



INTRODUCING: The Rev. Virginia C. Hoch, aka Pastor Ginny

Pastor Ginny was born and reared in the Catskill Mountains of New York State, where her parents still live. She graduated from the State University College at Plattsburgh with a BS in Nursing, and began her clinical nurse career at Duke Medical Center in Durham, NC. After receiving a commission as an officer in the US Air Force, Pastor Ginny was stationed at Eglin AFB in Florida. She also received her silver wings as a Flight Nurse, following in the footsteps of her father, who had served in the US Army Air Corps as a B17 pilot during WWII. Upon completion of her tour of duty, Pastor Ginny moved to Albany, NY, where she was the Instructor of Pediatric Nursing at Albany Medical Center School of Nursing. During this time, she returned to her home church to form, train, and direct a choir. (The choir is still going strong some 30 years later, under the capable direction of a man whose mother sang in the original choir.) Pastor Ginny recognized a call to ministry, and entered The Theological School at Drew University, where she received a Master of Divinity degree, *magna cum laude*, in 1982. Pastor Ginny began her parish career in Vail's Gate, NY; it is there that her first child Sarah Emily was born. In 1986 Pastor Ginny took a family leave, but came off that leave to become the interim pastor at St. Paul's UMC in Middletown, NY, following a crisis in that church. Again, in 1988 Pastor Ginny came to back to parish ministry for an interim position at the Sloatsburg-Tuxedo UMCs. In 1989 her second child Brian Andrew was born. Pastor Ginny was called to the Goshen UMC as an interim in 1992, but after a few months it became apparent that their needs and her skills would need to continue beyond the one-year interim time. Thus, the appointment became a regular appointment, and she has been there for 16 years. During that time, Pastor Ginny completed a Master of Philosophy degree in Liturgical Studies, again at Drew. Pastor Ginny's former husband now lives in Iowa, and with his partner is at the forefront of moving legislation for equal rights for GLBT people.

Pastor Ginny has served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, first as a registrar and then as co-chairperson. She has served on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, on the Conference Committee on Handicapping Conditions, as Worship Coordinator for the Board of Ordained Ministry and for the Conference Sessions Committee. She sings, plays piano and clarinet, and enjoys writing music. She has authored numerous liturgies and written lyrics for many hymns. She has also composed two musicals, writing both the lyrics and the music. Currently she serves on the Conference Board of Trustees, and has in her portfolio the disposition of abandoned properties.

Our new pastor has a passion for meaningful worship, for ministry with children and youth, for helping people find their spiritual center, for healing ministry, and for extending the love of God into the community. She has served as chaplain to the local ambulance corps for 12 of the 16 years in Goshen, and was recently made a life member of the corps. Pastor Ginny is particularly skillful in a crisis; she is an engaging preacher; she has a rich and sometimes raucous sense of humor; she believes in the ministry of the laity ("It is my job to equip you to do your job, not to do your job for you.")

Pastor Ginny is also an avid photographer; her works can be seen online at www.mainavegalleria.com. Her artist name is ggcarle (her maiden name).

She is thrilled about coming to Mary Taylor, and joining the members on their journey of faith. We look forward to a long, productive, and exciting spiritual journey together.