



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### January 2015

*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,

This month I have a special prayer request. Monday January 26<sup>th</sup>, I will go before the Board of Ordained Ministry, and they will examine me for full membership as an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. That’s a lot of long words, but basically it is the last step in what has been a 9-year process to ordination.

It’s a journey that I began as a senior in college in 2006. I entered the ministry inquiry process and started meeting regularly with my campus minister. I had to interview with my home United Methodist Church’s Staff Parish Committee and they had to recommend me as a candidate for ministry. Then I had to go to my District Superintendent and interview with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

The District Committee has the authority to make you a “certified” candidate for ministry. This process includes meeting regularly with a mentor, undergoing background checks, medical exams, and psychological assessments, writing a paper on your call and understanding of God, and meeting regularly with the District Committee.

This all goes into becoming a certified candidate, which has nothing to do with ordination yet. Then I went to seminary and worked on a graduate degree called a Master of Divinity, which is a 90 credit, three year, full-time process. Upon graduation I went to a two week licensing school, which gave me my local pastor’s license and allowed me to administer the sacraments (baptism and communion) in whatever local church I was serving. This is when I received my first appointment to a congregation in Laurel.

At this point, I applied for what is called provisional membership as an elder in The United Methodist Church. That meant that I submitted my transcripts, got recommendations, wrote four papers, in Theology, Practice of Ministry, Personal Growth and Development, and Call, as well as submitted a video of my preaching and worship leadership. Then I went before the Board of Ordained Ministry and interviewed with four different committees each made up of 8-10 pastors and lay people. They affirmed my readiness for ministry and I was commissioned as a provisional elder in The United Methodist Church. Basically, we are the only denomination that adds this step. In most other denominations I would be officially ordained at this point. In the United Methodist Church, we call this step “commissioning.” That means, essentially that I have been provisionally ordained (it is not permanent), pending a three to seven year process of further scrutiny and examination. However, the bishop laid hands on me and prayed for me, the Board of Ordained Ministry affirmed my calling, and I was commissioned, or sent out to do ministry as an elder.

Hence started my Provisional journey. That means I was given another covenant group of provisional elders, another mentor, participated in biannual retreats for three years, and received annual D.S. Evaluations both in the Virginia Conference (where my ordination process began) and the Baltimore Washington Conference (where I am serving). It also meant doing a half unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at a hospital or hospice center, which is an intentional hands-on internship, class, and peer-learning group experience in pastoral care. I did my half unit at Washington Hospital Center last year.

## Seeking Audio-Visual Team

Kevin and Sally Hight have been our “mainstay” on the sound system and our power point presentations during worship services for quite some time now. They have been ever-faithful, and we thank them so much! There are a few others who have begun to help with this, and we thank them as well, but more are needed to share this responsibility. The Worship Team would like to establish an audio-visual group, consisting of teams of two people each: one to run the sound system and one to run the power point during worship service. If you have expertise in one or both of these areas, or are interested in being trained and volunteering your time, please contact the church office. Thank you.



GRACIOUS GREETINGS MAKING CHRISTMAS CARDS

## Gracious Greetings

We thank everyone who donated the religious themed Christmas cards that we used to create new cards for our Timothy House friends. We're accepting cards again this year that we'll use next December! Our next get-together will be January 15, 1:30 pm in fellowship hall. We'll be crafting Valentines for Timothy House.

~ Joyce Conley

EUMC folks who participated in the beautiful Christmas card display donated \$65 to our piano and organ maintenance fund. We hope everyone had the opportunity to admire and read the messages posted.

~ Joyce Conley



That brought me to you all, and this fall. I have since submitted my full membership application for ordination. This consisted of another round of psychological assessments, evaluations from the church I previously served, D.S. recommendations, and another set of papers, this time in Theology, Practice in Ministry, Vocation and Leadership, and submitting a Teaching Plan on the book of Exodus, and a full worship service including preaching and communion.

The Board is very particular. There are requirements for page limits, for font, for spacing, for the way you set up and number your title page. If you miss one deadline you have to wait until next year. Somehow, praise God, everything was turned in! All that's left is a four-hour interview on January 26<sup>th</sup> with the Board of Ordained Ministry.

I'm really hoping that all goes well on January 26<sup>th</sup>. But I have to be honest with you. The Board of Ordained Ministry usually asks half of the candidates to wait a year and come back and re-interview in one of the three areas. So there is no guarantee that I will be ordained this year. I would appreciate all your prayers. I share all of this, because I think few people in congregations know all of what their pastors went through to give their lives to the path they have been called to. I share this, in humility and grace, so that you might both celebrate with me if this happens this year, but also, that you might be understanding and encouraging if I have to wait another year. Pray that I would accept whatever happens with humility and grace, and that I will be full of peace and courage in the interview.

I will keep you informed.

~ *In Christ's love, Pastor Michelle*

### Covered Dish Luncheon January 11<sup>th</sup> – 11:45 am

Hosted by the Care of Members Team  
Main dish and beverages will be provided. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Invite your family & friends – everyone is welcome!!

## LUMINARIES

Did you see us shining? Thank you, families, for bringing in luminaries for the Christmas Candlelight Services. Rain hampered us a bit, but for the New Year's Eve Interfaith Service they were outstanding and reached all the way to Bay Ridge Avenue. Thank you for taking the time and energy to make our church shine.

~ Paulette Schwallenberg



## Homework Christmas Party

About two dozen children enrolled in the Homework and Reading Ministry enjoyed a party on December 23 to mark the arrival of Christmas. The kids engaged in the preparation of Christmas crafts and cards, participated in an interactive rendering of the Biblical Christmas story led by Pastor Michelle, played Christmas bingo, and wolfed down cookies and lime sherbet punch.

Then Santa Claus arrived and each child received a personally-selected gift (provided generously by the families and staff of The Colonial Nursery and suggested in advance by the Homework volunteers). The party concluded with the kids streaming into the night squealing with joy and laughter – a blessed start for their Christmas season.

~ Mike Keller

## The Gift of the Present

Uh oh. It's December 31<sup>st</sup>, I opened my computer and a reminder went off that I need to write an article for the January Spire. In the midst of Christmas and New Year's Eve preparation, I had forgotten about it. This season has been so busy.

Busy. It's a word that has become a standard part of conversation in our society. Someone asks, "How are you?" and someone else will answer, "Busy!" What does that mean though? Is "busy" good? Is it something we state with pride, a mark of a productive life? Is it exhausting? Is it a problem that needs a remedy?

There's no doubt that our society encourages busy-ness, from an increased number of organized activities for children to expanded hours for retail and businesses to constant connectivity and multi-tasking via technology. But what does our faith encourage? And how do we live as people of faith in the midst of a busy, high-speed world? These are among the questions that we will explore in our January sermon series, *The Gift of the Present*.

This is a sermon series for everyone who has ever described their life as busy, anyone who has ever longed to "get off the treadmill", everyone who has ever sacrificed eating or sleeping to get it all done, and everyone who has ever longed to slow down. And if you're too busy to come to church- well, this sermon series is especially for you!

A new year is beginning, a time to reset and to resolve to work on the things we'd like to transform. This new year, millions of people will set goals that involve doing more and contribute to the sense of "busy-ness." This year, I invite you to consider resolving to do *less*, to carve out some sacred time, to set some priorities, to enjoy a life that feels full rather than busy. If we don't answer the question, "How are you?" with "busy", what words will we use to respond? Perhaps "well", "joyful", "satisfied", "fulfilled", "happy", "content", or "delighted." Wishing you a new year that can be described with all of these words!

~ Peace, Pastor Michelle

## Poinsettias and Food Pantry Dedications

How blessed we are to be such a caring congregation as evidenced by \$577 being donated to our food pantry fund. Our dedication donations greatly assist in feeding empty stomachs. And, the beauty of the sanctuary poinsettias reminded us once again of the joy and magnificence of Christmas. We thank everyone for their generosity.

~ *Worship & Missions*



**Eastport United Methodist Men and Friends** collected and wrapped dozens of presents for needy children at Eastport Elementary School. There was such a good response, they were able to give each child several presents. Eric Smaridge and Jim Wilcox delivered everything to the school in time for Christmas break. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to this worthy project.



## Life's Recipe

1 c. good thoughts  
1 c. kind deeds  
1 c. consideration for others  
2 c. sacrifice for others  
3 c. forgiveness  
2 c. well-beaten faults  
Mix these thoroughly and add tears of joy and sorrow and sympathy for others. Fold in 4 cups of prayer and faith to lighten other ingredients and raise texture to great height of Christian living. After pouring all this into your daily life, bake well with heat of human kindness. Serve with a smile.

*By Mary Ellen Mormann, given to us by her daughter Lynne*

**EUMC** is grateful to all those who remembered our congregation in their year-end giving for 2014.



And to all members and friends who faithfully lived out their commitment to the Lord through their active participation in the life of the congregation and its ministries throughout the year.....**you are the Church!**

## Life Changes

Born November 30, 2014

**Benjamin Douglas Deehring**

Jackson, Brother

Heather & Bryan Deehring, Parents

Ed & Sharon Owen, Grandparents

Baptized December 14, 2014

**Tyler Thomas Burton South**

Jerry & Christy South, parents

Alexandra & Ryleigh, Sisters

Tom & Paulette Schwallenberg, Grandparents

Baptized December 14, 2014

**Tegan Ryder Kopp**

Travis & Sharon Kopp, Parents

## January Birthdays

Jan 1	Cade Clurman
Jan 4	Dennis Bergsman
Jan 7	Cyndi Councill Lauren Moyer
Jan 11	Devin Clary Eunice Corse
Jan 12	Eric Edstrom Shirley Keller
Jan 13	Charlotte Kerns
Jan 14	Michael Valentine Sr. Nathan Somers
Jan 15	Mary Jane Finkle
Jan 16	Gerald Crouch Thomas Outerbridge
Jan 18	Michael Wurst Robert Emory Wendy Edstrom
Jan 21	Ed Owen
Jan 23	Steve Duckett
Jan 26	Kimberly Wilcox
Jan 27	Matt Ficca
Jan 28	Virginia Schultz
Jan 31	Jaden Vasquez

## January Anniversaries

Jan 1	Mitch & Barbara Krebs
Jan 3	Jerry & Joanne Christofel
Jan 20	Richard & Jean Strucko
Jan 30	Marty & Myrna Dobbs



### Gifts From Above

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class of 5-year olds all the things Jesus had given them. "Ears to hear, a nose to smell, feet to run, eyes to see," she began. Before she could finish, one boy began to cry. When the teacher asked him what was wrong, the boy replied, "Jesus made me all wrong." "Why do you say that?" the teacher asked. "My nose runs and my feet smell," the boy said.

*(Thanks to Shirley Keller)*

"One of the  
best gifts we  
can give  
ourselves is  
time alone  
with God."



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

[eastportumc@verizon.net](mailto:eastportumc@verizon.net)

[www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org)

Pastor: Michelle Mejia

Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
						
<b>4</b> Chapel 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	<b>5</b> Bells 7pm	<b>6</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Columbarium Meeting 7pm	<b>7</b> Kids Art 4pm Methodist Women 5:30	<b>8</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Game Night 5:30pm  
<b>11</b> Chapel 9am Worship 10am – Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am  <b>COVERED DISH LUNCHEON</b>	<b>12</b> Bells 7pm	<b>13</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Evangelism 6pm	<b>14</b> Food Pantry 1-3pm  Kids Art 4pm	<b>15</b> Gracious Greetings 1:30  Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Chapel 9am Worship 10am – Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	<b>19</b> Bells 7pm  ML King Birthday OFFICE CLOSED	<b>20</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Trustees 6:15  Admin Council 7:30pm	<b>21</b> Food Pantry 1-3pm  Kids Art 4pm	<b>22</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Chapel 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	<b>26</b> Bells 7pm  UMM Prayer & Pizza 7pm	<b>27</b> Schools Closed	<b>28</b> Lunch Bunch 12:15pm  Kid's Art 4pm	<b>29</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>30</b>   	<b>31</b>