



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

August 2012

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,

Greetings in the One who calls us anew each day, by name!

As I write this letter in the quiet and comfort of my office, a dozen people – members of the church and friends alike – are in the kitchen and fellowship hall preparing to make more pickled beets for selling on Friday and for Peach Festival Day on Saturday.

This year marks the 37th time the congregation is taking on the challenge (and it is!) of making Peach Festival happen. Thanks to visionaries who first thought it and then made it happen and thanks to those who worked over the years and today, EUMC's Peach Festival is now very much a part of the community landscape. Folks from near and far look forward to it each year.

Peach Festival proceeds go to support the mission and the ministries that God has placed in our hearts through the congregation. May we continue to be open and receptive to God's leading now and into the future, as we explore and embrace ministries for God's glory and the good of our fellowship.

Blessing and love in the One who not only calls us but also sends us forth to love and to serve especially the least among and around us,

~Pastor MaAn

Congregational Meeting October 14

Everyone is invited to a special congregational luncheon and meeting on October, 14 immediately following the worship service. This is an important time for our church as we will discuss the Baltimore-Washington Conference “Call to Action Program” which focuses on creating Acts 2 Churches.

An Acts 2 Church congregation carries out the life of Jesus. Members are filled with the Spirit and the disciple-making congregation engages believers in the complete *Discipleship Adventure* (celebrate, connect, develop, serve, and share) to bear Acts 2 fruit. The congregation is organized to make and engage disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Members call, equip, and release disciples to pursue their passion and use their gifts to glorify God and to meet the spiritual, social and physical needs of those in the community and world.

In addition, the future of EUMC will be discussed along with other items including Safe Sanctuaries. A Conference representative will attend to answer questions.

Methodist Women are hosting the luncheon and will provide the main dish. Side dishes and desserts to share are requested. We will also provide childcare during the meeting.

~Sherrie Little

EUMC Lay Speakers Update

General:

Historically, Lay Speakers have existed in Methodism since at least 1746, in England. At the time, these Lay Speakers were known as “exhorters.” This fascinating tidbit and others like it can be found in an article entitled “A History of the Office of Lay Speaker in United Methodism.” We’ve been around a long time (since well before the establishment of the Methodist Church in America, in fact).

What (and Who) is a Lay Speaker?

As most of you are probably aware, seven members of Eastport Church are known as Lay Speakers. Four of us are “Local Church Lay Speakers” and three of us are “Certified Lay Speakers.” Certified Lay Speakers have completed one three-year term as a Local Church Lay Speaker and then have been re-accredited by virtue of having completed a second (or greater number) lay speaking class offered by the Baltimore-Washington Conference – or another Conference within our denomination. Lay Speakers must also be affirmed annually by the congregation and, upon recommendation of the Charge Conference, by the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Your Certified Lay Speakers are:

Bill Riggs
Sally Hight
Sherrie Little

Your Local Church Lay Speakers are:

Mike Keller
Vern Renshaw
Barbara Krebs
Mitch Krebs

What Else Does a Lay Speaker Do Beside Preach Occasionally?

Your Lay Speakers just completed a retreat, hosted by Sherrie Little, and led by Pastor MaAn. I believe that all of us Lay Speakers at Eastport were drawn into this area of ministry with the encouragement of our pastor. I took my first Lay Speaking Class when I was a member of St. John’s of Hamilton UMC in Baltimore in the late 1980s. Pastor Jeff Paulson encouraged Mike Keller to become a Lay Speaker, and the rest of our group came aboard under Pastor

MaAn’s shepherding, although some may have felt the ‘push’ even earlier. So what do Lay Speakers do? Here are some examples, based on the experiences of our current cadre:

- We assist the pastor during worship.
- We stand in for the pastor when other obligations call her away from our pulpit. This may be by coordinating and helping to organize worship when a guest preacher is in the pulpit, or it may be by preparing and delivering the sermon or it may be by participating in multi-church functions, such as Thanksgiving or Lenten services.
- We lead classes and study groups.
- We share ministry by helping to lighten the pastor’s load, especially when she cannot be in two (or more) places at once. We provide a measure of redundancy.
- On occasions when we preach, and the pastor is present, we give the pastor her Sabbath, so that she can sit in the congregation and reflect on the Word. Believe it or not, one sees and hears things differently when sitting in a pew, as opposed to facing the congregation and helping to lead the worship service.
- Most of us have also had the opportunity and privilege to preach in other churches, when invited, to allow those pastors to attend to other pastoral duties, such as attending “Rock” in Ocean City, for example.

Lay speaking is a profoundly rewarding area of ministry. It provides opportunities for us to test our wings, to feel the Holy Spirit at work within us, and to go where that Spirit leads.

More Information About Lay Speaking Ministries:

If you would like more information about Lay Speaking Ministries, the church office has copies of the article mentioned at the top of this piece, entitled “A History of the Office of Lay Speaker in United Methodism.” You may also visit the Baltimore-Washington Conference web site at www.bwcumc.org for additional material. The simplest thing to do might be to speak with one of the seven of us to find out what this area of ministry has meant to us. We invite you to consider prayerfully whether you might want to become a Lay Speaker yourself. May the Peace, Love, and Joy of Christ be with you all.

~ Bill Riggs

Wildlife Habitat

Preparing Our Hearts

Each Sunday, the Liturgist reminds us to “Listen to the Gathering Music as we prepare our hearts and minds for our encounter with the Lord during this time of worship.”

The Gathering Music helps us to quiet ourselves to better seek the presence of the Lord. Whether we close our eyes or take in the beauty of our stained glass window; or focus on the cross; it is during this time that we remember God’s presence heals and soothes our soul. We are reminded that God - our Jehovah provides all our needs and guides us every step of the way when we let Him in; when we listen to Him quietly.

Paul the Apostle praises the Lord in Acts 2:38, “You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.” Merriam-Webster defines gladness as cheerfulness; comfort; exuberance; bliss; glee or contentedness.

Because of God’s presence within us and His abundant love for us, we are filled with gladness. You may not hear Gathering Music on a Tuesday morning or a Friday mid-day, but you can take a few moments to quiet your heart; clear your mind; and feel – yes feel the gladness He gives to us.

~Sherrie Little

Church Picnic

Fun, good food and friends! Mark your calendar for the annual EUMC Church Picnic scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2 p.m. at the Bay Ridge Clubhouse. What celebrity will Betty Tillack become this year? Hope to see you there!

~Jill Peddicord



Eastport United Methodist Church is now a certified Wildlife Habitat. The church has met all the qualifications of the National Wildlife Federation, thanks to our gardens, Pastor MaAn giving a birdhouse and birdbath, Ernie Schultz for two birdhouses and Eunice Corse for a bird feeder and filling up the birdbath with water.

We will be receiving a Wildlife Habitat sign to install on the church grounds. We need another birdbath, so if any member has an extra one or would like to add another birdfeeder and be in charge of filling it, that would be wonderful.

Thank you to everyone for volunteering your time in taking care of the church yard and gardens and helping with a new experience in creating a wildlife sanctuary for the animals and birds of Eastport!
~The Garden Team



Become a Volunteer at AAMC

Volunteers at the Anne Arundel Medical Center play a vital role in helping staff members provide high quality health care to residents in our community. The church is very proud of the many EUMC folks who already volunteer at the medical center. Areas of volunteer opportunities include: administrative support, clinical services, emergency department, flower service, gift shops, information desks, joint and spine center, the consignment shop, and women’s and children’s services. Volunteer information sessions are held the third Thursday of the month, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For information on how you can make a difference call the Auxiliary office at 443-481-5050 or I’d be happy to chat with you about volunteering. Being a AAMC volunteer is a wonderful experience.

~Joyce Conley

Church Website

Do you ever wish you could remember something Pastor MaAn said in Sunday's sermon? Chances are you will find a written copy on the church website. Please check out our website and familiarize yourself with its contents:

- Current and past bulletins
- Current and past newsletters
- Sermons
- Calendar of EUMC events and building use
- Links to Bible searches, devotional sites, local organizations, and the larger church community
- Ministry opportunities
- Current teams and leaders

We invite you to keep us posted on any updates we need to know about. And while you're on the homepage, please like us on Facebook!

~Eunice Corse

Crime Prevention Tips from Annapolis Police Department

Please help prevent burglaries and thefts in your neighborhood. These crimes can occur during the day or overnight. Most of these crimes occur to homes and vehicles that are left unlocked. Please keep your home's doors and windows locked to prevent burglaries. Even while out in your yard it is a good idea to lock your doors. Remember to lock your garage and shed too.

Car doors should be kept locked and car windows should be completely closed. Valuables should be out of sight or not kept in the vehicle. And most importantly, please call Annapolis Police at 410-268-4141 (for AA County call 410-222-8610) if you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighborhood.

Things to look for are people or vehicles that you haven't seen before, people walking through yards or standing in one spot over a period of time, and people dressed unusually for the weather. Also call if you notice motion activated lights turning on unexpectedly or neighborhood dogs barking.

~Annapolis Police Department

The Technology-PowerPoint Ministry

Calling all "Techies" and "Wanna-Be's!" This ministry needs more volunteers for Sunday mornings. And no experience needed. We provide the training!

The Sunday PowerPoint Presentation will be emailed to volunteers and to the church prior to that morning. Volunteers will download the presentation to a flash drive or to the church laptop via email; and arrive Sunday morning by 9 am to review the Praise Music slides and add any slides or photos needed for the message. During the service, this team member will run the presentation and play any DVD clips or CD's needed during the service. Once service is over the volunteer will shut down the projector and laptop and return the laptop to the church office. If there are enough volunteers each person will only have to do one Sunday every 5 or 6 weeks!

If you are interested in being part of this vital ministry please leave a message with the church office 410-263-5490 or my home 410-582-8112 or email Sally Hight at sallyhight@yahoo.com. A training session will be scheduled for a date in September 2012. Peace and blessings!

~Kevin Hight

National Night Out 2012

Mark your calendars for National Night Out 2012. It will be held on Tuesday, August 7. You are invited to join millions nationwide for America's Night Out against crime! Help build a stronger, safer community by joining forces and participating in National Night Out. There will be a program at Annapolis Gardens, 250 Croll Drive, from 5 to 7pm. Please come and join the fun! Moonbounce, obstacle course, face painting, poster contest, K-9 demonstration, food and refreshments, and much, much more! Contact Patti Norris at 410-268-9000 ext. 7251 or e-mail pmnorris@annapolis.gov with questions.

~Joyce Conley



Anniversaries

- Aug 04 John & Sue Peret
- Aug 05 Dick & Margie Hughes
- Aug 08 Jeff & Joyce Conley
- Aug 14 Bill Riggs & JoAnn Kulesza
- Aug 15 Tom & Audrey Howard
- Aug 21 Tom & Elizabeth Eicher
- Aug 22 Ed & Sharon Owen

Life Changes

August Theodore Gottwig born July 7
to Danielle & Jeremy Gottwig

Mary Wheeler passed to the Lord July 21
(10 days short of her 98th birthday)



Birthdays

- Aug 01 John Peret
- Aug 02 Adam Valentine
- Aug 03 Marty Dobbs
- Aug 08 Bill Malamphy
- Aug 17 Collette Krebs, June Stevens
- Aug 19 Carole Williams
- Aug 20 Ruth Bowen
- Aug 21 Joyce Conley
- Aug 22 Jeff Conley
- Aug 27 Dave Wheeler
- Aug 28 Tammy Lesley, Lisa Parrish
- Aug 29 Richard Serfass, Albert Stevens
- Aug 30 Valerie Ahrens, Linda Harrison
- Aug 31 Jean Strucko

God's Trees

With arms stretched out
And branches high,
It seemed to reach
For God's blue sky.

A wanting thing in child's play,
To scale its wooden walls one day.

A giant standing firm and stout,
It's beauty one could never doubt.

A wonder of splendor and majesty,
A gift from God,
That is a tree.

~ Steve Parks

Save the Date!

Be sure to save the date for our annual Pumpkin Carving! Bring your pumpkins and join us for dinner and fun times! Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 27 from 5-7pm.

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Our New Bishop

Excerpts from article by Melissa Lauber
UMConnection Staff
July 23, 12 p.m.



Bishop Marcus Matthews is beginning his term as episcopal leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference with a call to prayer. As an order of the day, he invites every United Methodist to join with him in prayer each morning. “I ask God every morning to make me a better man this day than I was yesterday. . . . If we’re a praying annual conference, miracles will happen,” he told the Baltimore-Washington Conference delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdiction in a July 20 meeting, following the announcement of his appointment.

A 1971 graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., he served Douglas Memorial Asbury UMC Jones Memorial UMCs in Washington D.C, and Epworth Chapel UMC in Baltimore. Growth and community outreach were the focus at each of the churches he served. At Jones Memorial, from 1976 to 1982, he oversaw the creation of a new sanctuary and a community development program. During his four year appointment at Epworth, from 1982 to 1986, 272 new members joined the church. In 1986, Matthews became district superintendent of the Baltimore East District and in 1991 was named conference council director, a position he held until being named Washington West District superintendent in 1999.

In 2004, the conference endorsed him as a candidate for bishop and he was elected to the episcopacy that year. He was assigned to serve the Philadelphia Episcopal Area, which includes the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware annual conferences. In 2008 he was appointed to serve as the episcopal leader of the New York West Area and in 2010, he was appointed to lead the newly formed Upper New York Annual Conference. Under his leadership, four annual conferences -- North Central New York, Troy, Western New York and the Wyoming Conference -- were united into one.

After meeting with the BWC delegation at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Matthews went immediately to preach at the Service of Consecration, which welcomed three new bishops into the church. In his sermon, he continued the theme of faithful service, reminding those present that “this journey we’re on is not, nor never has ever been, about us. It’s really all about God and fulfilling God’s purpose in us. “Whenever we focus on Jesus everything else will always fall into its proper place,” he said. “Remember to put Christ first, at the center of every single thing you do.”

Matthews will be joined in this new ministry by his wife Barbara. On the day of the announcement they celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary. The couple has two children, Jaime and Marci, and five grandchildren. “I want to say God has given us a great gift. There is nowhere else on earth we’d rather be than the Baltimore-Washington Conference,” Matthews said. “I know the Baltimore-Washington Conference continues to be a great conference and we look forward to being part of that journey with you.”

[Bishop Matthews will begin his service with BWC in September.]

[From the Baltimore-Washington Conference Website]

**Rev. Evan Young from Greater Washington District
Superintendent to Annapolis District Superintendent**

Evan Young will be the new district superintendent for the Annapolis District. He has previously served as district superintendent of the Greater Washington District, assistant to the bishop, and Guide in the Washington Region. Before serving on the conference staff, Young led four local congregations in his career in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. In each appointment, the churches experienced numerical and spiritual growth. He is a gifted leader, passionate about making disciples for Jesus Christ and committed to growing congregations. He will be serving the Annapolis District, which is committed to disciple-making in its 73 congregations and one mission initiative. The district stretches from Laurel in the west to Cape St. Claire in the east and from Pasadena in the north to Friendship in the south. In 2010, in the Annapolis District there were 518 professions of faith. The average worship attendance was 8,965 in 2011 and the district had an apportionment collection rate of an astonishing 97.90 percent. The district is rich with diversity in its congregations and represents 14 percent of the conference membership: 12 percent Anglo, 18 percent African American, 6 percent Latino, 4 percent Asian, and 41 percent multi-racial. Maryland's state capital is located in the bounds of the Annapolis District and its churches are politically connected. Mission is valued in its congregations and the churches have made an impact locally and internationally in Christ's name.



**Rev. Vicky Starnes
Guide, Annapolis Southern Region**

Rev. Victoria J. Starnes has served under appointment in the Baltimore-Washington Conference since 1986. In July of 2010, she was appointed to serve as the Regional Guide for the Annapolis Southern Region – where she oversees 31 churches. Previously, she served as pastor of New Hope UMC in Brunswick. Under her leadership, New Hope was formed from the merger of two congregations and purchased land and started building plans for a new church. In her previous appointment at Emmanuel in Scaggsville, the congregation built a new sanctuary/educational facility and experienced significant growth in disciples, ministry and mission. She is a 1990 graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary (M.Div.). Some of her passions and gifts are in the areas of preaching, creative worship and mentoring. She is married to John Ewald and has 18 year old twins, Hannah and Jacob.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Peach Festival 12 to 5pm 
PEACH WEEK! LOTS OF HANDS NEEDED!						
5 Worship 10am	6	7	8	9 ECCT meeting 5:30pm	10	11
	There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart. ~ Celia Thaxter				May you have pleasant, relaxing, grace-filled days as your summer winds down.	
12 Worship 10am	13	14	15 Food Pantry 1 to 3pm	16		
There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.... (Ecclesiastes 3)					Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability. ~ Sam Keen	
19 Worship 10am	20	21 Trustees Meeting 6:15pm	22	23		
	A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. ~ James Dent					
26 Worship 10am				30	31	
				Dates to Remember: Sept 9 - Sunday School Resumes Sept 22 - Fall Planning Retreat Sept 30 - Church Picnic Oct 14 - Congregational Meeting		