



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

January / February 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 fellow followers of the Lord,

Greetings for a blessed New Year from my country of origin, the Philippines! As those of you who faithfully participate in the life of the congregation know, I am in the Philippines (particularly in the island of Leyte where my father resides) to be with my family. Dad is very sick and this could be the last time I'll see him.

But even this far away, my thoughts turn to you all and the journey we have made together over the past six years (I can't believe it's been that long already!) Looking back at those years, I (and I ask you to join me) praise and thank God for divine faithfulness and love and for blessing the work of our hands—work that I believe brought God glory and wonders for our faith community.

Over the past six years, (thanks to the strong partnership between and among us), our congregation is missionally, spiritually and financially sound. We do remember with humility that this could not have happened also without our strong roots we've planted in our relationship with God along with our faith ancestors who labored long and hard to establish this congregation with the sweat of their brows; the generosity of their hearts; and their tireless labor of love for those of us who came after them; – ourselves and our children. This could not have happened without each member and the friends of the community investing prayers, presence and gifts for the sake of the Gospel and the good of our congregation. This is something we will definitely celebrate when we observe our 125th anniversary this coming spring.

But as always, while we rejoice, we cannot sit on our accomplishments. Our God is a Living God who calls us to venture into the future with Him with courage and determination.

The covenant we entered into with Him at our baptism through the congregation and the claim He has on our lives as His children demands that we continue to be attentive to His Word incarnate in Jesus and present in Scriptures as interpreted through the lens of the signs of our times.

At times this attentive listening to the leadings of the Holy Spirit of God can challenge our usual ways of thinking and doing things as well as our way of being church and disciples. Though this challenge and call has gone on for years, the year 2012 is especially crucial in terms of our journey into the future as we embark on new ministries that demand of us greater hospitality and deeper compassion for those God sends our way.

Alone, the task will be difficult. Together, we will accomplish much. To do so, however, we need to, as John Wesley admonishes us, do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. So let us joyfully embark on this new year's journey with enthusiasm and with the commitment to do what God requires of us as we become the church God wants us to be.

Thank you all so much for giving me this opportunity to make this trip. I am especially grateful for the lay leadership of the congregation and clergy colleagues for taking on a lot of my responsibilities in my absence.

God bless us all in the coming year.

~Pastor MaAn



Celebrating Christmas with the Homework & Reading Kids!

The Christmas spirit shone at the holiday party for the kids in the Homework and Reading Ministry on December 22. The children started lining up outside the church's fellowship hall a half hour before the program started, and 25 attended along with 15 volunteers (including two physicians from Ecuador who are friends of Jeff and Joyce Conley).

The kids began by demonstrating their artistic skills by making colorful Christmas decorations, assisted by the volunteers. Pastor MaAn then led the group in Christmas carols. The children were joined by their parents, and snacks and homemade baked goods were served. MaAn took the opportunity to introduce the volunteers and to review the history of the program; her remarks were translated into Spanish by the Conleys' friends for the benefit of the parents. The children then put on a delightful program of Christmas songs, including an expressive version of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

To the thrill of the kids, Santa arrived. Each of the kids had his or her own personal time with Santa and received gifts. The program ended with the children leaving with squeals of joy. It was clear that the party was one of the highlights of the season for them.

Thanks are expressed to all of the volunteers who made the party possible, and especially to Karen Clarke, Ann Rawls, and Joyce and Jeff Conley.
~Mike Keller

Missions Update

Our missions team wants to thank everyone for their support in 2011 and invite you to join us in 2012. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7 at 7 p.m.

We thank our Lord for all He has given and we thank Him for all of our 2011 missions endeavors and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve. The following is a brief re-cap of our projects and we ask that you prayerfully consider joining us this coming year as we spread the love that a baby in a manger brought to us all.

Missions Trip -- In October Anne Rawls, Pastor MaAn and Jackie Cunningham travelled to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. This was our third trip to Kentucky. We primed, painted walls, laid flooring and installed trim to complete a 10' x 7' addition on a home. A total of 17 churches represented Maryland on this trip organized by Calvary UMC. It was a delight to join in the work and the fellowship with others on this journey. Plan to join us next year!

Winter Relief -- Thank you to all who helped with Winter Relief program! The men enjoyed the covered dish dinner and especially the delightful entertainment with Betty Tillack and Charley Grayston.

All participants were given toiletry bags when they arrived. Not only did we have volunteers from our church but Cape St Claire UMC and John Wesley UMC joined us in the kitchen for a few meals. Meals were enhanced thru Food Link. Thanksgiving dinner was a great success! We served the men we housed and some of our neighbors. We will be hosting Winter Relief during Thanksgiving week again this year so mark your calendars for November 19 - 26, 2012.

Thanksgiving Baskets -- We prepared more than 50 Thanksgiving Baskets complete with homemade EUMC Pumpkin pies! Thanks to all for your donations and thanks to Kevin and Sally for their coordination efforts.

We ended the year by sending \$2000.00 to the Philippines to help with the devastation from Typhoon Washi. We continue to pray for their recovery.
~ Jackie Cunningham



Eastport UMM 2012 Retreat

“Answers to Questions about Issues That Impact You” will be the topic of a panel at the annual program/retreat of Eastport United Methodist Men on Saturday, February 11 from 9 a.m. to noon in fellowship hall.

The program/retreat will begin with fellowship time and refreshments. That will be followed by presentations on these subjects:

- Protecting yourself as a consumer and avoiding identify theft (led by Sue Rogan, senior consultant, MD Cash Academy)
- Understanding credit scores and reports, rebuilding credit, and using online banking tools (led by Mitch Krebs, senior vice president, Bank Annapolis)
- Developing wills, living wills, health proxies, durable powers of attorney and other important legal documents (led by Charles Grayston, Esq.)

There will be an opportunity to pose questions to the panelists.

All members of the church- both men and women, are invited to the fellowship time and the panel presentation. Guests also are welcome.

After the panel presentations, the men will discuss plans for ministries, programs and activities in 2012 and will take up prayer requests.

For more information about the program/retreat, contact Jim Wilcox at 410-268-7458 or Mike Keller at mjkeller@att.net.

February is Soup Tasting Time!

Get those taste buds warmed up for yummy soup! The United Methodist Women will be offering a sample of 4 soups including taco soup, bean soup, baked potato soup, and the ever popular vegetable crab soup. February 5 is the sample tasting date. Orders may be placed on the 5th and 12th. Soup will be picked up on Sunday, the 19th.

~Ann Rawls



UNICEF

Thank you to everyone who participated in the “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” collection this past October! Contributions totaled \$142.69. This goes a long way in helping worldwide projects such as providing clean water and health assistance to those in need. The little orange boxes are sure to return in October!

~Missions Team

Community Involvement

Admiral Cleaners recently donated one hundred jackets and coats to EUMC for distribution to those in need this winter. Many of our Winter Relief guests and Homework and Reading kids and their families will stay warm this year thanks to the efforts of this local business establishment. If you happen to frequent Admiral Cleaners, please be sure to thank them for their community involvement.

~Joyce Conley



Christmas Dedications

EUMC is blessed with the generous participation in our Christmas Dedication program. Once again our sanctuary offered a sense of pure Christmas beauty with the addition of the donated poinsettias. Our food bank program also benefitted greatly, with \$481 being donated. We thank everyone who participated in our dedication endeavor.

~Missions & Worship Teams

Help Spread the Word

EUMC car magnets are still available. Be sure you have one on your car and show your church pride as you drive around town!

~Evangelism Team

Young Adults Group Forming

The first get together of EUMC's Young Adults group will be Saturday, February 4, 5:30 p.m. It's at Jean and Dick Strucko's, 505 Birch Drive in Hillsmere. And yes, while Jean and Dick don't consider themselves all that "young" and won't be part of the group, they have graciously opened their home to host the first meeting! Babysitting will be provided by church members in Jean and Dick's rec room. Pizza and desserts are on the menu. It'll be an evening devoted to making new friends and determining "what and when" for this new group! Please RSVP Joyce Conley (she also knows she's not "young" and won't be in the group either!) 410-267-8483 so we know how much pizza to order!
~Evangelism Team



Piano and Organ Fund Donations

Our hallway bulletin board displayed a beautiful assortment of Christmas cards "sent" by members of the congregation to their church family. As in years past, folks choosing to use this method of inter-church mail made financial contributions representing the cost of cards and postage stamps that they would have used to mail greetings to other church members. The donated contributions are credited to the church's fund used to maintain our pianos and organs. This year's total was \$126.00.

We thank the following for supporting this endeavor:

Dottie Mann
Jim & Mary Jane Finkle
Barbara Nutwell
Eunice Corse
Ernie & Pud Schultz
Dick & Margie Hughes
Jeff & Joyce Conley
Sonny & Shirley Owen
Edgar Bowen
Steve & Kathy Duckett
Charlie Card & Nadine Clark
Ed & Sharon Owen
Dick & Jean Strucko
Margaret Terry



Devotional Minute

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Change and personal improvement are bywords of our day. Laws and rules are methods some try to produce transformation. But in Jesus Christ, change is guaranteed to occur. It's the difference between a rowboat and a sailboat. A person can row until the last trumpet sounds, and not get to Heaven. But all the sailboat has to do is ride the wind. The wind, spiritually, is the Spirit of God, given by Jesus Christ. Let His wind fill your sails, and when the last trumpet sounds it will herald not only His coming, but your homecoming.

~ Dr. Ed Young

A Daily Word

www.crosswalk.com



January Birthdays

- 04 Dennis Bergsman
- 06 Virginia Earnshaw
- 07 Cyndi Councell, Becky Heinz, Lauren Moyer
- 11 Devin Clary, Eunice Corse
- 12 Eric Edstrom, Brian Edstrom, Shirley Keller
- 13 Charlotte Kerns
- 14 Nathan Somers, Mike Valentine
- 15 Mary Jane Finkle
- 16 Gerald Crouch, Thomas Outerbridge
- 18 Wendy Edstrom, Bob Emory, Mike Wurst
- 21 Ed Owen
- 23 Darrin Edstrom, Steve Duckett
- 24 Pauline Basil
- 26 Kimberly Wilcox
- 27 Matt Ficca
- 28 Pud Schultz

February Birthdays

- 02 Christina Hataway, Sally Hight, Evan Ugolini
- 03 Jessie Clark
- 04 Richard Miller
- 05 Cailyn Johnson, Thomas Smith
- 09 Anne Owen
- 13 Earl Macey
- 14 Jackie Cunningham, John Wilcox, Luke Wilcox
- 15 Harriet Macey, Betty Owen
- 20 Yaritza Edstrom
- 23 Jacqueline Ploof
- 25 John Stuntz



January Anniversaries

- 01 Mitch & Barbara Krebs
- 20 Dick & Jean Strucko
- 30 Marty & Myrna Dobbs

February Anniversaries

- 10 Greg & Sally Colburn
- 11 Guy & Dawn Moyer
- 14 Richard & Betty Miller
- 16 Jim & Shirley Keller
- 19 Jim & Jean Wilcox
- 22 Scott & Nicole Hughes

The Spire is published bimonthly by
 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