

NEWSPIRIT

Central Atlantic Conference
916 S Rolling Rd., Catonsville MD 21228

Spring 2013

Stray Cats and Scarlet Letters

I have a friend who is so committed to taking care of God's creatures that she's the mother (and sole caretaker) of a feral cat colony. She uses her own money to feed and medically provide for them, which includes having each one spayed or neutered. What I find most fascinating about her feline charges is that they have become increasingly affectionate toward their human mother. (Feral cats are usually weary of human contact.) My friend is able to touch, hug, and kiss most of the cats in the colony. They recognize her as being the bringer of the light in their lives. They trust that she'll be at their feeding spot everyday. Rain or shine, she is there and the cats rejoice in her love and care.



Another thing I find fascinating is that this cat colony is located in a rural county area. The cats are surrounded by acres of green fields and wooded areas that promise untold adventure and discovery. Yet, everyday these wild cats run to greet my friend as she refills their feeding bowls under their special tree. Even with acres of

land at their disposal, they willingly return to my friend everyday. Why? Simply put, she fills them. She feeds their bodies and little cat souls.

Now contrast my friend's generous spirit with the attitude that underlies this comment from a neighbor of my youth. I was attempting to feed a stray sniffing around my backyard. My neighbor's voice boomed through the summer air, "Don't feed that stray or it will never go away!" I jumped back with fear and let my would-be friend pass by. I remember being sad over this experience for days to come. Somehow, even then, I knew it was wrong to turn away one of God's creatures.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35 (ESV)

I find that the majority of people that come to the doors of my little urban church can be classified into two categories: Stray Cats and Scarlet Letters. The Strays

are hungry to be fed in the Lord, and the Scarlet Letters want a place to feel accepted and loved.

In this season of Lent, we may have such persons sniffing around our church doors. We may encounter social outcasts looking for redemption and forgiveness. How will we answer their call? Will we show them the love of Christ? Will we welcome them into our family of Christ? Will we feed them? If we do...they just might stay!

In Christian Love,
Lois Carrigan, Vice President
Chesapeake Association Council



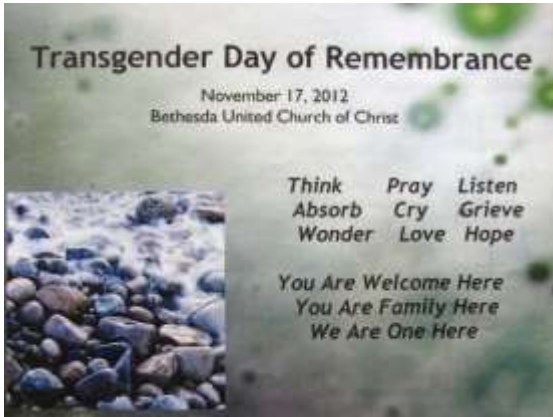
Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry being honored at the Catoctin Fall Association meeting by Catoctin Association President Judy Bowman. Note

the bucket and trowel, both inscribed with Gerry's name.

At the Catoctin Fall Association meeting, it was announced that a Catoctin Association Gerry Hanberry Honduras Mission Fund has been established in honor of the vision and dedication of Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry. The fund will help build homes and provide scholarships for the young people in Honduras. Suyapa Martinez from Iglesia Bethel in Honduras was the keynote speaker for the meeting. She expressed her deep appreciation for all that has been done since 1998, when Hurricane Mitch devastated the area. Visit the website at www.HondurasPartnership.org for more information

about the mission trip. Contributions to the fund can be made to: Catoctin Association, 310 Park Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701

Photo and information provided courtesy of Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback



“If you build it, they will come” is the familiar line from a movie about baseball, but the same line could be applied to the recent Transgender Day of Remembrance event on Nov. 17 at Bethesda United Church of Christ (BUCC). A planning group from churches and community organizations, including members of the BUCC LGBT Family and Friends group, planned and worked for nine months on this evening of story-sharing, testimonial, remembrance, lament, reconciliation, and celebration. The event served as a witness to the power of building and providing an extravagant welcome to ninety plus persons from the Montgomery County area, including two delegates from the Maryland Legislature: Alfred Carr and Jeffrey Waldstreicher.

Also in attendance was the Chief of Police in Montgomery County, Tom Manger, who said, “We are committed to upholding the civil and human rights of all people. No one should live in fear, so it is important that community leaders stand with those who have been targeted as victims of hate and bias crimes.”

Founded in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender-identified graphic designer, columnist, and activist, the Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes the murder of Rita Hester in Allston, MA. It is now observed in over 185 cities in more than twenty countries and serves to unite transgender people, friends, and faith communities in remembrance and action. One of the storytellers, Dana Beyer, M.D., Executive Director of Gender Rights Maryland, gave tribute to Gwendolyn for her initiative. Karen Holmes of Maryland TRANS*Unity and a member of the Planning group felt so moved that she left her script. As she looked forward and up to the ceiling, she noticed

BUCC’s three banners, which she said articulated the atmosphere of this gathering as well as her vision of God’s realm: “Faith, Hope, and Love.” As the bulletin cover indicated, we were present to “Think - Pray - Listen - Absorb - Cry - Grieve - Wonder - Love - and Hope,” as well as to declare that “You are Welcome Here - You are Family Here - We are One Here.”

The “Lament” was adapted from Psalm 2 and authored by a UCC Pastor, Rev. Malcolm Himschoot. “Why do murderers rage, and fearful people plot in vain? Those in power, and those who long for power, conspire against the precious anointed of the Lord. In heaven God laughs at their presumption. I will tell of the decree of the Living, Mighty God who said to me, ‘You are my child. Today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the earth itself your inheritance.’” And from the prophet Amos, we heard the declaration: “Let justice flow like a stream, and righteousness like a river that never goes dry.”

As people left the service, they were given the option of taking a river stone bearing the name of a transgender person who had been abused, murdered, or had chosen suicide in the face of total rejection. Then, all were invited to a meal of soup and bread as well as conversation to build new or renew relationships. One of the BUCC members of the LGBT group commented on the evening, “I felt humbled when a trans female chose to share her coming out experience with me. She said she had felt forgotten by God for a time, and she was impressed how welcoming our church is. . . . In my Thanksgiving prayers, I will give thanks for the opportunity I had to meet so many wonderful people.”

Parents of a trans daughter and members of BUCC wrote of the experience, “Thanks to all. . . . You helped bring to life our shared ideal of a church community that does not just talk about welcoming all, but which actually does it. It should not be rare or unusual for transgender persons and their families and friends to be welcomed to a church, and to be welcomed to sit down and share a meal . . . but it is.”

Another BUCC member commented, “The significance of providing hospitality was evident when I surveyed the Fellowship Hall at the end of the evening: everyone lingered at the tables eating and talking. Stories were being shared, relationships were strengthened, and new relationships began in table conversations. The interaction took my breath away. When we take welcoming seriously and provide hospitality with intentionality - we experience for a fleeting few hours what it is like to live in the Gospel’s ‘justice’ world where everyone is welcome at the table.”



If you “Bill” (broadcast /advertise) it, they will come. If we build it, they will

come again and again.

A member of The Community Church of Washington Delegate Alfred Carr with speakers Dana Beyer friends during the Bread & Soup Fellowship Gathering



United Church of Christ joins Karen Holmes and Karen Holmes, and Denise Leclair, among others.

.Rev. Arthur (Art) Waidmann

Opposing the Death Penalty: Faith Leaders Join Together

In March, the Maryland legislature voted to repeal the death penalty. The Governor is expected to sign the bill, which he sponsored, early next month.

Repeal of the death penalty in Maryland has been a long-term goal for the Conference and for me personally. I first testified against the death penalty in the early 1990s. In 1994, ecumenical colleagues and I met with then-Governor Schaeffer to urge him not to proceed with an execution. Sadly, that execution took place.

My ministry in this area was largely shaped by Chaplain Byron Eschelman. Rev. Eschelman is one of the UCC's saints. For twenty years, he was the chaplain of California's San Quentin prison. In this role, he was the last person to speak and pray with those about to be executed. Then, he had a conversion moment and became an outspoken opponent of capital punishment. His book, *Death Row Chaplain*, lays out the case that even the most despicable of criminals is a child of God.

Last week, Maryland's Governor, Martin O'Malley, said:

With today's vote to repeal the death penalty in Maryland, the General Assembly is eliminating a policy that is proven not to work. Evidence shows that the death penalty is not a deterrent, it cannot be administered without racial bias, and it costs three times

as much as life in prison without parole. What's more, there is no way to reverse a mistake if an innocent person is put to death.

Over the past several years, I have been honored to help coordinate the faith community's effort for repeal. Initially, a few Bishops and Executives joined in the effort. More recently, however, Bishops and Executives across a wide spectrum have joined in a concerted and united effort for repeal. Significantly, for the last two years Jewish and Muslim leaders have also joined. We have visited with governors and legislators, testified at hearings, participated in the state's Special State Study Commission and in various forums, held press conferences, and prayed at special worship services.

The faith community was but one part of a growing coalition of groups opposed to the death penalty in Maryland. Indeed, we could feel the growing momentum, and the final vote exceeded our expectations.

Two related topics deserve special note: Maryland affirmed life sentences without the possibility of parole a few years ago as an alternative to executions, and efforts are underway with the Governor's cooperation to increase resources for the victims of capital crimes.

I believe our long-tenured effort has paid off.



Rev. Dr. John Deckenback
Conference Minister

A Very Good Year!

The 2012 financial results were presented to the Conference Board of Directors at their first 2013 meeting.

Happily, OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) giving from our congregations continued the strong pattern of recent years and was merely \$500 less than the previous year. When the dust from the hectic end of the

year had settled, we also realized that the Conference had an operating surplus for the fourth year in a row. The surplus - of just under \$9000 - will be forwarded to the United Church of Christ offices in Cleveland as an additional gift to OCWM.

Significantly, this surplus comes even after the retirement of two Associate Conference Ministers and the early arrival (immediately following Superstorm Sandy in November) of Interim Associate Conference Minister Dan Schroeder in New Jersey.

But the good news does not end here.

In December, the Conference received the gift of a trust from the sale of the Paramus (NJ) Congregational UCC's building. The \$1.3 million trust is to be dedicated to supporting congregational renewal/church development, seminarian scholarships, and disaster relief. A five-person Board of Trustees - appointed by the Conference Board - is expected to make its initial distributions in 2014. This new trust joins the fifteen-year-old Trinity Trust in providing financial resources to support churches and congregations throughout the Conference. We are delighted with receipt of this gift from Paramus Congregational UCC, a gift that was first announced at the Conference's annual meeting two years ago.

Rev. Dr. John Deckenback
Conference Minister

Stewardship Thoughts

Thinking strategically about church finances

Note: This is the fifth in a series of Stewardship Thoughts.

Thinking strategically about church finances begins with thinking about the goal – what are we trying to accomplish? There are at least three options, but the third is sort of a copout, and choosing it means that we didn't want to do the necessary work of selecting between the other two.

These three options are:

1. Change the giving patterns of the giver
2. Increase the funds available to our church
3. Doing both of these simultaneously (this is the one that I see as a copout)

The above options are listed in the order that I believe to be most relevant to thinking strategically about church finances. Indeed, if we execute the first one well, the second will necessarily follow.

To be sure, the first option has a number of components and will take a while to accomplish.

Relevant questions to consider under option one include:

1. Why should we give? I recently heard comments suggesting that since the funds always seem to be there or because the church is always pretty and well cared for, why does what we give make a difference.
2. How much are we expected to give? People don't know how much to contribute unless we propose a suitable means for arriving at a proper number. Maybe it's a tithe. Maybe it's having all members determine what percentage they currently give to the church and then recommending that a commitment be made to continually increase this percentage toward some goal.
3. In what forms can we give? Now that we have electronic giving available to us, we need to promote it to all members. But we must also attend to the possibility and even desirability of initiating planned gifts.
4. What are we supporting when we give? This question is at least partially addressed by the mission-spending plan.
5. How does what we give to the church fit with the many other worthy requests that we receive? This question is best addressed in small group discussion where the attempt is made to have people become comfortable talking about money in general and, specifically, about money in the church.
6. Why are we being targeted to give more than others? A "one size fits all" appeal minimizes the overall effectiveness of a request for support. We would never consider that approach in a capital fund drive; indeed, the same tailored approach that we use in a capital campaign can improve the results when we ask for support for the annual operating budget of the church. A tailored approach requires segmenting the congregation and focusing the fundraising separately on the different segments. While there may be little enthusiasm for visiting every member when asking for support, a "giving peer" to "giving peer" form of solicitation might be

exactly what is needed in an annual request for support.

Bob Ziegler

About the writer

For forty years, Robert (Bob) Ziegler has provided leadership to congregations, associations, conferences, and The Pennsylvania Council of Churches on subjects involving stewardship, budgeting, financial controls, and fund raising for annual operating and capital campaigns. Bob is available for consulting with congregations of the Central Atlantic Conference concerning: financial assessments and reviews; narrative budgets; stewardship education and campaigns; accounting and controls review and recommendations; and software recommendations. Bob can be reached at 301-514-6277 or rezieglerconsulting@gmail.com.

Youth of the Potomac Association Gather to Prepare for Mission 4/1 Earth

(24 February 2013)

With passion and energy, seventy youth and adults from the Potomac Association-UCC gathered at Westmoreland UCC-Bethesda, MD, for a time of reunion and mission. Youth from Little River UCC-Annandale, VA; Rock Spring UCC-Arlington, VA; Westmoreland UCC-Bethesda, MD; Christ Congregational UCC-Silver Spring, MD; Cleveland Park UCC-Washington, DC; Rockville United Church-Rockville, MD; United Christian Parish-Reston, VA; and Emmaus UCC-Vienna, VA came together with a spirit of Lenten Discipline to care for our Earth home.



In good fellowship and fun, the youth shared in an evening focused particularly on the upcoming **Mission 4/1 Earth** in the Potomac River Watershed. They planted seeds of advocacy for creation care by making preparations for the planting of seedlings. Indeed, because of the work of these amazing youth, 200+ Bald Cypress trees will become mature and be ready for planting in the Northern Virginia, Southern Maryland, and District of Columbia region on the first day of **Mission 4/1 Earth**. And because of their covenant of advocacy, letters on environmental concerns will be prepared that will address the care of the Potomac and Anacostia Watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay.

This gathering came about through a partnership that created the annual Potomac Youth Summer Mission Experience, a partnership that brought the youth ministries of the thirty-four congregations of the Potomac Association, Central Atlantic Conference-UCC together in mission, faith, and fellowship.

Billie Sutter, United Christian Parish-Reston, VA
Hank Fairman, Little River UCC-Annandale, VA



Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days...Can We Count on You?

With just over one week until the start of [Mission 4/1 Earth](#), we need to know if you and your church will join us in a shared resurrection witness for Planet Earth during 50 great days of greening up, powering down, and shouting out for the environment!

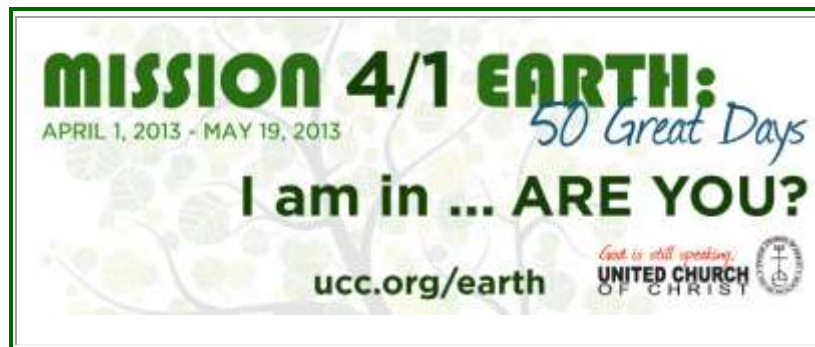
How can you let us know if you plan on joining us?

Simple, just **CLICK THE IMAGE** below and fill out a short online pledge form.



[Join Us on Facebook](#)

During these 50 days of earth action and advocacy, we'll be posting news stories, photos and updates to the [Mission 4/1 Earth Facebook page](#). Take a minute and "Like" us on Facebook and encourage others to like us as well.



If you have any questions about *Mission 4/1 Earth*, check out the website: ucc.org/earth

HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Gala Event to Highlight History and Vision for the Future

(BALTIMORE, MARYLAND) -- Heritage United Church of Christ will celebrate its 50th anniversary throughout 2013. Monthly activities will be held at the church, with a grand gala to be held from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, at The Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Avenue, in Baltimore City.

In 1962, during the height of the African-American Civil Rights Movement, a group of ten Congregationalists gathered to form a Congregational Church in northwest Baltimore after being denied affiliation with established Congregational Churches in the city. The church was formally named Northwest Congregational Church in 1963.

After worshipping in various locations, including Mondawmin Mall, the church moved to the present site, 3106 Liberty Heights Avenue, in June, 1964. The Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged, and in September, 1964, the name changed to Heritage United Church of Christ. That same year, Reverend Wendell Phillips, noted civil rights activist and state legislator, became pastor and served until his death in January, 1993.

Since its inception, the church has sought to unite Christian people from varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Today, with a membership of over 200, Reverend Julius Jefferson preaches and teaches the gospel. As in the beginning, Heritage members consistently respond to social justice issues through activism, political involvement, and community engagement.

Heritage United Church of Christ has much to celebrate. The May 4 gala will be an event with a wide range of appeal, featuring dinner, a program, live music, and dancing. Tickets are \$75.00. For more information, please call the church office at 410-542-1204.

Lynn Drummond

Central Atlantic Conference New Visions campaign



setting of the church?

The Conference retains 70% for its ministries; 30% is sent to the national setting.

9. What information will the Conference provide about the campaign?

The New Visions brochure and the Fact Sheet are the basic sources. In addition, a power point presentation is available on the Conference's web site, and a periodic newsletter will be provided.

10. Are there new church start efforts and church renewal projects underway in the Conference now?

Yes. There are eight new church start efforts underway, as well as three renewal projects being developed, with others under consideration.

Campaign Fact Sheet

1. What are the campaign goals?

- a. To raise at least \$300,000 in pledges and gifts by annual meeting 2013.
- b. To increase total annual giving to OCWM in the Conference \$125,000 above the present level by the end of 2014.

2. What will the New Visions campaign funds be used for?

The new funding will support a part-time staff position devoted to new church starts and projects in congregational renewal and vitality and support programming and resources in these areas.

3. May I make a pledge or good faith commitment payable over a period of time?

Yes. Commitments may be paid monthly, quarterly, or in annual installments from now until early 2014.

4. Can I contribute to the campaign on-line?

Yes. Go to www.cacucc.org and click on the New Visions button.

5. May I use stock to pay all or a portion of my commitment?

Yes. Contact Arnetta Jones in the Conference office for specific instructions for completing a transfer of stock.

6. Will individual churches be assigned a goal for the campaign?

No. Each congregation is invited to set its own goal for the campaign. Churches are invited to develop creative ways to participate. A list of suggestions for promoting the campaign is available at the New Visions campaign link on the Conference web site.

7. Is there a guideline for giving by churches in support of Our Churches Wider Mission?

The basic guide is that each church should determine a level of giving to OCWM equal to a selected percentage of its operating budget. An OCWM worksheet is provided for calculating your church's present and planned OCWM commitment.

8. What is the distribution of OCWM basic support between the Conference and the national

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house," Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook."

Transitions and Passages

Transitions

Dr. Stephanie Weiner Concludes Nineteen Years in Montclair, NJ

The towering stone church on Cooper Avenue was packed on Sunday, January 6, for Stephanie Weiner's final sermon. The service was followed by a festive luncheon attended by past and present parishioners, friends, and clergy. David Koschik, president of the congregation, said, "Stephanie has had a huge and



positive impact on Union Cong and the wider Montclair community. We want to show our heart-felt appreciation."

Since 2010, Union Cong has been

preoccupied with restoring its historic 110-year-old buildings. Weiner recognized the need to preserve the buildings for future generations and led the effort to win a \$750,000 grant from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Trust, a grant awarded largely because the church facilities are frequently used for meetings and events sponsored by community groups.

Weiner's nineteen plus years has grown the Weekday Nursery School from 70 to 200 students. Her great concern for children led to the creation of "The Side Door" – a free drop-in center for middle school students – and a formal church policy that has come to be known as "Trust with Care." The church insists that all volunteers and professionals working with children or youth be trained in their responsibilities and sign a covenant to place the needs of the youngsters first.

Other outreach programs that have thrived during Weiner's ministry include a tutoring program for students in Newark, a feeding program in West Orange, and a food pantry in Patterson.

Weiner has also been "instrumental" in developing worship services that welcome all forms of music. Several jazz musicians in the congregation have written arrangements of traditional hymns and even new compositions for use in occasional special jazz services. These have become very popular, drawing persons from beyond the congregation.

Another of Weiner's special concerns is the training of future ministers. This concern has led to so many persons entering ordained ministry from Union Cong that the New Jersey Association has referred to the church as a "preacher factory." Mark Boyea, who joined Union

Cong when he was athletic director at Montclair Kimberly Academy, eventually went to seminary, served on the staff at Union, and now is the senior minister at Westfield, New Jersey. He is certain "that no other church in our denomination . . . [has] inspired more people to enter ordained ministry."

Weiner also has served on the boards of the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA, and Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Rev. Dr. John Deckenback, who served with her on the Lancaster Board, pointed out that "Stephanie never missed a chance to promote theological education."



Deckenback participated in the January 6 service. He recently commented that "Stephanie's ministerial footprints can be found well beyond Montclair's borders in the life and leadership of the UCC. On numerous occasions, her colleagues selected her for key leadership positions, most recently as moderator of the New Jersey Association."

In summation, as one congregant has said, "Weiner's lasting legacy is her ministry. Founded on the unshakable belief that God's goodness will eventually defeat evil, she provides a message of hope through her inspiring preaching and individual pastoral care." Another active member has found that it is Weiner's sermons that stimulate him. "She helped us look in fresh and provocative ways not only at our individual lives, but at the Montclair community and society as a whole. She did more than make us think; she guided us toward action." For Stephanie Weiner, "Christianity is not an intellectual exercise. She believes deeply, and she insists that our belief has to be expressed in what we do and how we relate to others every day."

Dr. Weiner has accepted a position with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and will begin service there April 1.

J. Martin Bailey
Retired Communication Director,
National Council of Churches



Current and former CAC staff gathered in Baltimore for Associate Conference Minister Sherry Mason Taylor's retirement lunch. Sherry left her Ministry Team position after more than seventeen years on October 31. Pictured above: Chris Casio (accountant), John Deckenback, Kwame Osei Reed, Sherry, Beth Pugh, Patricia Barth, Marie Bacchiocchi, Jerry Foltz, Arnetta Jones, and Angie Megna.

Photo and information provided courtesy of Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Maddox Retires

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Maddox has retired after six years on the staff of Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, Bethesda, MD, the last two of which he served as the interim senior minister.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Briggs Center for Faith and Action of which Dr. Maddox is a founder, he was upgraded from part-time to full-time Executive Director. At that same meeting of the trustees, Linda Maddox was named Director of Development of the organization.

The Briggs Center was formed in 2006 when the Briggs Baptist Church merged with its next door neighbor, the Westmoreland Congregational Church. The Briggs Center, a religiously oriented non-profit institution, aims to "invest the energy of faith in critical issues of social justice."

Dr. Maddox served Baptist churches in Georgia, Texas, and Maryland for forty years before becoming a minister in the United Church of Christ, one of the nation's leaders in issues of faith and social justice. He was speechwriter and religious liaison for President Jimmy Carter. He also led Americans United for the Separation of Church and State from 1984 until becoming pastor of the Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, Bethesda, MD, in 1992.

Linda and Bob Maddox, now married fifty-two years, continue to live in Bethesda. Authors of several books between them, they continue to work on a variety of writing projects.

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Maddox



On December 9, the Community Church of Washington, DC, United Church of Christ, was formally welcomed into the Potomac Association in the chapel of Howard University's School of Divinity. Rev. Aaron Jones-Wade was installed as the church's minister.

CAC Board member Rev. Dr. Christine Y. Wiley was the preacher.



UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's five year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

Passages

John W. Mingus, Sr.

The Rev. John W. Mingus, Sr., died on October 31, 2012, in Florida. Rev. Mingus was the organizing pastor of the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley in Germantown, MD. He left those responsibilities to join the staff of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development.

His son, John Jr., is an active member of Little River United Church of Christ in Annandale, VA.

Rev. Mingus' obituary follows:

Rev. Dr. John W. Mingus, Sr., age 70, of Venice, FL, died on October 31, 2012. He was born in Norristown, PA, grew up in Middletown, NY, and came to the Venice area after serving churches in New England, Maryland, and Tennessee. He also served on the National Staff of the United Church of Christ. John was a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sarasota.

He is survived by his wife, Kimberly C. Hunt, of Venice, as well as children, grandchildren, brothers, and friends.

Memorial donations may be made to the Maine Sea Coast Mission, 127 West St., Bar Harbor, ME 04609 or the ALS Association Florida Chapter, 3242 Parkside Center Circle, Tampa, FL 33619.

Our prayers go out to the Mingus family and John's broad circle of friends.

Judith Ann Wagner

Judith Ann Wagner, 70, of Williamsport, MD, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012, at Meritus Medical Center near [Hagerstown](#), MD.

Born May 5, 1942, in Hagerstown, she was the daughter of the late Lester Clint "Johnnie" and Wanda Alberta Johnson Davis.

She was a graduate of Williamsport High School and also Hagerstown Community College with an associate degree in human services. She was licensed by the state of Maryland as a nursing home administrator.

She was employed as director of programs and services by Homewood Retirement Centers of the United Church of Christ Inc. in Williamsport until retiring in 1997.

She was a member of Bethel Assembly of God in Hagerstown.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Roderick J. Wagner (a retired United Church of Christ minister) of Williamsport; stepdaughter, Melinda R. Wagner of St. Augustine, FL.; stepdaughter, Katie A. Miller and her husband, Doug, of Columbia, MD; stepdaughter, Laura E. Quick and her husband, Brian, of Edgewater, MD; brother, Johnnie O. Davis of Smithsburg, MD; cousin, Jo Ellen Ridenour of Hagerstown, MD; and eight step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Douglas Irvin Artz.

Memorial donations may be made to Bethel Assembly of God Missions Fund, 515 E. Wilson Blvd., Hagerstown, MD 21740

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Lois Smith Harrison



Lois Smith Harrison, a selfless, community-minded woman whose smile was full of love and faith and whose heart gave without limit, joined the Lord's choir invisible Dec. 15, 2012.

Lois adored her late husband, Richard Lee Harrison, with whom she shared sixty-one years of spiritual union and from whom she could bear separation for only three months' time.

Mourned by her three children, Elizabeth Boyce (Arthur), Margaret Harrison, and Richard Harrison (Renate); five grandchildren, Emily and Harrison Boyce, Franziska Harrison, and Hillary and Hunter (Jolie) Wade; and a sister, Jeanne Smith Gardes. She will ever be in their hearts.

The middle child of R. Paul and Henrietta Menges Smith, Lois was born in 1924 in Frederick, MD. After her graduation from Hagerstown High School in 1941, Lois began a lifelong attachment with Hood College as a member of the Class of 1945.

Lois Harrison, con't

Exhibiting her independence and personal pursuit of excellence, Lois adventured to New York's Columbia University to earn her Master of Arts in school administration in 1946.

Drawn back to her roots, Lois returned home to take on the challenge of starting Hagerstown Junior College, now Hagerstown Community College.

As HJC's first employee, Lois hired most of the school's faculty and served as registrar, counselor, professor of sociology and psychology, and chaperone for the men's basketball team. She taught her future husband, Dick, after he joined HJC's inaugural class. In the college's early days, Lois knocked on doors and encouraged people to believe that they could earn a college degree — and then helped them make this dream come true.

In 2007, Hagerstown Community College honored Lois and Dick in a student scholarship fundraising tribute dinner.

Imbued by her parents with a strong sense of civic spirit, Lois contributed her time, talent, treasure, and counsel to numerous organizations and endeavors. She served as president of the Washington County Hospital (Meritus) Auxiliary and later as chairman of the hospital's board of trustees. As a member of the WCH Auxiliary, Lois invoked her musical gifts to adapt the lyrics from popular songs for comic effect to tease staff and administrators on the annual staff appreciation day.

For her alma mater, Lois first served as president of Hood College's Alumnae Association and then as chairman of the Board of Associates. Later, she became the first alumna chairman of the Board of Trustees, a position in which she served for fifteen years. In tribute, Hood awarded Lois the Excellence in Service to Hood College Award in 1978 and then bestowed upon her an honorary Doctor of Humanities in 1993. From 1972 to 1975, Lois again worked to enhance public educational opportunities by serving on the Governor's Commission on Higher Education.

As a testament to a lifetime of community service, *The Herald-Mail* honored Lois as its first female recipient of Person of the Year Award in 2006.

Lois' spiritual home since childhood was Christ's Reformed Church, where she taught Sunday school for fifty years. Using her leadership skills, she also served as President of the Consistory, President of Church Women United, elder, soloist, and director of the children's choir. As a testament to her deep faith, Lois celebrated the church's 150th anniversary by writing a book about its history titled *With Courage and Vision*.

Most at home in her kitchen, Lois loved to cook for her family and friends. Baking and sharing dozens of Christmas cookies brought her true joy. She hoped her handwritten book of recipes titled *Kitchen Memories* would inspire future generations to feel her delight in cooking. Lois also believed that a gifted pot of soup was a good start in healing anyone in need. Her highest priority was her family. Relishing the opportunity to nurture her three children in the house in which she herself was raised, Lois created a caring, loving, and supportive home. She was a fun mom whose zeal for living energized each day. Her easy laugh and encouraging words enriched her children's and grandchildren's lives.

Those who were fortunate to know Lois will forever miss her warmth, generosity, sense of humor, and way with words.

Donations may be made to Christ's Reformed Church, Hagerstown, MD.

Daniel Caplan

Mr. Dan Caplan died on November 4, 2012. Dan was a former Commissioned Minister in the New Jersey Association.

An active member of St. Paul's UCC in Nutley, Dan also was a vigorous supporter of the UCC's ministries with persons with disabilities.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Hazel, and his children, Shelly and Scott.

Rev. George H. Kinefelter



On Friday, Dec. 21, 2012, Rev. George H Klinefelter left his earthly body with family by his side at the home of his son, Philip, with whom he had lived since his wife's passing in April of 2009. Born Jan. 27, 1919, in Zelienople, PA, he graduated in 1940 from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, OH, where he met his future wife Josephine

Niswander. After he graduated in 1943 from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA, they were married. They went on to serve in Mechanicsburg and Northampton, PA, from 1943-1957; in Middletown, MD from 1957 to 1972; and Wooster, OH, from 1972-1978. After serving from 1978-1988 at Emanuel UCC in Bluffton, OH, George retired from full-time ministry. In 1993, he tried to retire from active ministry but found himself unable to turn down requests from the flock he had so faithfully served. By 2003, the effects of macular

Rev. Kinefelter con't

degeneration and Alzheimer's had reached a point where he was no longer able to shepherd the sheep, but he continued to enjoy refinishing furniture and gardening. Over the years, their love for traveling took George and Josephine to nearly all the continental states and Canada. National and state parks, historic homes, museums, and gardens were all thoroughly enjoyed. Seeing the many wonders of God's creative hand in nature never ceased to amaze them both.

Over the years, he had been active on various associaion and conference committees. He also held offices in Rotary and Lions Clubs and Fire companies in the communities that he served. As a longtime Red Cross blood donor, he again expressed his giving and caring nature. Even in the latter stages of his disease, he continued to minister to those around him. Online condolences may be shared at mattesonfh.com.

The surviving family includes son, Philip (Elizabeth) of West Salem; son-in-law Bill Hyatt of Middletown, OH; daughter-in-law Jeanette Bates of Indianapolis, IN; and eight grandchildren: Christi (Jeremy) Hostetler, Rebecca (Robert) Antill, Laura, Charles (Katie) Klinefelter, Amy Hyatt, Ken (Kristen) Hyatt, and Ben (Andrea) Klinefelter; and five great-grandchildren: Daniel and Elizabeth Hostetler, Zachary and Luke Klinefelter, and Nicholas Hyatt.

Memorials may be made in George's name to Hospice and Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County, 2525 Back Orrville Road, Wooster, OH 44691. George was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, a brother, his son, Gregory, his daughter, Mary Jo, and his wife of nearly sixty-six years, Josephine.

Published in *The Frederick News-Post* from December 25 to December 26, 2012

The Rev. Thomas Lew Golladay



(1941 - 2013)

The Reverend Thomas Lew Golladay died on January 30, 2013, in Vero Beach after a prolonged illness.

He was born on October 4, 1941, to Thomas Raymond and Emma Lou Stoner Golladay in Woodstock, VA. He is proceeded in death by his spouse of forty-five years, Eugenia "Genie" Golladay of Sebastian.

He is survived by his two daughters, Kathleen Kowanic (Michael) of Vero Beach, FL, and Morgan Golladay-Burke (Chris) of Barefoot Bay, FL; three grandchildren, Emma Kirsten Kowanic, Ethan Michael Thomas Kowanic, and Bailey Burke; and two brothers, Samuel Stoner Golladay (Diane) of Vero Beach and John Stoner Golladay (Joyce) of Sebastian.

Rev. Golladay was an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He graduated from Central High School in Woodstock in 1960, from Catawba College, Salisbury, NC, in 1964, and from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA, in 1967. That year, he entered the parish ministry and became the pastor of Emmanuel (Baust) United Church of Christ in Westminster, MD, where he served for twenty-three years.

In 1972, he became a Certified Organizational Development Consultant and spent twelve years as the Associate in Parish Development for the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, working with eighty-one churches in the Catocin and Shenandoah Associations in Maryland and Virginia.

Pastor Golladay was the architect of a new Pastoral Care Program at Carroll County General Hospital (Carroll County Hospital Center) in Westminster, where he served for eight years as Hospital Vice President of the Pastoral Care Department. Under this program, he had oversight of fifty-five chaplains, their training, credentialing, and deployment.

In 1991, he relocated to Sebastian, where he became the pastor of a newly forming congregation, the United Church of Sebastian. In 2004, he retired from the active parish ministry after completing thirteen years of service as Senior Minister of the congregation and was named Pastor Emeritus. His total ministry spanned thirty-seven years.

Following his retirement, he continued consulting and training clergy and churches, particularly in the Rocky Mountain Conference covering Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and he was an active member of Riviera United Church of Christ in Palm Bay, FL.

The family has requested that contributions in Pastor Tom's memory be made to Riviera United Church of Christ, 451 Riviera Dr., NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905 and designated for Heifer International or The Mental Health Association in Indian River County.



THE FORTY-NINTH
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE CENTRAL
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE



Official Call

The Board of Directors of the Central Atlantic Conference hereby calls the Forty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference, United Church of Christ to convene on Friday, June 7, 2013 at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

Voting Delegates: “Each local church shall be entitled to representation at meetings of the Conference by the chief lay officer designated by the local church and two lay delegates plus an additional lay delegate for each additional 500 members, or major fraction thereof, above an initial 300 members, and one (1) additional lay delegate provided such delegate is under 30 years of age. Representation shall be based on the last published edition of the Yearbook of the United Church of Christ.”

Voting Members: “Each authorized minister who has standing in any Association of the Conference shall be a voting member. Members of each Association’s governing body, members of the Conference Board of Directors, and the Conference delegates to General Synod shall be voting members. Elected members of Boards and Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ residing in the boundaries of the Conference shall be voting members.

CAC Bylaws, Article II – MEMBERSHIP: Section 3 (a, b, c) Voting Members

Our guests this year are the Rev. Cameron Trimble from the Center for Progressive Renewal, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis and Dr. Irving Joyner, members of the Wilmington 10 who were recently pardoned by the North Carolina Governor. Registration information can be found on the conference webpage www.cacucc.org