

Greetings from the Directors of the ECOC

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I still remember the very first time we arrived at Chautauqua and drove down the narrow streets to find what was then called the Ministers' Union – now the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua. We had wanted to come to Chautauqua for many years, and finally the time was right. Some friends who had stayed at the MU had told us all about it, and recommended it to us. Other friends who had attended Chautauqua just a week or so prior to our week had “scouted out” the place where we’d be staying. Their description: you will be able to roll out of bed and right into the Amphitheatre for morning worship!

We had many questions before we arrived that day. Would we be accepted? After all we were Canadians, and Anglicans. Would we fit into the Chautauqua community? Did we have the right clothes, the right food, the right expectations? Not to be daunted by our minor anxieties, we set out on our journey, and now we were here. And from that first experience, we felt like we had come home. Immediately we were faced with a whole new set of questions: Why had we allowed so many years to be “pre-Chautauqua”? How many weeks could we swing next year? Would future experiences of Chautauqua ever be as amazing as our first?

We experienced community in a new “key” that first summer at Chautauqua. We came home filled to the brim by our worship experiences, lectures, music, the beauty of the place, and the new friends we’d made. And so much that was good about our first week centered around that place where we lived and ate and slept, right beside the Amphitheatre. Mr. Westervelt’s vision of providing low-cost accommodation for clergy and church work-

ers was a true gift to us and a precious legacy for us to share. The friendly and helpful staff – Sandy was our Shaw kitchen hostess that year, so need I say more? The front-porch conversations, often carried into the kitchen during meal preparation, the simple comforts afforded, even the lineups for the shower, all did their part to help shape us into Chautauquans, but a special kind of Chautauquan – an ECOC Chautauquan.

This place we all call home during our Chautauqua weeks is indeed special and blessed. It is blessed by its purpose, still being fulfilled after so many years. It is blessed by the families who have shared in its administration and operation. It is blessed by the long line of faithful managers, hosts/hostesses, and staff. It is blessed by those who, year after year, give of their time and talent to keep the place fixed up, as best as buildings as old as these can be fixed up! It is blessed by those who have made pledges and donations toward future renovation and care, thus *continuing the legacy*. But, most of all, it is blessed by those who, year after year, come back and perpetuate the traditions which define the Ecumenical Community: mutual love and respect for each other based on a common faith in the goodness of the Creator.

Thanks to each one of you for your contribution to our wonderful ECOC community. Thanks for the many ways you support the ECOC Board of Directors. May your next visit to Chautauqua and the ECOC be even better than your last.

(The Reverend) Paul Kett

Chair, ECOC Board of Directors

An ECOC

Memory....

My time here at Chautauqua was a time for meditation, reflection and healing. God's grace, mercy and love rests upon this place.

Thank you. ~

Pat Mason

Message from the Managers

An ECOC Memory...

We enjoyed the fellowship in the kitchen and on the front porch. Thanks Bob, Sandy and the rest of the staff for your warm hospitality.

Ann and Barry Dunbar

An ECOC Memory...

Another memorable vacation with children and grandchildren. We love staying at the Ecumenical Community, and we appreciate the friendliness of all who work here (Sandy and Bob).

Bill and Marian Beattie

Another season is almost upon us, and we look forward to seeing all of you and catching up on your news. Reservations are going quickly so if you are planning to book for this season, here is what you have to choose from. There are a few rooms open Weeks 1 through 4. Weeks 5, 6 and 8 are full. Week 7 and 9 have several rooms open. If you want to call about a reservation, call our Chautauqua number—716 357-3814.

Our hosts and hostesses this year for Weeks 1 through 5 will be *Ed and Marge Johnston* returning to the Shaw House, *Rev. Tom and Jeanie Kerns* returning to the Bird-Werner House, and a new couple, *George and Mary Dillingham*, will be hosting at the Westervelt House. They are taking the place of *Eddie and Sandy Anderson* who for health reasons decided it was time to retire. Weeks 6 through 9 will be hosted by *Reverend Sue Loper* returning to the Shaw House, *Nels and Lois Sandberg* returning to the Bird-Werner House, and returning to the Westervelt House is *E. Carol Maxwell*.

Each one of these hosts and hostesses

brings something special that they share with all of us at the ECOC. Please remember that these folks are pretty much volunteers, who receive a very small stipend for all the work they do, so please keep your kitchen area clean all the time and clean your room before you leave.

We hope as many of you as possible will join us for the **Work Weekend** which is Thursday evening, **May 31** to Sunday afternoon, **June 3**. You get to pick the jobs you feel comfortable doing! We have a lot you can choose from! Please bring your own linens or a sleeping bag. On Saturday evening, we will have a pot luck dinner! Please bring something to share. If you haven't already let us know you will be coming, just give us a call at **716-357-3814** to let us know you are coming. We will be waiting for you!

Sandy and Bob Boehm

716 357-3814
(May 15-October 1)

330 821-1872
(Oct 1-May 15)

Continuing the Legacy

A Capital Fund Campaign of the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

The first year of the capital fund campaign has been gratifying with many of our constituency responding with gifts and three-year pledges. As of March 1, 2007, total pledges are: **\$236,444**. With 39% of the three-year campaign behind us we have received cash in the amount of: \$104,018, representing 44% of the total pledged. It is hoped we might pass the quarter million mark in pledges by summer season. It is not too late to respond with pledge. The contact person and address for remitting checks is:

Robert P. Boell

801 Yale Avenue, #408, Swarthmore, PA 19081-1821

Checks should be made to ECOC. The ECOC has a brokerage account for those who wish to make stock donations. For pledge cards or other information, contact Bob at above address or: 610-544-3789 or bob.boell@ecunet.org

Official acknowledgment of all gifts for tax purposes is sent at the end of each calendar year. The Board of ECOC thanks all who have responded so heartily.

(The Reverend) Bob Boell

Sunday Ice Cream Socials! *Everyone is Invited*

SUCCESS!! Last summer, the traditional ECOC Sunday Social was moved to a new time - immediately following lunch! Serving ice cream (with chocolate and caramel topping) made the "What's for dessert?" decision very easy. This new time allowed for more ECOC guests to attend before the afternoon's events and activities began. Rev. Bob Boell and Rev. Bill Brockman, *Continuing the Legacy* Campaign Co-Chairmen, shared interesting historical facts about the ECOC. They invited everyone to consider contributing to the capital campaign so the ECOC can continue to offer affordable housing for future generations.

No matter which house you reside in during your stay this summer (Shaw House, Bird-Werner House, Westervelt House), please plan to have your Sunday-after-lunch dessert in the Shaw House kitchen. This will provide you the opportunity to meet your neighbors for the week. You will see old friends and meet new friends. These Sunday socials will be hosted by the ECOC Board Members.

Something New! The ECOC managers and staff will be participating in *The Connections* program by 'adopting' a student or students from one of the performing arts disciplines. We will be providing hospitality to these young people by inviting them for a meal, taking them some homemade cookies, and attending some of their rehearsals and performances. If this is something you would like to do, please contact Susan Helm for more information. 502-897-3870 (BEFORE May 23) or 716-357-5799 (AFTER May 24) or smhelm@clockwinders.net (ANYTIME).

(The Reverend) Sue Loper

ECOC Board Member & Hospitality Chairman

A Little Bit of History ... *(as told to Nancy Shaw Kealey by Martha Bird)*

"In 1938, I was a junior in high school when my father told me I was going to spend the summer at the Ministers' Union, Chautauqua, New York. I was not a happy camper, but I did what my father said. I arrived to find I was to be Aunt Eunice's GO-FER ~ take this to the 3rd floor, go check the Westervelt for blankets, take pillows upstairs, make sure sinks are not left running, and ... if you see anyone smoking—RUN AND GET ME! Uncle Edwin, on the other hand, was a fisherman. While I was there, he caught a muskalunge and hung it in the doorway of the Columbia (Shaw) kitchen! One could hardly get around it! He was so proud!

It was a busy summer, and I fell in love with Chautauqua... and I met my future husband that summer. I have returned every year to enjoy the fellowship of the community kitchens and the many friends... new and old. It is almost 70 years, and I still love it as if it were my first year!"

Martha Minier Bird ~ niece to

Eunice Sherman Minier Shaw, Manager 1928

ROOMS AVAILABLE

Weeks 1-4, 7 and 9

Call 716 357-3814

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Opening Amphitheater Performance

June 23, 2007

Editorial Note

In this issue there are a number of references to the Ministers' Union. The Ministers' Union (*MU*), founded in 1929, was organized to provide low cost housing to clergy, clergy families and religious workers who attend Chautauqua Institution. The current *MU* corporation is organized to preserve the rich historical contributions made to the Chautauqua community. The Ecumenical Community Of Chautauqua (*ECOC*), a not-for-profit corporation with a 503C3 designation, founded in 2003, took as one of its' major purposes providing low cost housing to people of all faith communities while giving preference to clergy of all faiths, clergy families, and religious workers.

While the *MU* and *ECOC* are separate corporations with separate boards of directors, they do share many common values.

**Ecumenical Community of
Chautauqua (ECOC)**

*25 Roberts Avenue
PO Box 988
Chautauqua New York 14722*

Put Label Here

WORK WEEKEND

May 31st to June 3rd

Call 716 357-3814



2007 Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Eunice Shaw Bull Scholarship was established in 1995 (two scholarships) for Minister's and or Christian workers to spend one week at Chautauqua.

The Ralph E. Holzwarth Scholarship was established in his memory by his wife Christine in 2006 (two scholarships) for Methodist Ministers and or Christian workers .

Both scholarships are for first-timers to Chautauqua (married or single applicants) and provide the recipients with one week's housing, gate passes and Children's School admission.

Eunice Shaw Bull Scholarships

Pastor Doug & Kathleen West and their 6 children
Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee & husband Barrett

Ralph E. Holzwarth Scholarships

Rev. Aaron & Gretchen Kerr and their 2 sons
Rev. Robert & Connie Dungy