



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

April 2014

We share our experiences of God’s Kingdom with all, through our faith, love, fellowship, and service. It is our vision to have everyone actively involved in worship that enriches, ministries that empower, and evangelism that embraces all.

Pastor’s Corner

Dear Church,

As April begins, we are all looking at a time when winter will finally be over. Already I see evidence of spring all around, even as our Lenten springtime soul searching and cleaning is underway. I trust that, with God’s grace, you are all faithfully carrying on with what you vowed to “give up” and “take on” as part of your preparation for Easter. I am doing the same.

For those who still want to embrace spiritual practices this Lent (it is never too late to do this), opportunities to connect more fully with the Lord and with others are plenty. Please look at the calendar in this issue of the Spire for those grace-laden opportunities especially during Holy Week. Some ministry opportunities to serve the Lord through our congregation go well beyond Easter Sunday. The more of us are involved in these different ministries, the more God’s glory is served as we salt the earth and let our light shine in the name of the Holy One who calls us and sends us.

In this issue you will also receive information on incoming pastor, Michelle Thorne-Mejia. Please include her in your prayers as we all pray for each other and for the congregation during this time of transition. Thank you all very much. I look forward to continuing the journey with you in the next few months as we worship the Lord and serve together the people to whom we have been sent. Continue to observe a Holy Lent toward a meaningful celebration of Easter. Remember to invite family and friends to join us during these holy days.

Grace & Peace, *Pastor MaAn*



2014 Lent – Easter Schedule

Wednesday Lenten Studies

March 12 thru April 16
10:15 a.m. & 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Services

March 12 thru April 9
12 noon followed by light lunch

Palm-Passion Sunday Service

April 13, 10:00 a.m.

Holy Week

Contemplative Services

April 14, 15, 16
12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Holy Thursday

April 17, 6:00 p.m.

Covered dish dinner with Seder
Remembrance followed by
Holy Communion & UMM Presentation

Good Friday Service at EUMC

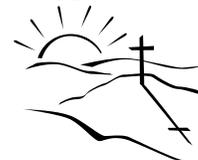
April 18, 12:00 noon

Black Saturday – April 19

Day of personal prayer

Easter Sunday – April 20

Sunrise Service, 6:00 a.m., Thomas Point
Easter Day Service, 10:00 a.m. at EUMC
Easter Egg Hunt follows



Our New Pastor, July 2014

Rev. Michelle Thorne Mejia was raised in the United Methodist Church. Her father, Rev. Alan D. Thorne, is a United Methodist pastor in the Virginia Conference.



Michelle graduated magna cum laude with her B.A. in Hispanic Studies and History from The College of William and Mary. During those four years Michelle served in various leadership positions at the Wesley Foundation and spent the summers working with different United Methodist camps and mission projects. Upon graduation, Michelle served for a year as an intern at Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, Ohio. Upon further discernment of her call to ministry, Michelle pursued her Master of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary, graduating summa cum laude in May 2011. During her time in seminary, Michelle served as the Assistant Pastor at Emmanuel UMC in Beltsville, MD and as the Grassroots Coordinator of Immigration Reform for the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church.

Michelle also spent a quadrennium on the Board of Directors for the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. After graduating seminary Michelle accepted an appointment in the Baltimore Washington Conference at Community UMC in Maryland City. Since she began serving as pastor of this congregation in July 2011, Community UMC has received new friends and members, begun an Adult ESOL program for their Latina neighbors, started a youth group, celebrated their 50th anniversary of ministry in Maryland City, deepened their relationship with Maryland City Elementary School, and started homeless ministries which include serving the tent city near their church and participating in the Laurel Winter Shelter.

Currently, Michelle is a Provisional Elder in the Virginia Conference (serving on loan in the BWC) and will apply for ordination in the fall of 2014. In her sabbath time, Michelle enjoys dancing, cooking, photography, yoga, traveling, reading, writing, and hiking. Michelle recently married her best friend

and fellow United Methodist pastor, Rev. Daniel Mejia on June 29, 2013.



Save the Date

June 8th, we will celebrate our shared ministry for the past nine years with Pastor MaAn and Vern. Immediately following the worship service, covered dish lunch will be served. Please mark your calendar now and plan to be here.



EUMC's Annual Tea Needs Hostesses

On May 4th, 2 to 4 p.m., the United Methodist Women are putting on their annual Ladies Tea. Tickets will be sold every Sunday starting April 6th. They are looking for hostesses for the tables. Please consider doing this – it's a popular, sold out event every year. If you are a female member or friend of EUMC, you are a United Methodist Woman! Hosting is easy. Come to the UMW meeting on April 2nd and learn how, or call Harriet Macey at 410-263-7217.

~Harriet Macey



Thank you to all those who attended the Pancake Dinner. With the proceeds from that dinner, the grants he has been awarded, and donations so far, Dennis Bergsman has raised half the money needed to buy the playground equipment. To help raise more funds, Dennis will be having a Spaghetti Dinner at the church on April 10th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Bertucci's has generously offered to donate the spaghetti, sauce and rolls. Dinner will also include salad, dessert and drinks.

Adults \$10 – Children \$5

Donations welcomed. All proceeds go to purchasing the new EUMC playground equipment.

The Neck Tie Project

A BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed to the special tie project...it was really interesting...lots of tie trivia! So many different ties and makers, colors, patterns, stripes, plaids and solids, St. Patty's Day, Christmas, nautical...oh my! We received over 200 ties! John Stuntz even had to relinquish his tie in Fellowship Hall after Sunday service! You will see the results soon!

~Carol Emory and Sally Colburn

Make a Note

Disciple Bible Study will resume after Easter, on April 30th.

May 25 – Johnson male Choir of Asbury Town Neck UMC will sing again at EUMC, thanks to Jim Wilcox.

Easter Lilies

We will be taking dedications for Easter lilies on April 6th and 13th in Fellowship Hall after the service. The cost is \$10 and the lilies may be dedicated in memory/honor of your loved ones. If you prefer, a dedication donation may be made to the food pantry. All dedications will be in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

~Jill Peddicord



Reflections of Holy Week

On Holy Thursday April 17th, the United Methodist Men will present a new dramatic retelling of Jesus' last days. Their portrayal of the *Living Last Supper* was well received and this new drama will add to your preparation for the joy of Easter.

You will hear from six individuals who were close to Jesus before his death on the cross. Their reflections set the stage for Christ's resurrection and show God's forgiveness and love for humankind.

Please plan to join us after the 6:00 p.m. covered dish dinner on Holy Thursday, April 17th.

~Jill Peddicord & the UMM

EUMC Yard Sale

The date has been set for June 14th. Our thanks to Sally Malamphy and Myrna Dobbs for stepping up to take the lead again this year. Sally & Myrna are looking for volunteers to commit now to receive and sort items, as well as be there on June 14th to set up, man tables, sell and clean up – let them know what you are willing to do. And everybody – start saving your gently used treasures to help the church with this fund-raiser. You may start bringing them to EUMC on Sunday, June 8th. Proceeds from the yard sale go toward funding the peach festival, which in turn supports mission ministries and other church programs.



Peach Festival



Bill Malamphy and Jean Strucko have volunteered to lead this year's festival, scheduled for August 2nd. Committees are being formed now. People will be needed to help with making jelly and pickled beets. You all know the drill...this is an all-church event and we're counting on YOU to pitch in and help. There's a job for every one of you during "peach week" and/or on the day itself. See Bill or Jean with your ideas and your willingness to help. And please bring back your beets and jelly jars – you can place them in the kitchen any time. Thanks!



Join Us for GreenScape 2014

GreenScape is a city and community partnership investment in beautification, clean-up and planting in public spaces throughout Annapolis. This year's date is April 26. EUMC members and friends will again participate – please put this date on your calendar and plan to help between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Bring your gloves and gardening tools and we'll clean up our church property, plant and trim, spread mulch, and do what is needed to beautify our space here in the middle of Eastport. If it rains, the church will plan another date for this project.

There will be information in Fellowship Hall so families can pick sections of the Church yard to be responsible for. Consider an hour of your time for this project – it will make a big impact on the looks of the Church – we are the Jewel of Eastport!

For more information please call the Church office, or Paulette at 410-268-5975.

~Paulette Schwallenberg



Once Again Our Little Church Shows Its Caring Side

Members of the congregation were once again invited to write messages and sign thank you cards earmarked for U.S. troops returning to the states. The cards, made by EUMC's Gracious Greetings card-making ministry, featured cancelled American Flag postage stamps and a variety of patriotic

symbols. The cards are supplied to *Operation Welcome Home Maryland*, a volunteer organization that inserts the cards into goodie bags that greeters distribute to troops as they are welcomed home at BWI Airport. For more information regarding this wonderful organization go to

www.operationwelcomehomemd.org

or contact Joyce Conley. And do remember – *everyone* is invited to craft cards and share laughs and fellowship with the Gracious Greetings crew! Artistic talent, experience, and expertise are not needed, just come and have fun! We meet the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. and craft birthday and anniversary cards for members of the congregation, holiday cards for residents of Timothy House, and cards for the troops.

~ Joyce Conley

Dennis Bergsman's Notes on Porto Fino and Genova

We came through the mountains, on winding roads through hills that the Roman legions seized from barbarian tribes. Eventually we came to a port side town that looked like it was out of a postcard. The waters of the Mediterranean sparkled a deep blue. Houses clutched to the hillside, a stairway of stone and brick. We followed a winding road on a narrow strip between sea and mountain. Arriving at a small harbor with about a dozen small boats in it. We met our friends and had a marvelous lunch at a traditional bar. The lunch consisted of some bread with melted cheese and a large helping of pasta with pesto sauce. After lunch, to work off the heavy meal, we climbed up a steep old staircase to a church with a breathtaking view of the sea.



As the sun set, we worked our way into Genova. At first it seemed too modern with towering buildings made of steel and glass but I looked down to find

truly ancient buildings alongside their gargantuan cousins. We parked and were greeted by a friend of the Nogarians. He offered to give us a tour of the medieval part of the city. He pointed out buildings built in the romantic style from the twelfth century. He bought us some gelato to try and led us through streets too narrow for three people to walk abreast. For you see, the old of Genova is not as surface as that of? Milan, you must navigate claustrophobic streets to find the most ancient buildings. He showed us many historic buildings, whether the houses of the great noble families or that of the son of a wool merchant that would sail across the Atlantic, or a church with the most beautiful and ancient marble work I had ever seen. He showed us so much and I am very thankful for that. Now having left these towns on the old sea, we head back to Milan, our home.

Two Horses

Author Unknown

(Submitted by Shirley Owen)



Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing.... Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to the horse's halter is a small bell. It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so he can follow. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and that the blind horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting that he will not be led astray. When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, it stops occasionally and looks back, making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not

throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way.... Good friends are like that... You may not always see them, but you know they are always there. Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours, and remember... Be kinder than necessary— everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly... *for we walk by faith and not by sight.*



Our United Methodist Women Support “Imagine NO Malaria” Campaign

And they hope you'll join them. Stay tuned for more information about this project and how you can help.

What is malaria? It is an intermittent and remittent fever caused by a protozoan parasite that invades the red blood cells. The parasite is transmitted by mosquitoes in many tropical and subtropical regions. In other words, Malaria is a parasitic disease that involves high fevers, shaking chills, flu-like symptoms, and anemia.

Within the U.S. Malaria prevalence is at its highest in more than 40 years and has increased by 14 percent since 2010, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study released in Nov. 2013. In 2011, there were approximately 1900 cases of malaria in the US. Almost all of the cases reported in the U.S. were attained from overseas travels. This number has not been that high since 1971.

In 2013, 97 countries and territories had ongoing malaria transmission. The only faith-based partner to the Global Fund, The **United Methodist Church** is part of a global effort that saves thousands of

lives every day. The United Methodist Church hopes to raise \$75 million for the effort by 2015. The Council of Bishops reported that the Imagine NO Malaria campaign is nearing \$60 million in its goal to eradicate the disease in Africa. The disease kills someone every 60 seconds. For almost 200 years, The United Methodist Church (UMC) has operated hospitals and clinics throughout Africa. These facilities are a vital and trusted part of the health-care delivery system on the continent.

The Imagine No Malaria approach is focused on: prevention, education, communication and treatment.

Prevention: To date, **1.9 million insecticide-treated bed nets** throughout the continent. Access to **diagnostic tests** and **medicine**, draining standing water and improving sanitation.

Education: UMC knows that local people are the most credible and trusted source for information about malaria. They have trained more than **5,400 community health workers** to personally deliver mosquito nets & measure usage rates, and teach local communities to avoid malaria. Recent efforts in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo have produced net usage rates exceeding 80%.

Communication: Behavior-change communication includes how to use and care for a bed net, and when to seek treatment for the disease. In addition to word-of-mouth outreach, the United Methodist radio station in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) broadcasts messages about malaria to thousands of listeners each day. Building new radio stations and providing hand-crank and solar-powered radios will ensure we are reaching great numbers of people with life-saving information about malaria.

Treatment: The UMC operates more than 300 hospitals, clinics and health posts throughout Africa. This vital healthcare infrastructure is a critical part of how we will overcome the disease. In order to be effective, however, these facilities must have life-saving resources like rapid diagnostic tests and malaria medication.

(Information Sources: The Centers for Disease Control, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.)

~Ann Rawls



Elder Crimes

*Provided as a service to the elderly community by
Darryl Hagner, Anne Arundel County Police
Department.*

PRIZES AND SWEEPSTAKES: These frauds inform the victim they could win, or have already won a “valuable prize” or a significant amount of money. The victim is required to send money to cover taxes, shipping, or processing fees. The reward will never arrive, or a prize will arrive that is nowhere near the money paid to receive it.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS: Playing on seniors’ desire to help others, offenders will solicit donations to help the homeless or vulnerable. These scams become quite prevalent when areas are visited by disasters.

INVESTMENTS: Many seniors live on fixed incomes. For that reason, they often want to increase the value of estate and ensure they have sufficient funds. Offenders convince victims to invest in precious gems, real estate, annuities, stocks and bonds. They promise high rates of return on their investments. Some of these provide in return worthless or fake gemstones, uninhabitable property and non-existent or unprofitable companies.

PREVENT REPAIR SCAMS: Offenders will recommend fraudulent “emergency” home repairs, often requiring an up-front deposit before work can begin. Work is often non-existent or started and never finished. In some incidents the work is so shoddy that additional work by a reputable contractor is required. Common forms of this fraud are driveway paving scams, roof repairs, waterproofing or pest control.

MORTGAGE SCAMS: Seniors may experience cash flow problems in the face of needed medical or unexpected expenses. Predatory lenders provide loans with exorbitant interest rates or fees. The home is used as collateral on these loans and repayment fees will often exceed the borrower’s

ability to repay the loan. The victim's home is placed in jeopardy and in danger of foreclosure and loss.

TRAVEL SCAMS: Seniors often have more leisure time and are attracted to low cost travel packages. Fraudulent vendors offer packages that cost more than their market rates, provide sub-standard accommodations, or do not provide the promised services.

TELEPHONE SCAMS: Telemarketers call people at home. They use high pressure tactics to convince the victim to purchase a product or service. These operations are designed to limit the benefit to the victim and maximize profits for the caller.

HEALTH, FUNERAL AND LIFE INSURANCE FRAUD: Many seniors are concerned about having sufficient funds for needed medical care, funeral expenses, or to bequeath to family members upon their passing. Unscrupulous salespeople take advantage of those concerns by selling policies that duplicate existing coverage, do not provide the promised coverage, or are altogether bogus.

HEALTH REMEDY SCAMS: The elderly often have unique medical issues. Preying on this vulnerability, offenders market a number of ineffective remedies, promising "miracle cures." Some seniors delay needed treatment placing their faith in these fraudulent remedies, thus further deteriorating their original condition.

If you need clarification about any of these schemes, or want more information, you may contact:

Darryl Hagner
Analyst - Business Liaison
Commercial Security
Office of the Chief of Police
8495 Veteran's Highway
Millersville, MD 21108
[\(410\) 222-3298](tel:4102223298) – Office
dhagner@aacounty.org

Heavenly Bites



As evidenced during our covered dish lunches and fellowship time, our congregation is certainly blessed with wonderful chefs and bakers! Keeping that in mind, from-time-to-time we'll be publishing tempting recipes for many delicious treats enjoyed and shared during EUMC events. Send your suggestions to Eunice Corse, corseec@msn.com, Spire editor. Our inaugural recipe is from Jacqueline Ploof. Word quickly spread during a recent fellowship time to try Jacqueline's delectable cheddar olives. No one could stop with just one of these heavenly bites!
~Joyce Conley

Cheese Puff Olives served at recent fellowship time by Jacqueline Ploof... shared here.

Cheddar Olives

1 8- to 10- ounce jar of pitted green olives, either pimento-stuffed or plain
(The amounts below depend on the ratio of dough to olive you prefer)

1 1/2 cups shredded sharp cheddar
1 cup all-purpose flour
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
1/4 teaspoon cayenne, smoked paprika or freshly grated black pepper

Preheat the oven to 400° F.

Drain the olives well, and dry them completely with clean dish towels. Set aside. (This is the most important step – if the olives are not dry the dough won't stick)

Combine the cheese, flour, butter, and spices in a medium bowl and knead it within the bowl until a dough forms. If the dough is still crumbly and won't hold together, add water 1 teaspoon at a time until it does.

Pinch off a small amount of dough, and press it as thin as you can between your fingers to flatten. Wrap and "smush" the dough around a dry olive. Pinch off any excess, then roll the olive in your hands until smooth. Continue until all the olives are covered.

Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown all over. Alternatively, freeze the olives on a baking sheet until firm, then wrap tightly and freeze for up to a week. Bake straight from the freezer for 20-25 minutes.

Serve immediately.

April Birthdays

Apr 2	Joe Nasatka, Butch Stevens
Apr 3	Ricardo Vasquez
Apr 7	Florence Conley, Jim Bradford Jason Wilcox
April 9	Carole McNew
Apr 13	Esther Gannaway
Apr 14	Tom Schwallenberg
Apr 19	Scott Hughes
Apr 20	Sonny Owen
Apr 23	Nadine Clark
Apr 26	Liam Smith
Apr 27	Jim Finkle
Apr 29	Evie Swink, Guy Goddard
Apr 30	Mary Jones

Received into Membership
Mark & Sharon Stevens
March 30, 2014



The earth laughs in flowers.
E.E. Cummings

April Anniversaries

Apr 1	Scott & Rebecca Bailey
Apr 5	Hillard & Linda Harrison
Apr 6	Dave & Berlyn Wheeler
Apr 7	Jim & Mary Jane Finkle
Apr 12	Jerry & Tammy Lesley
Apr 16	David M. & Lindsey Owen
Apr 23	Stephen & Kathy Duckett

Walk with Jesus

An Easter Event for Families

**Mt. Zion UMC, 122 Bayard Rd, Lothian
11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

This is a hands-on experience through drama, music, crafts, with a petting zoo and a café. The last tour starts at 12:45pm. It is open admission, but registration is encouraged. Call the church at 410-867-4035, or email events@mzumc.com. FYI, Mt. Zion in Lothian is our partner in Winter Relief...they provide us with the bus each year to transport our guests.

The Spire is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410-263-5490

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www.eastportumc.org

Pastor: MaAn Barcelo

Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Homework & Reading 4pm Bells 7pm	2 Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm Service 12pm Art Kids 4pm UMW Brown Bag 5:30pm	3 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7	4	5
	6 Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am Sun.Sch. 10am	7 Bells 7pm	8 Homework & Reading 4pm Bells 7pm	9 Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm Service 12pm Art Kids 4pm	10 Homework & Reading 4pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 to 7:30pm Choir 7pm	11
13 PALM-PASSION SUNDAY Worship 10am Sun.Sch. 10am	14 Contemplative Service 12:15pm Bells 7pm	15 Contemplative Service 12:15pm	16 Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm Contemplative Service 12:15pm Food Pantry 1pm	17 Gracious Greetings 1:30 Holy Thursday service 6pm – with Seder Remembrance & UMM skit	18 Good Friday Service 12pm	19 Day of personal prayer and reflection
20 EASTER Sunrise Thomas Pt 6am Worship 10am Egg Hunt 11:45am	21 Bells 7pm	22 Homework & Reading 4pm Trustees 6:15	23 Art Kids 4pm	24 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	25	26
27 Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am Sun.Sch. 10am	28 Bells 7pm UMM Prayer & Pizza 7pm	29 Homework & Reading 4pm	30 Disciple Class 10:15am Art Kids 4pm			

Eastport United Methodist Church

926 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403-3091

The Rev. MaAn Barcelo, Pastor

Church 410-263-5490

Home 410-432-6159

Conversations—Adults 9 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School & Nursery 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours 9:30-3:30 Monday-Friday

Office Closed 12-1 p.m. for Lunch



eastportumc.org