rhonda Savage's family
members
Aaron Sawyer
(former manager of The Closet)
Teddy Sears
(Judy Pew's friend's newborn)
Marc Schroeder
(Joellyn & Lloyd Kinzer's
nephew)
BJ Silvey
Karen Stevens
Fred Taylor
(Craig Palmer's brother-in-law)
Carol Venese
Grace Wang Yang

Eloise Williams
Pamela Williams family
Richard Williams
Woloch Family
(Sara McAlpine's friends)
Barbara Zettlemoyer
(Jan Gsellman's sister)

Sympathy

Judy Roe and family on the death of David Roe on Nov. 3

Olin and Sally Baughman on the death of Sally's brother, Charles King, on Nov. 5

Lesley Irminger-Block on the death of her friend, Zach Allen

The family and friends of former UCP member Wanda Yarborough upon her death on Nov. 10

Remembering Dave Roe, first Editor of Parish Life

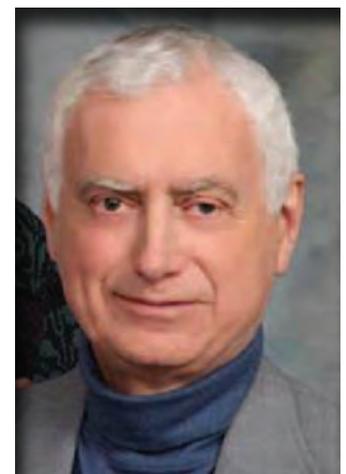
By Joellyn Kinzer

Dave Roe and I worked together 25 years ago to create UCP's *Parish Life* newsletter. As a retired editor from the *Washington Post* he guided me in establishing the styles for the headlines and the bylines, captions, the text styles, the name of the newsletter and all the formats like the masthead and *Parish Life* box on page 12. For each

of those first black and white issues, he reviewed and corrected the stories and gave headlines that always amazingly fit perfectly.

I learned so much from Dave Roe. Credit for the newsletter's professional appearance and standard must go to Dave. Our sympathy goes out to Judy and their family.

Dave Roe, first Editor of Parish Life



DEC/JAN EVENTS

02 DECEMBER

SUNDAY at UCP (See pp. 1 & 2 for detailed schedule)

Christmas Festival

Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Bring Lake Anne Seniors' donations by Dec. 9
(See p. 3 for details)

06 DECEMBER

THURSDAY at UCP and Hypothermia Shelter

Serve Hypothermia Shelter homeless

Time: Every Thursday till March

Food preparation 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm; Serving at Shelter 5:30 pm

08 DECEMBER

SATURDAY at UCP (See p. 6 for details)

Youth Babysitting for Parents' Christmas Shopping

Time: 10:00 am - 2 :00 pm

12 DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY at UCP

Advent Quiet Day (See p. 2 for details)

Time: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

13 DECEMBER

THURSDAY at UCP

Final Day for bringing FISH Donations to the church (See p. 6 for details)

15 DECEMBER

SATURDAY at La Madeleine

Men's Breakfast

Time: 8:00 am - 9:30 am

16 DECEMBER

SUNDAY at UCP

Lighted Labyrinth Walk

Youth Group - Final Day for Youth Ski deposit to reserve a spot
(See p. 9 for details)

Time: Every Sunday 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

23 DECEMBER

SUNDAY at UCP

Blue Chrstmas Worship (See p. 3 for details)

Time: 7:00 pm

24 DECEMBER

MONDAY at UCP

Chrstmas Eve Worship (See p. 2 for details)

Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

30 DECEMBER

SUNDAY at UCP

Worship Service

Time: 10:00 am, No Sunday School



2019

13 JANUARY

SUNDAY at UCP

Chili/Dessert Cook Off (See p. 5 for details)

Time: 12:30 pm Rm 107

20 JANUARY

SUNDAY at UCP (See p. 9 for Ski Trip detailed schedule)

Mandatory Youth Group Ski Meeting

Time: 6:00 pm

24 JANUARY

THURSDAY at UCP

Youth Ski Trip to WISP returning 1/27

Time: 4:00 pm

Women In The Spirit Book Club

Time: Fourth Thursday of the month 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

03 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY at UCP (See p. 8 for details)

Church Conference: One worship service, (no Sunday School)

Pot luck and Conference

Time: 10:00 am

Parish life

A monthly publication of the United Christian Parish, Reston, VA, an ecumenical ministry representing the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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