

# HEIRLOOM

of the Union Church of Bay Ridge  
Ridge Boulevard and 80th Street

email: unionchurch@earthlink.net  
website: www.ucbr.org  
The Parish House/Office  
(718) 745-0438  
8101 Ridge Boulevard  
Brooklyn, New York 11209

April/May, 2008

Rev. Mary Barrett Speers, *Pastor*  
Jody Levine, *Administrator*



## **MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER**

Dearest Union Church family,  
Happy Easter to you all!  
Our biggest news this month?  
To paraphrase e.e. cummings:  
...*Our website which had died is alive again today...*  
So if you have internet, please do go and visit  
www.ucbr.org! Or find a friend who has internet, and get  
them to visit the website with you.  
What are some of the things you can find there?  
Sunday School teachers can now find, download, and  
print their lesson plans (there will continue to be a  
notebook in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning).  
Elders can look up their communion service schedule, and  
check for session meeting dates.  
Visitors can find maps and directions with a photo of our  
church or the parish house.  
Soon (not yet, but very soon) you will be able to connect  
to music and boast to your friends about the Union  
Church choir and concert series.  
But right now, you can look up the Bible readings for this  
coming Sunday, or the daily readings for every day for  
your own private study, and you can read them right  
there or print them out.  
You can preview Sunday's bulletin and see what the  
sermon title is and what hymns, anthems, and readings  
there will be, and what the art is on the cover.  
You can look at the current newsletter, download and  
print it, share it with friends all over the world if you  
want to!  
You can read about upcoming concerts and musical  
happenings at Union Church. Our guest artists can find  
rehearsal schedules and directions to get here.  
You can see photos of your church family, read about  
upcoming events, download playgroup and BRUCA  
application forms and schedules.  
You can see photos of the Union Church windows, and  
show them to your friends.  
You can check the Union Church calendar in weekly,  
monthly, and "agenda" formats.  
You can find links to the Taizé website, the website of our  
shared-use partner Bay Ridge Prep, our curriculum  
website, various Presbyterian websites, Bay Ridge  
community websites, and BRUCA.  
You can add or change an entry just by calling or  
(preferably) emailing the office! Is there a link you think  
should be there? Do you have a photograph to share?  
It's easy: your pastor is the webmistress!

So, I hope you will all excuse me if I am so enthusiastic on  
this new day, because after all these years of trying, the  
program and mission committee is thrilled to have a  
website that you and all of us can keep up to date  
ourselves. Who knows if a do-it-yourself photo directory  
is far behind?

Easter at Union Church was a glorious day. I wish all of  
you a glorious Easter season...and go visit that website!  
Blessings,

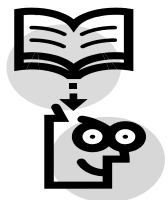
## **ROSTER OF ELDERS TO SERVE COMMUNION**

Mary Cusack "Mary Q" is the  
new communion "bishop"  
718.680.3441. If the date or  
dates you have been given do  
not suit you, please exchange  
with a fellow elder, and then  
notify Mary Q of the change (see the schedule on  
[www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org))

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11:00 a.m. – Olive Reich**  
**May 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11:00 a.m. – Jane Fezell**



**THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE** is located at the  
back of the Sanctuary and is open to  
the memorial page of a different  
dearly departed member every  
Sunday. Upcoming in the Book of  
Remembrance: April 6<sup>th</sup> - Dorothy  
Simmons; April 13<sup>th</sup> - Mildred  
Anderson; April 20<sup>th</sup> - Laurel Cogan;  
April 27<sup>th</sup> – Mary Nell Norstrand; May 4<sup>th</sup> - Mildred  
(Sue) Watson; May 11<sup>th</sup> - Clara Yagian; May 18<sup>th</sup> -  
Edith Jensen; May 25<sup>th</sup> - Charles Masterson.



**CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR** our planet and for peace,  
for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and  
economic disaster; for prisoners, those recently released  
from prison, and all who work and pray with them,  
especially the Church of Gethsemane. Also we pray for  
and stay in touch with: Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Iris  
Norstrand, Dolores Cleary, Evelyn Riccio, Carolyn  
Ramsay, Emile Serposs, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs,  
Amanda Silverman, Helen Kretiv; Barbara, Dale's family,  
Lance, Arabella, Eleanor, Craig and his family, Lorrie,  
Steve, Rachel, Cathy, James, Jenny, Nick, Andrea, Arthur,  
Sharon, Dana, Paul, Jon, Bud, Jane, Rick, and Kendra.

## **CHANGES AT UNION CHURCH**

With the new class of elders this year, we have some changes in who does what.

Sunday School "Bishop": Isabel Morales

Coffee Hour "Bishop": Kristin Miller

Communion "Bishop": Mary Cusack "Mary Q"

Clerk of Session: Michele Hern DiBartolo

We also have four new members (plus little ones):

### **New members so far in 2008:**

Jennifer and Ben Segna (and Jack)

Karen and Jim McMenemy (twins Erika Kay and Justin James)

## **CHURCH INFORMATION**

- ❖ Each quarter we mail out pledge forms listing the amount of your donations to Union Church for income tax purposes. We are only able to keep records for you if your offerings have been through check or pledge envelopes. If these forms are incorrect, please let us know.
- ❖ If you buy anything for the church and would like to be reimbursed, use your Union Church tax ID form or ask for one from the church office. The church does not pay or reimburse sales tax.
- ❖ If you plan on using any part of the Sanctuary or Parish House for a church function or meeting, please check with the office immediately. We are getting busy!



## **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS**

If you worship with us and would like your birthday listed in our newsletter, fill in the birthday calendar at the back of the sanctuary with your name and birth date or call the office.



### **April**

8th Florence Beshara-Akhtar

7th Elenore Skoldberg

16th Laura Hennessy

23rd Mary Hennessy

### **May**

2nd Shirley Tuccillo

2nd Malcolm Tannahill

6th Mary Speers

22nd Mary MacIntyre

23rd Kristine Samuel

27th Mary Chamberlain

30th Arthur Samuel

## **FEBRUARY AND MARCH FLOWERS**

Chancel flowers were dedicated to the glory of God: February 24, in memory of my mother, Lucile R. MacIntyre, by Bruce MacIntyre; March 2, in memory of Alice Seely, from Jeanne Pape and Harry Schneider; March 9, in memory of June Aram, by John Aram; March 16, in memory of Severin Norstrand, by the Norstrand family; March 23, in memory of Janet Louisa, by Bill Louisa; March 30, in memory of Helene Ogurek, by her family and friends.



## **IN MEMORIAM**

*Blessed are they who die in the Lord* (Rev. 14:13)

Viola Ferretti died peacefully on February 8<sup>th</sup> in Maryland. She was a longtime member of Union Church and its Koinonia Delta. Viola was the mother of Arlene Ferretti and the sister of Milford Anderson. Friends who wish to do so may remember her with gifts to the Union Church Memorial Fund. Arlene's address:

Arlene Ferretti  
9008 Kirkdale Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children from the 1st through the 8th grades are welcome to come. It meets in the sanctuary basement at 11am every Sunday morning. Childcare is also provided during the 11am worship service for younger children.



## **NEWS OF FORMER MEMBERS**

Milford Anderson has moved to New Jersey and is recovering from surgery. His address is:

Milford Anderson  
c/o Laurelton Village Blvd.  
475 Jack Marting Blvd.  
Brick, N.J. 08724

John Aram writes that his daughter, Justine, has had more reconstructive surgery after her serious car accident last year. She is now home again and in good spirits. John's Address is:

John Aram  
1240 Hillside Avenue #1  
Honesdale, PA 18431-2214

## **CHURCH PLAYGROUP**

The Union Church playgroup has been a great success for the past autumn and winter sessions. We have just begun our spring session which ends in June. Playgroup is a spacious place with lots of interesting things for a child to do, such as blocks, trains, housekeeping, and doll house, dress-up, puzzles, books, puppets, crafts, etc. A snack is provided along with a Story read by the director. There is also Music Time with songs and musical instruments.

Playgroup is for toddlers and a caretaker, and meets Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 – 11:30 am and Wednesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 pm downstairs in the Sanctuary (the corner of 80<sup>th</sup> Street and Ridge Blvd). The cost is \$175.00 – \$210.00 for a 10 or 12 week session, based on chosen day of week. please visit [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org) or call 718.745.0438 to sign up.

## **Union Church Concerts**

**Sunday, April 6 at 4pm**

**Piano Recital by Elena Antimova**

**Works of Beethoven, Chopin, and Janáček**

On Sunday afternoon, **April 6 at 4pm in the Union Church Sanctuary**, pianist **Elena**

**Antimova** will play Beethoven's Sonata in C major, op. 53 ("Waldstein"), Chopin's Sonata in B minor, op 58, and Two Nocturnes, op. 62, as well as Czech composer Leoš Janáček's *In the Mists*.

Having started playing piano at the age of four, **Elena Antimova** gave her first solo recital at age six in her native Bulgaria. She received piano honors and awards from several national competitions and premiered piano music by American composers at the **Third Annual Festival of American Music** in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Ms. Antimova holds the Bachelor of Music from Brooklyn College, where she is currently completing her Master of Music as a piano student of Michael Rogers. She performed as a soloist with the Conservatory Orchestra under Ken Selden as the winner of the 2005 Concerto Competition.

**Sunday, April 27 at 11am**

**Vivaldi's Gloria with orchestra, choir, and soloists**

On Sunday morning, **April 27, at 11am in the Union Church Sanctuary**, Minister of Music Vince Peterson will conduct the Union Church choir with the Academy of Union Church in a complete offering of RV589, the better known of Vivaldi's two extant *Gloriae*.

According to John Bawden, Musical Director (1994-2006), Fareham (U.K.) Philharmonic Choir:

"...The *Gloria*, together with the *Four Seasons*, is undoubtedly Vivaldi's best-known work. He wrote it for the *Ospedale della Pieta*, the Venetian girls' orphanage where he taught music from 1703. The girls were given a thorough training in choral singing, the more gifted ones also being given instrumental tuition and extra voice coaching. According to contemporary reports, the concerts that they gave were of a very high standard, and the entrance fees contributed significantly to the maintenance of the orphanage.

The wonderfully sunny nature of the *Gloria*, with its distinctive melodies and rhythms, is characteristic of all of Vivaldi's music, giving it an immediate and universal appeal."

(Union Church is grateful to Mr. Bawden for permission reproduce the above three paragraphs. Please see this and further information about Vivaldi and his *Gloria*, including the text of one of the

contemporary reports mentioned above, on the Union Church website [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org))

**Sunday, May 18 at 4pm**

**Spring Pops: The Mel-O-Chords Sing The Beatles**

The 2007-08 Union Church Concert Series rounds itself off with one of New Jersey's best secular vocal ensembles, The Mel-O-Chords. Founded in the 1960's as a committee of The Montclair Operetta Club (MOC), The Mel-O-Chords is a vocal ensemble based in Montclair, New Jersey. Their repertoire includes musical theater, pop, and more adventurous secular works. They have been important ambassadors for the MOC, performing at First Night Montclair, Liberty State Park (Jersey City), The Paper Mill Playhouse, May in Montclair, telecasts on New Jersey Channel 10, and now Union Church, where their artistic director, Vince Peterson, is also minister of music.

The Mel-O-Chords present a special Pops concert at Union Church, choral arrangements of the Beatles' greatest hits. Come and experience the spirit of John, Paul, George and Ringo in a way you never thought possible, including all your favorites: "Yesterday", "Eleanor Rigby", "Back in the USSR", "Blackbird," and many more, as "the Chords" revive the music that carried America through war and upheaval in the 1960s. This is a very special event that you will NOT want to miss.

These three concerts conclude the fourth season of Union Church Concerts, a concert series presented mostly free of charge on Sundays to the Bay Ridge community. A freewill offering is taken at each concert in support of music at Union Church. The church is within easy walking distance of the "R" train (77<sup>th</sup> Street) as well as the B4 and B37 bus lines. For further information call 718-745-0438 or visit our all-new website [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org).

## **A DISCIPLE IN THE BOAT OR WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?**

By Ruth Ward

On Sundays in elementary school years, I accepted Sunday school as an integral part of life. I liked it. Everyone was kind, pleasant, and no pressures like regular school. We got lesson booklets that told stories of a world I had not known. In glowing color were Old Testament figures or Jesus teaching the people. Our teachers taught us how God helped those who did the right thing: Daniel was unhurt by lions, David slew the great Goliath, and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not get clothes even singed in a furnace. Jesus taught all who would listen.



I grew older and busy with other things, not thinking of church all week. My family were Episcopalians who were faithful and active in church, but not “religious” at home. They did, however, live and raise me with Christian love and gentleness, and at twelve I was confirmed. In their defense, this was the Great Depression Era, beset with money worries and soon illnesses of both grandparents. These took their toll although they did their best to keep me unaware and leading a normal life. Church, however, was no longer a factor. Looking back I can remember when God, unbidden, entered my life. I was twenty, had been hurt in an accident. Mother and I were alone. She attended a new church; I did not. One Sunday during my recovery I answered the doorbell and there was the minister (who had never seen me) bringing me the flowers from church. Feeling the unworthy pagan I was I thanked him warmly. But, after he left I felt guilty, and some how wrong. (a nudge from God?) I clearly recall the thought that if he could do this, the least I could do would be to put in an appearance at church.

This “appearance” evolved into years of going and being active in choir and other activities. Life went on apace, with bouts of tough times along the way. I was going to church, but knew still I was not fulfilled as a Christian; there in body, not in spirit. “Too busy” I would have said, had anyone asked. For a second time (again I never thought of it then). With God’s guidance my whole life changed. I really did get “born again” this time in spirit too. A chance encounter with Union Church and its ministers saved me. They showed me how to live and find God’s presence in my life if I reached out. I learned to pray (this at 50) and be led by God on whom I could rely, experiencing the fruits of the spirit promised by Paul in Galatians. God had always been there; it was I who had not.

I worked at nurturing faith, promising not to stop. Also to accept that what I did not like might happen too. Today when I waver, I remind myself I am being a “disciple in the boat.: When Jesus slept and a storm began to rage, they cried out in fear to be rescued. His gentle rebuke: “Where is your faith?” As one gets older (and, it is hoped, wiser) faith is a bulwark at times; at others it dwindles. Like a precious flower it needs cultivation and nourishing to bloom.

### **DEAR BASKETBALL PLAYERS**



If you would like to rent our Parish House gym, we have 2-hour time slots open evenings during the week, and on weekends. Call the office for details at 718.745.0438 ask for Jody.

### **YOGA** by Kristin Miller

Yoga has begun again! Classes are **Mondays and Wednesdays 6:45-8:15pm**, downstairs in the playgroup area of the Union Church Sanctuary, located on the corner of 80<sup>th</sup> Street and Ridge Blvd. Please bring a mat and a towel and arrive a few minutes early. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED** for the gentle, restorative class. Open to all; cost is \$15.00 per session – call Kristen at 718-745-6594 no pre-registration required.



### **NOTARY PUBLIC**

Notary Public services are available at the Union Church Parish House located at 8101 Ridge Blvd. This service is available from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday. Calling first is recommended 718.745.0438 ask for Jody. This service is free to all Union Church members.



**DEADLINES** - The newsletter belongs to the church community. What you want in it must be submitted. The next newsletter deadline is Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The deadline for items to be included in any Sunday bulletin is the previous Monday at 12 noon.



**EASTER POEM** (the text of our Easter offertory anthem)

### **THE MORNING LIGHT RENEWS THE SKY**

By Pack Browning, set by Samuel Barber in *Easter Chorale*

The morning light renews the sky.  
Across the air the birds ignite  
Like sparks, to take this blaze of day  
Through all the precincts of the night.

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The fires of dawn refresh our eyes,  
We watch the world grow wide and bright  
And praise our newly risen Light.

The winter land receives the year.  
Her smallest creatures rouse and cling  
To swelling roots and buds that stir  
The restless air to reel and ring!

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The sounds of waking fill our ears.  
We listen to the live earth sing  
And praise our loving Source and Spring.

## **Love Bade Me Welcome**

George Herbert, 1593-1632

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lack'd anything.

"A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here;"  
Love said, "You shall be he."

"I, the unkind, the ungrateful? ah my dear,  
I cannot look on thee."

Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
"Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them; let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve."

"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the  
blame?"

"My dear, then I will serve."

"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."  
So I did sit and eat.

## **O Taste and See** by Denise Levertov, 1923-1997

The world is  
not with us enough.

### **O taste and see**

he subway Bible poster said,  
meaning **the Lord**, meaning  
if anything all that lives  
to the imagination's tongue,

grief, mercy, language,  
tangerine, weather, to  
breathe them, bite,  
savor, chew, swallow, transform

into our flesh our  
deaths, crossing the street, plum, quince,  
living in the orchard and being

hungry, and plucking  
the fruit.

## **June Miniseries on Art and Spirituality**

Lynn Penney will teach a Four-Week Miniseries on Art and Spirituality in the month of June. The multimedia miniseries will take place in the BRUCA studio, downstairs in the Parish House building, on Thursday evenings, June 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. There will be a \$15 fee per evening, pay as you go, for this introduction to exploring our spirituality thru simple, approachable art. No art experience needed—see Lynn Penney or call her 917-538-9752.

## **BRUCA OPEN HOUSE**

BRUCA will open its doors to all who want to come and play with clay, Saturday, April 5 from 10-2. All ages and abilities are welcome. Come play in the mud at BRUCA! Regular classes start April 7 and run for 8 weeks into early June.

### **Note to the online edition:**

The print edition of this newsletter included a poster/handbill for the concerts, BRUCA events, and playgroup for April and May, as well as a month-to-month print version of the Web calendar.