



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

December 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,

In less than thirty days, the year 2012 will come to an end. As we look back at how this year unfolded, individually or as members of a particular group – family, community, country, world and yes, church – there is much to be grateful for and much to continue to look forward to in the coming year. As a congregation, we thank God for the different opportunities given us to be in ministry with the community where God has planted us here in Eastport. We also celebrate ministry and worship opportunities with other civic associations and faith groups around us.

All these happened because of your willingness to open wide the doors of your mind, hearts and arms, individually and as a congregation, to welcome those whom God sent our way. On behalf of all those whom you have graciously received and served over the year, I say: thank you very much.

Having seen what we can do together, God is again calling us to take another leap of faith. This time, instead of waiting to welcome those God sends to us, the call is for us to go and seek those who are not yet with us, reach out to them in love and build community with them as we built community together and with God. A very small group is already doing this with the monthly Eastport Community Center outreach to our African American neighbors. Starting January another group will be reaching out to our Hispanic neighbors. A Conference staff and volunteers Russell and Suzanne, whose stories of call to Hispanic ministry

you will read in this issue of the Spire, will be helping us in this effort.

Church, soon we will be preparing our minds and hearts to welcome our Lord's coming at Christmas. May we use this time also to prepare ourselves to reach out and eventually welcome our neighbors in His name.

Blessings for a Spirit-led Advent and a Spirit-filled Christmas. ~ *Pastor MaAn*

### Thank You!

The 2012 Thanksgiving Basket Project was a tremendous success. EUMC provided 47 families with a traditional dinner with all the trimmings. Families from Eastport, Tyler Heights, Georgetown East, Hillsmere Elementary schools and the families of our homework mission received the dinner baskets on the afternoon of Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> in time to prepare complete turkey dinners.

It all wouldn't have happened without the tremendous support of this wonderful congregation. Many of you gave generous financial support for which we are deeply appreciative and a few businesses provided significant support as well. Thanks so much for making this whole outreach effort possible. Because of your giving hearts and helping hands, several families had a reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving.

You can be truly proud of what you have done! Our deep appreciation to all of you for your generous help! ~ *Kevin & Sally Hight*

## Thanksgiving Reflection

As I sit here looking out at the beautiful wooded lot that our home occupies, I am thankful for my eyes to feast upon this and the other beauty around me, the sense of hearing to hear the joys and tears of those I cherish, the sense of smell to inhale the smells of the wonderful dinner that will be cooking, the sense of touch to feel the warmth of my husband, the touch of the keyboards I play, the sense of taste to enjoy food, drink and pronunciation.

So much of our life is determined by where we are born. I acknowledge with humility the gift of being born in America, to enjoy the freedoms and lack of fear that others can only dream about, to have a roof over my head, heat, indoor plumbing, running water, a warm bed to sleep in and the means to provide all of these things and much more than I will ever need.

Even as I express gratitude for all of these things today, I am thinking of my friends who are mourning the loss of their teenage son to suicide, those friends who are suffering with cancer for whom this may be their last Thanksgiving, those whose homes were damaged or lost to natural disasters, those living daily with war, oppression, hunger, homelessness, those who are hopeless, living with addiction, living without creature comforts or living without anyone to love or who loves them. There can be no worse feeling in the world.

On this day, I am most thankful for all the means of communication we have to express our thanks, to tell those we love that we are grateful to have them in our lives and that we always stand by each other thru the calm and the storms. Above all, I thank the Lord above, from whom all things come. Happy Thanksgiving one and all!

~ *Jo Ann Kluesza*

## UNICEF Total

Happy to announce that this year's UNICEF collection totaled \$99.50. We thank everyone who participated. Our donation will assist in helping children throughout the world.

~ *Joyce Conley, Missions Team*

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

The uniquely American holiday of Thanksgiving was welcomed by a large, enthusiastic, and diverse crowd of celebrants at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Wednesday evening, November 21. Led by a clergy team that included: an African American, Rev. Jerry Colbert of Mt. ZionUMC; a Filipina, our own Rev. MaAn Barcelo; and several Caucasians (both male and female), Rev. Gerry Miller of Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran, our host, the Rev. Diana Carroll of St. Luke's Episcopal, Chaplain Chase Wood of Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, Rev. Dr. Patricia Johnson of Mt. Zion UMC, and Rev. Mary Miller-Zurell of St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran.

Musical celebration was led jointly by: a Russian American pianist and organist, Dr. Ildar Khannanov of St. Luke's Episcopal; a female Chinese American pianist, Dr. Jennifer Huang of Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran; and a Polish American woman choir leader, namely, our own amazing Ms. JoAnn Kulesza. The worshippers were equally diverse, numerous, enthusiastic, and vocal. Delicious seasonal refreshments were provided afterward in the undercroft. Everyone left feeling their spirits and their tummies had been well-fed.

Of particular note, Pastor Colbert delivered the evening's message that had everyone in the church clapping, proclaiming, and adding loud Amens in approval. Dr. Khannanov, at the piano and the organ, channeled the spirits of Ray Charles and Jimmy Smith, respectively; he had God's house rocking! Dr. Huang is a gifted musician; she hit enough notes for four pianists during her offerings. The pick-up choir, composed of members from the various churches represented, had only met for the first time shortly before the service. They responded ably under JoAnn Kulesza's exhortation to deliver a sensitive rendering of John Rutter's arrangement of "For the Beauty of the Earth" and other selections.

Interdenominational ministries and worship events are becoming stronger in Eastport, as evidenced by last Wednesday's gathering and celebration. This is in affirmation of our shared faith and our shared wish to be faithful Disciples of Christ. It is our hope that these ministries and opportunities will continue to grow and flourish. Thanks be to God.

~ *Bill Riggs*

## **EUMC Socialites** **'Tis the season to be jolly!**

So mark your calendars now to join the Socialites:  
Saturday, December 1st  
Holiday Happy Hour 6-8 pm  
Red Red Wine Bar  
189B Main Street, Annapolis

RSVP to Lisa Stevens at [lisayonka@hotmail.com](mailto:lisayonka@hotmail.com)  
or 443-822-9799 or Rebecca Bailey at  
[becgage@comcast.net](mailto:becgage@comcast.net).

We are trying to be as inclusive as possible, so if you know someone interested in coming, please invite them. Also, please send their email address to Lisa Stevens at [lisayonka@hotmail.com](mailto:lisayonka@hotmail.com) to be added to future email lists.

### **Christmas Dedications**

The Missions and Worship Teams will accept Christmas bulletin dedications on December 2, 9, and 16. Dedications can be made by purchasing a poinsettia or by making a financial contribution to our food pantry. Dedication forms will be available during fellowship time throughout the month. Payment is requested at the time you complete the form. Please do not place these monies in offering plates. The dedication insert will be included in the December 23 and Christmas Eve December 23 bulletins.



### **UMM Toy Drive**

The Eastport United Methodist Men are conducting again a Christmas gift and toy drive for needy children at Eastport Elementary School. School officials have told us that the presents we provide represent the only ones received by many kids because of the economic circumstances of their families.

We are asking all the men of the church to donate a new toy or gift (or a used item that is in good condition) that would be suitable for a boy or girl

between the ages of 5 and 8. The value of each toy or gift should not exceed \$15.

For those who wish to take part in this endeavor to make Christmas a happier time for a local child, please place the item **unwrapped** in the specially marked box in the church fellowship hall no later than **Sunday, December 16**. The United Methodist Men will wrap the toys and gifts and deliver them to the school.



### **Christmas Cards to EUMC**

Remember, EUMC makes it easy to send a Christmas greeting to your church family! Simply write ONE card, calculate the cost of postage and for purchasing cards that you might normally send to your church friends; and donate that amount to the church's organ and piano maintenance fund. We'll post your card on a bulletin board display for everyone to admire. Please give cards and checks to Joyce Conley or the church office.



### **Fourth Annual New Year's Eve Interfaith Worship Celebration**

December 31, 2012

6:30 pm Pre-Service Program ▪ 7:00 pm Worship

Each year EUMC hosts a celebratory event where brothers and sisters of many faith traditions stand together in reverence and gratitude for the Great Mystery we call God. We invite you to be a part of this by planning, singing, ushering, serving, getting the word out – there are many ways to participate. Let us know how you would like to help. We hope you will set that hour aside to worship with us before you move on to the more traditional New Year's Eve celebrations. You will be glad you did.

~ Eunice Corse

## Holiday Calendar

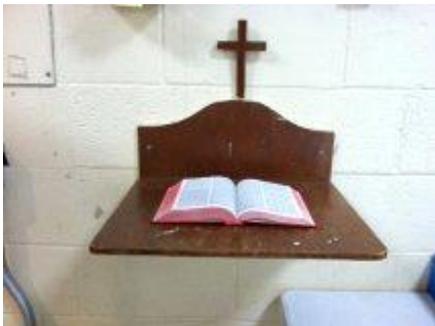
- Dec 2 ▪ Homecoming Sunday @ 10 am  
luncheon, special visitor & crafts  
▪ AVAS Concert @ 3 pm
- Dec 9 ▪ Christmas Cantata @ 10 am
- Dec 16 ▪ Children's Pageant @ 10 am
- Dec 23 ▪ Advent Worship @ 10 am
- Dec 24 ▪ Family Service @ 6 pm  
Pre-Service Program @ 10 pm  
Candlelight Service @ 10:30 pm
- Dec 30 ▪ Christmas Carol Sing @ 10 am
- Dec 31 ▪ New Year's Eve Interfaith  
Celebration @ 7 pm  
Music Program @ 6:30 pm

## The Bible Stand

No doubt this picture looks familiar to most of you who have had reason to pass it many times while in the fellowship hall. It was suggested I write this reminder about it, drawing attention to its origin and reason for being.

Some forty years ago when I held the office of Missions Chairperson, we decided to make readily available in the hall a Bible for reference of a particular discussion between individuals as well as one's own need while passing through the hall. I recruited my husband, Earl (Bob) Jones, to construct the stand adorned with the cross. Unfortunately from time to time the open Bible which was meant to adorn the stand became covered with various articles. However, lately I'm happy to see the open Bible, alone, in its place of honor and hopefully used. May it be a ready help to one and all.

~ Mary Jones



## In Memory of Bill Kerns

Written by Dave Stuntz to Blacknall  
Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC



This morning, the choir will share a lovely setting of Psalm 23, "The Lord Is My Shepherd". I wonder how many thousands of times composers have set that text? What makes this one special? This piece of music is gentle and has a lovely melody; but it is not the setting itself that draws my attention. The music was written as a commission, dedicated in honor of William P. Kerns. He was the music director of my family's church in Annapolis for more than 30 years, a mentor to me, and the best friend my father ever had.

I never once heard or observed him seek attention or acclaim for himself, though he would have warranted it. He spent himself in a completely frugal way, whether helping to install storm windows for a widow, or preparing a meal for a grieving family, or sending an anonymous donation to someone in need. How does this connect to Psalm 23?

I am convinced that Bill Kerns understood deeply the truth of the opening line – "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want"; or, in this song setting, even more in line with Bill's life, "I have all that I need." He understood that his life was a gift from God, every day of it, and all of it was lived in the company of the Good Shepherd. He was therefore freed to live selflessly and tirelessly and generously, because he knew that he was a sheep in the flock of the giving – unwearyingly - loving the Lord. May I live long enough to understand and serve half as well as he did, all of it to the glory of God.

~ Dave Stuntz

## Russell Hultgren's Call to Hispanic Ministry

*As part of the Discipleship Academy, the Revs. Vicky Starnes and Cynthia Moore recently led a course on Serving from the Heart. The class explored discovering one's spiritual gifts.*

When I started attending the United Methodist Church last year as a member of Severna Park UMC, I made a promise to myself and the Lord. I vowed to untether myself from preconceptions and expectations and to let the Holy Spirit guide me down the river of life, wherever it led.

I swore that every time the Spirit prompted me to do something, I'd do it - without excuses or grumbling, unmoored from the I'll-get-to-it-later mindset.

Keeping this promise has led to a marvelous, liberating spiritual journey. I've been on a mission trip to Belize, been baptized, and served as part of Winter Relief, taken Disciple I, and helped start a Covenant Disciple Group. All these experiences reintroduced me to the triune God in a mighty way, but they didn't lead me to feel called to serve in the church. For that it took "Serving from the Heart," the capstone of the year since my baptism.

Weeks of online study about the gifts of the Spirit culminated in a day-and-a-half's training at Conference Mission Center. There I met Vicky Starnes and Cynthia Moore, the course instructors, together with the other members of the class. Over the course of a Friday evening and a Saturday, we plumbed the Scriptures and worked in small groups to determine our STRIDE-Spiritual gifts, Talents, Resources, Individual style, Dreams, and Experiences-in preparation to enter a covenant to minister in the Kingdom of God.

The second day of instruction ended with covenant-making, Communion, and a prayer circle. We were all invited to share what the Spirit had impressed upon us as our ministry. When my turn came, I blurted out something that had been building up in me with the force of a thunderhead all weekend: "I want to be a circuit rider! In Latin America!"

The circle fell silent. Then Pastor Vicky said: "Wait a second! You speak *Spanish*?" I told her that not only do I speak Spanish, I also teach it at Anne Arundel Community College. She said: "There's a church in Annapolis that could use your help. We need to talk right after the prayer." I told her I'd be glad to.

We joined hands and bowed heads. As we did so, the Holy Spirit descended on me like liquid fire. Starting at the crown of my head and pouring through me to the soles of my feet, it ignited my heart and enlightened my mind. It confirmed and convicted me of God's call to serve the unsaved Spanish-speaking population in the Annapolis area.

I told Pastor Vicky about this experience and we set to work immediately.

Today, just over a month after the Holy Spirit's call, I'm serving as a lay missionary at both Eastport UMC and Trinity UMC. I'm working to organize Spanish-language services and programs in order to reach out to God's children from Latin America in our midst. I now have my calling to serve in the church. With God's help, I've discovered the outlet God's chosen for my gifts, talents, experiences and dreams. None of this would've been possible without my participation in "Serving from the Heart." I praise God every day for this course. It's changed my life. Words are weak vessels for the strength of my conviction that everyone should take it. ~ *Russell Hultgren*

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Consciously or unconsciously, every one of us does render some service or other.

If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and will make, not only our own happiness, but that of the world at large.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

## Suzanne Steiner Call to Hispanic Ministry

¡Saludos, Eastport UMC!

Pastor MaAn asked me to introduce myself to you and tell you about my call to be involved with your Hispanic ministry. I am a member of Severna Park UMC, a student of the Bible, and a lifelong lover of languages. I met Russell Hultgren through a Disciple class and he found out that I have a background in Spanish. When Russell was appointed a Lay Missioner for Hispanic ministry by the Baltimore-Washington Conference, he asked me to join him in helping Pastor MaAn reach out to the Hispanic neighbors of Eastport UMC.

My credentials are a love of the Lord and a decent working knowledge of Spanish, as well as a willingness to serve where needed. I am retired from the U.S. Navy and am working on a Master's degree in Bible at Lancaster Bible College in Pennsylvania. Currently I am studying biblical Hebrew, which makes Spanish look a whole lot easier by comparison!

Russell and I are enthusiastic about this ministry and are brainstorming ways to implement the vision of the church's leadership to reach out to your Hispanic neighbors. Right across the parking lot is a large community of people who need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ in Spanish. They would definitely benefit from being introduced to the many resources and blessings that your church has to offer. You have already made a huge difference in the lives of children in the neighborhood through your wonderful homework ministry.

I have been very impressed with the hospitality and friendliness of Eastport UMC during my visits. And I must add that I had one of the best meals of my life at this year's Peach Festival! I look forward to getting to know you all, sampling more of your great food, and helping to expand your Hispanic ministry.

Gracia y paz,  
~ *Susana*

### Covered Dish Schedule

First Quarter 2013

Sunday, January 13, Luncheon 11:45 am  
Care of Members Team

Sunday, February 10, Luncheon 11:45 am  
Finance & Stewardship Teams

Sunday, March 10, Luncheon 11:45 am  
Staff Parish Relations &  
Lay Leadership Teams

**Teams are responsible for meat, drinks,  
set up and clean up**

**Blessed Christmas Greetings  
to One and All!!**



**May your holidays be filled  
with love and acceptance of  
one another, and may the  
Holy Spirit be your guide  
in the New Year!**

## December Birthdays



- 01 Dahlia Edstrom
- 05 Valerie Devaris
- 07 Andrew Stevens
- 08 Margie Hughes
- 09 Sharon Owen, Sherrie Ugolini
- 11 Lynn Goddard, Chelsea Snodgrass
- 13 Natalie Somers
- 15 JoAnne Christofel, Addie Parrish
- 19 Anita Andrews, Jonathan Wilcox
- 20 Leona Bergsman, Edgar Bowen, Sr.  
Mark Goodnow, Russ Parrish
- 21 Michelle Anderson, Brian Duckett
- 22 Audrey Howard
- 23 Edna Catterton, Margaret Terry
- 25 Chris Pulley
- 27 Lorraine Crouch
- 29 Deborah Serfass
- 31 Richard Strucko

## December Anniversaries

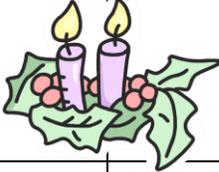
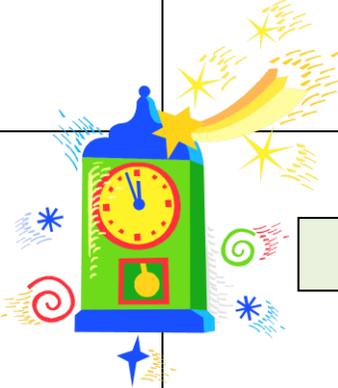


- 08 Bob & Carol Emory
- 27 Philip & Evelyn Beall
- 29 Bo & Joyce Chesney

*Happy Birthday Jesus!*



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Eastport United Methodist Church  
926 Bay Ridge Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
410-263-5490  
eastportumc@verizon.net  
www.eastportumc.org  
Pastor: MaAn Barcelo  
Editor: Sherrie L. Little

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0e0;">                     Come home to EUMC December 2<sup>nd</sup>. 10 AM worship followed by a holiday luncheon, crafts, and special visitor for the children.                 </div>					<b>1</b> 	
<b>2 HOMECOMING</b> •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am •AVAS 3pm	<b>3</b> Bells 7pm	<b>4</b> Homework-Reading Program 4pm	<b>5</b> Advent Study 10:15am and 6:45pm  UMW Holiday Dinner 5:30pm	<b>6</b> Homework-Reading Program 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>9 CANTATA</b> •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am	<b>10</b> Bells 7pm	<b>11</b> Homework-Reading Program 4pm	<b>12</b> Advent Study 10:15am and 6:45pm	<b>13</b> Homework-Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 	
<b>16 PAGEANT</b> •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am •SoulSearchers Caroling 4pm	<b>17</b> Bells 7pm  UMM 7pm	<b>18</b> Homework-Reading 4pm  Trustees 6:15pm	<b>19</b> Advent Study 10:15am and 6:45pm  Food Pantry 1 to 3pm	<b>20</b> Homework-Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>23</b> •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am  TIMOTHY HOUSE	<b>24</b> •FamilyService 6pm •Pre-Service 10pm •Candlelight 10:30pm	<b>25</b>  <b>Christmas Blessings</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>30</b> <b>CAROL SING</b> •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am	<b>31</b> NYE Interfaith Worship Music 6:30pm Service 7pm					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> <b>Happy New Year!!</b> </div>	

Information subject to change – we will do our best to keep you informed.