

*Eastport United Methodist Church
~ 125th Anniversary ~*



~ **Dedication** ~

To our ancestors in the faith who laid the foundation on which
Eastport United Methodist Church first stood ...

To all their spiritual descendants who, today, embody the vision
and mission at Eastport United Methodist Church ...

To all who will carry on with the journey after us ...

To God, source and end of all our striving ...

~ **Major Contributors** ~

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*The First
100 Years of
Eastport
United Methodist
Church*

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 1987

~ Early Years of Methodism in Annapolis ~

George Whitefield, on his third visit to America, visited Annapolis. On November 5, 1746, a day of thanksgiving, he preached in Annapolis from the text, *Righteousness Exalteth a Nation*. This sermon introduced Methodism to Annapolis.

Joseph Pilmoor was the next representative of Methodism to come to Annapolis. He arrived on July 11, 1772. The next day he preached under a very large tree that is believed to have been the "Liberty Tree" at St. John's College.

Francis Asbury first visited Annapolis on November 25, 1773. He was a frequent visitor after that date.

According to the Christian Advocate and Journal of July 10, 1835, the first Methodist Society in Annapolis was organized in 1785.

On July 4, 1786, John Chalmers deeded some land to Absolum Ridgely of Annapolis, James Chalmers, Aquila Edwards, Joshua Cromwell of Anne Arundel County and Philip Rogers of Baltimore, trustees of the newly formed Methodist Society. The land was provided to allow such persons as shall be appointed in the yearly conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America to enjoy free and full use to preach and expound on God's Holy Word, provided that said persons preach no other doctrine than is contained in the Reverend John Wesley's notes on the New Testament and four other volumes of sermons.

God blessed the Methodists in their new meeting house, and on December 23, 1786, Asbury wrote in his journal, "The Lord has been powerfully at work in Annapolis since I was here last summer; twenty or thirty whites and some blacks have been added to the society". A few months later, Thomas Coke wrote, "At Annapolis in Maryland, after my last prayer on Sunday three (1787), the congregation began to pray, and praise aloud in a most astonishing manner. At first, I felt some reluctance to enter into this business, but soon tears began to flow, and I think I have seldom found a more comforting or strengthening time. Whether there be a wild-fire in it or not, I do most ardently wish that there was such a work at this present time in England".

On February 17, 1789, John Hagerty, the pastor at Annapolis wrote to Bishop Asbury. Extracts from the letter follow: "Brother Chalmers brought the holy fire from Virginia with him ... We have had eighty-four join the Society since January 30 and almost every one of them converted

to God; and many more are ready to come in ...". A short time afterwards they moved from the little meeting house and worshiped in a building which belonged to the state and had been an armory.

The Armory, standing at the north side at an equal distance from the Court House, was a large hall, the walls covered with arms above the seats, which were all around the room. A seat opposite the door was for the Governor and his lady, over which hung a full-length picture of Queen Anne. Nearly opposite to this picture hung another, a full-length portrait of the Proprietor, Lord Baltimore, in his flowing robes. Being used as a ballroom, as well as an armory, a wooden gilt chandelier depended from the vaulted roof and lights interspersed among the arms, gave it on ball nights a very splendid appearance. Three other apartments were appropriated; one to the card parties, one to the supper, and the other to the armory. The armory was also used as a Council Chamber when the Assembly sat.

That Church stood within the present State Circle at the head of Maryland Avenue. It was a frame building, known as "the Old Blue Church" because of its color and use. It had a stairway on the outside, up which the colored members went up to the gallery. After it ceased to be a church, it was used as a schoolhouse.

Ezekiel Cooper came to Annapolis as pastor on October 9, 1789 and remained until January 20, 1791. Annapolis at that time had a membership of two hundred and sixty-nine persons.

In 1804, Ralph Williston came as pastor, followed by James Smith in 1808 and Henry Smith in 1809. James Lee became pastor in 1816, followed by L. R. Fechtig. During this pastorage, the trustees, on November 27, 1817, purchased the ground for the Calvary Church on State Circle. During the pastorage of Job Guest (1818 to 1819), the first meeting house on that site, a neat brick building with pressed brick front, was built.

John Emory, later Bishop, assumed the pastorate in 1820. He was followed by Alfred Griffith and by John A. Gere, under whom the church was incorporated on October 16, 1833. The second church on the site was dedicated November 20, 1842. In June 1859, the corner stone of the third church on that site was laid under the pastorage of John Thrush. In 1860 or 1861, the building was dedicated during the pastorage of Reverend W. T. D. Clemm, and known as the Salem Church. (A later church located on Forest Drive and Spa Road, where the present Junior High School is located, was also called the Salem Church. The Scible family, the mother's family of Arthur Williams attended this church.)

In 1863, under Reverend E. D. Owens, there was a division in the church and on Sunday, December 13, the Wesley Chapel, afterward the Maryland Avenue Church, was organized by the Reverend Henry M. Harmon, later a professor at Dickinson College.

Those who continued to worship on the State Circle site took the name of First Church.

The division of the Maryland Avenue Church, called Wesley Chapel, and the First Methodist

Church, known as Salem continued until July 1921. Then, the congregations reunited and they became known as the Calvary Methodist Church.

Reverend Harrison McNemar was the first pastor of the new Wesley Chapel Church. In 1895, the Maryland Avenue Church, after worshipping in several different locations in the city, began to build a church on the corner of Maryland Avenue and Prince George Street. This building, after the Maryland Avenue Church and the First Methodist reunited to form Calvary Methodist Church, became the Recreational Building of Calvary Methodist Church.

The membership that would become Edwards Chapel was part of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis, which later became the Maryland Avenue Methodist Church.

Edwards Chapel and the Eastport Church have been closely associated from the beginning of the Eastport Church in 1887. Edwards Chapel and Eastport were under the charge of the same ministers from 1898 until 1952.

In the spring of 1894, a meeting was held at the home of Mr. George W. Cole to consider the organization of a Sunday School in the vicinity of Camp Parole, and the advisability of building a church at some future time.

The Sunday School, at what would become Edwards Chapel, was organized with about thirty scholars. Joseph Beardmore was elected temporary Superintendent and Miss Mary E. Sears was Secretary. After meeting a few times, the School was organized into classes. An election was held and Joseph O. Fowler was elected Superintendent, Miss Mary E. Sears Secretary, and Philip Stevens Treasurer. Permission was obtained from the authorities of the Public Schools to hold meetings in the schoolhouse. The Reverend John Edwards, pastor of the Wesley Chapel, Annapolis, was invited to preach and to become the pastor.

After having given full and satisfactory proof that they desired to become a permanent society for the worship of Almighty God, the Reverend John Edwards, on March 19, 1895, called a meeting of all the members of that Society above twenty-one years of age to elect a Board of Trustees for the Society. George A. Davis, Joseph O. Fowler, Burton Lewis, Philip T. Stevens, George W. Cole, Luther A. Palmer, John W. Sears, Joseph Beardmore and Charles Hollins were elected.

In accordance with the Methodist Episcopal Church Discipline of 1888, that it could be more easily discerned whether they were indeed working out of their own salvation, each Society was divided into smaller companies, called Classes, according to their respective places of abode. There were about twelve persons in a Class, one of whom was styled the leader. The leader's duties were to:

1. See each person in his Class once a week at least, in order to: (1) Inquire how their souls prospered. (2) Advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may have required. (3) Receive what they were willing to give toward the relief of the Preachers, Church and poor in

towns and cities where the poor were numerous, and Church expenses were considerable.

2. Meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week, in order to: (1) Inform the Minister of any that were sick, or of any that walked disorderly, and would not be reprov'd. (2) Pay the Stewards what they had received of their several Classes in the week preceding.

The design of the organization of Classes and the appointment of Leaders was:

1. To establish a system of pastoral oversight that should effectively reach every Member of the Church.
2. To establish and keep up a meeting for social and religious worship, for instruction, encouragement, and admonition, that should be a profitable means of grace to our people.

The primary object of distribution of the Members of the Church in classes was to secure the subpastoral oversight made necessary by the itinerant economy. In order to secure this oversight, let the classes, wherever practicable, be composed of not more than twenty persons, and let the Leader report at each Quarterly Conference the condition of his Class as follows:

1. Number of Members in his Class.
2. Number of Probationers.
3. Average attendance.
4. Number of habitually absent.
5. Number of Class meetings held.
6. Number who contribute to the support of the church.
7. Number of visits made.
8. Number of heads of families in the Class, and what proportion of them observe worship.
9. Number of Church Papers taken by Class Members.

By April 25, 1895, land offered by L. A. Palmer and George W. Cole was examined. The site donated by George W. Cole at Riva Road and West Street was accepted. The Church would be named Edwards Chapel in honor of Reverend John Edwards, the pastor.

In accordance with the Baltimore Methodist April 25, 1895 edition, the Sunday School members at Parole gave an interesting program in the public school on Easter. Anthems were sung and recitations given after which Reverend John Edwards addressed the school and the large congregation present. Both were growing rapidly, and it was apparent that a church was needed

as the trustees of the school had been very kind in allowing the use of the schoolhouse, but good nature must not be imposed upon. The church would be built as soon as the necessary funds could be raised. Mr. George Cole had given a beautiful lot on his farm.

The Edwards Chapel building committee was composed of L. A. Palmer, Philip T. Stevens, and Joseph O. Fowler. The committee was appointed to advertise for bids and to supervise the building of the Church. The bid of \$756.00 submitted by W. Brewer Gardiner, contractor, was accepted.

The Edwards Chapel cornerstone was laid on September 12, 1895. Reverend John Edwards conducted the services.

The first service in the new Edwards Chapel Church was held on November 24, 1895, with Reverend W. M. Ferguson delivering the sermon. The official dedicatory service was held on February 16, 1896, with Reverend Ferguson in charge.

In 1926, a question was raised with regard to Edwards Chapel as a part of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis. A legal opinion was that there was no such or successor of that church. The Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, otherwise know as the First Charge Methodist Episcopal Church and the Maryland Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, formerly know as Wesley Chapel merged into a new corporation know as the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis. Therefore, the Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, the Maryland Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, and the First Charge Methodist Episcopal Church have no existence.

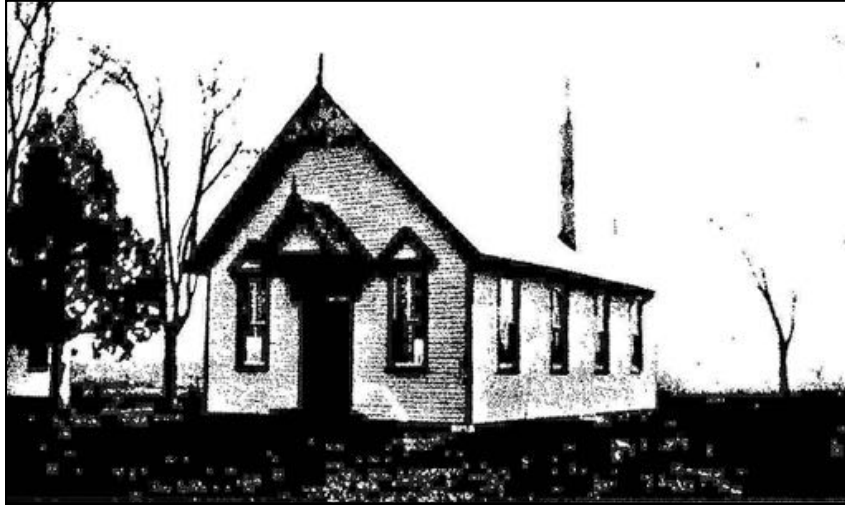
The closeness of Edwards Chapel and the Eastport Church continued. When Edwards Chapel sold their church property on West Street in parole to build a new church, they held services with St. Andrews, from Gingerville, in the Cole Chapel of the Eastport Church. This sharing of space continued from January 1984 to September 1985.

Do No Harm

Do Good

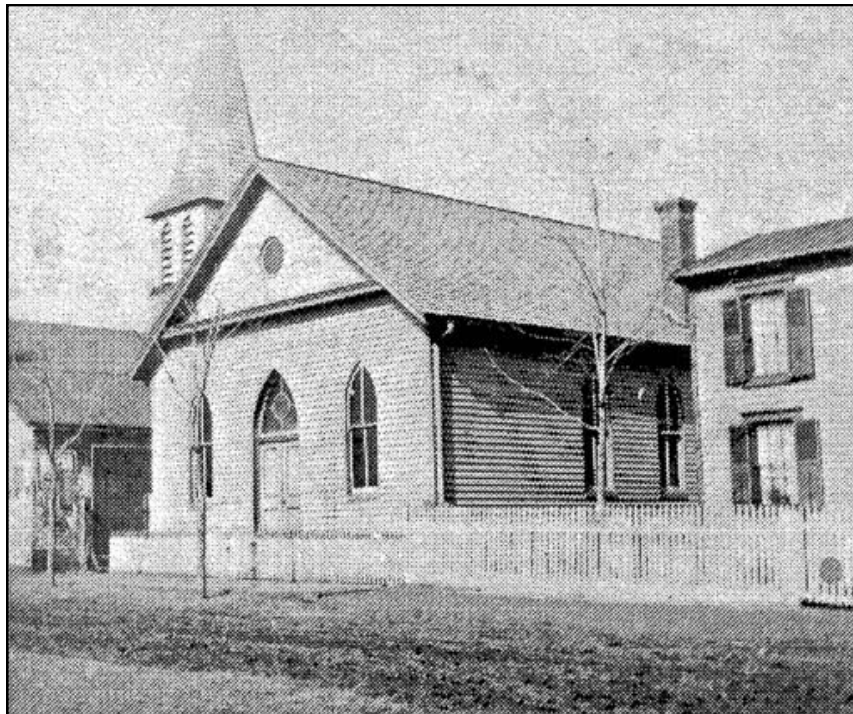
Stay in Love with God

John Wesley



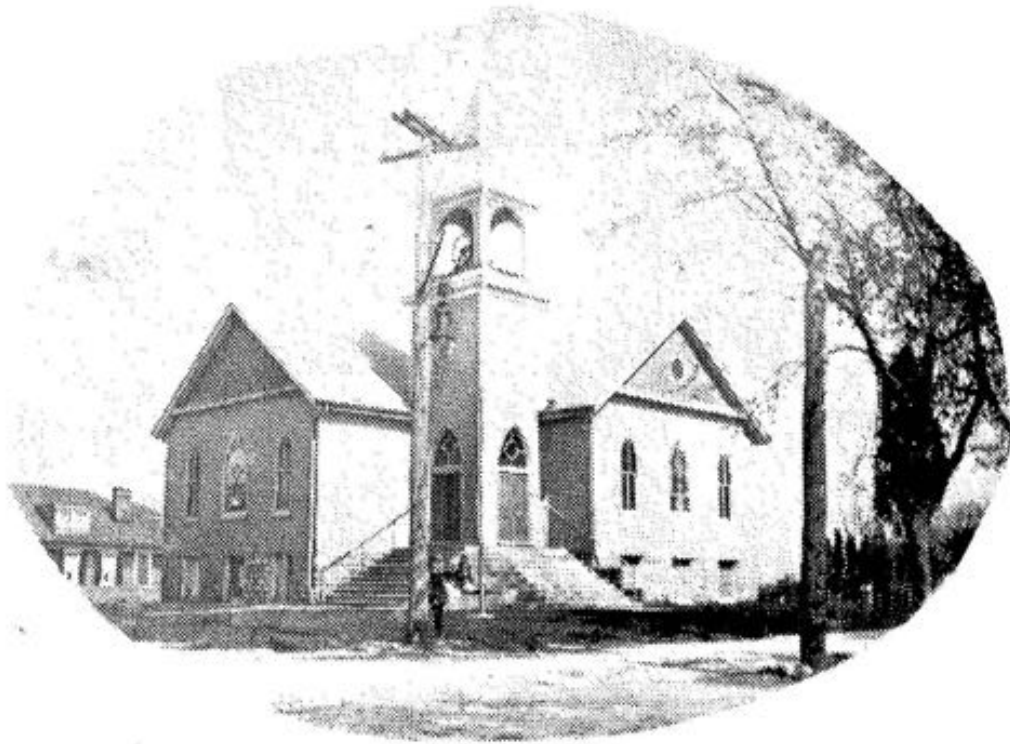
EDWARDS CHAPEL

Camp Parole, 1895



FIRST EASTPORT CHURCH ~ 1898

3rd Street (now 4th Street); Parsonage to right of Church; stables on the left



SECOND EASTPORT CHURCH ~ 1914

On 6th Street before Parsonage was constructed; George Wilson's house on left

After prayer and class meetings had been held for some months, on April 25th, 1890, a few Christian workers, thinking it advisable to open a Sunday School, held a meeting for that purpose.

After a season of earnest prayer for the divine blessing and guidance, the following officers were elected: J. C. Barton, Superintendent; E. W. Yarrington, Assistant Superintendent; Philip T. Stevens, Secretary; Miss Nellie Wood, Treasurer; Mrs. Mary E. Sears, Organist. The teachers were: Mrs. Martha Stevens,

Mrs. Corra Murphy, Philip T. Stevens, and Ellis W. Yarrington. W. Ward and W. S. Beall were the finance committee; Rev. Samuel Shannon, pastor of Wesley Chapel, had this work under his charge.

The officers of the Sunday School, at the time of dedication, were: James Mayo, Superintendent; Henry T. Baetzler, Assistant Superintendent; Miss Nellie Wood, Secretary; Mrs. Mary M. Skipper, Treasurer; Mrs. Kate Dinsion, Organist; Vigil Carr, Stewart Dinsion, Librarians.

Note: The first class meeting was held in the home of Brother Philip T. Stevens in March 10th 1887. Brother Philip T. Stevens was the leader and Brother Clinton Harrison the Assistant leader. This was the beginning of what is now the Eastport M. E. Church.

Society Incorporated

Through the faithful efforts of the Rev. John Edwards, the Society known as the Eastport Methodist Episcopal Church was duly and regularly incorporated January 14th 1895, with the approval of the Honorable James Revell, Associate Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Maryland. The Trustees were: Philip T. Stevens, John W. Sears, William Carr, Ellis W. Yarrington, James Mayo, Joseph S. M. Basil, David C. Parlette, William S. Beall and Henry T. Baetzler.

The Rev. John Edwards preached every Sabbath evening and kept the Society regularly organized for work.

Corner-Stone Laying

The corner-stone of the Eastport Methodist Episcopal Church was laid May 5th 1895, by Annapolis Lodge No. 59, G. F. and O. M. The orators for the occasion were the Rev. E. L. Hubbard, D. D., pastor of Madison Square M. E. Church, Baltimore, and Rev. W. B. Herbert, one of the ex-pastors

HISTORICAL RECORD

of Wesley Chapel W. E. Church, Annapolis, Md. Rev. Shannon was the pastor of Wesley Chapel at this time and had the work of the Eastport Church under his charge. The work was greatly aided from time to time by Rev. W. L. McDonell, D. D., Rev. John W. Dashiell, D. D., Rev. L. P. Wideman, D. D., Rev. Walter Case, Daniel Hurdford, and John W. Hollins kept the work going by their preaching.

The Building Committee was composed of the following: James Mays, Henry T. Baettcher, and Samuel B. Wood. Mr. Baettcher was the efficient and acceptable secretary of the Board of Trustees, and David B. Parlett the faithful treasurer.

Dedication

The Eastport Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated Sunday June 5th 1898. The Presiding Elder, Rev. W. M. Ferguson, D. D., preached the sermon. The Trustees, J. B. Garrison, H. T. Baettcher, Samuel B. Wood, James Mays, Virgil C. Carr, John A. Carr and George Warner formally presented the church for

HISTORICAL RECORD

dedication by the Presiding Elder, who was assisted by the pastor, Rev. John Edwards. The church was Gothic in style, 30 x 46 feet. The entire cost, including lot, furniture, pulpit, Bible and hymnals was \$1,575. Brother W. B. Thompson of Maryland Avenue Church, was the contractor and builder. Brother Edward Shipper, also a member of Maryland Avenue, was the architect and builder of the pulpit.

Removal and Rededication of the Church.

During the pastorate of Rev. W. G. Miller, in the year 1910 the corner lot on which the church now stands was purchased. In May, 1914, the Official Board met to consider the proposition of moving the church to the present site. After much discussion, it was decided to move and enlarge the church. The estimated cost was \$1,500, but the work was not to be started until one third of this amount was subscribed. It was not long before the necessary subscriptions were secured, and the work was begun. It took two weeks to move the church

HISTORICAL RECORD

from the old location, but services were held every Sunday in the Church on Wheels. When the work of moving and enlarging the building was completed, it was found that \$3,500 had been spent. By April, 1915, this had all been paid but \$420. The roofing and dedication services were held in November 1914. The preachers of the occasion were, the District Superintendent, Rev. Edward Hoyer, D. D., and Rev. James C. Nicholson, D. D.

Improvements

During the pastorate of Rev. John T. Jaeger, in the fall of 1920, improvements, amounting to about \$3,300, were made to the church. The re-opening services were held in December 1920 with Bishop John W. Hamilton, and the District Superintendent, Rev. Leon S. Colt, D. D., as its preachers. The following year work was begun on the new parsonage. The pastor, Rev. John T. Jaeger and family moved into the new home in January 1922.

HISTORICAL RECORD

Altogether Ceiling, Oak Floor & Arch - ^{restored} Pews rebuilt - Walls decorated & Pews retained etc. Feb & March 1945
 First Service Easter April 1, 1945 - Pastor A. F. J. Rame preached the sermon - 21 United with the Church. Attendance 300. (New Roof on Parsonage. Painted Church Roof. Some work in Sunday School Rooms)
 Cost \$3466.60 Borrowed \$2000
 Painting of Parsonage & other improvements at Parsonage May 1945 making Total Cost of Improvements during Conference Year \$3850.
 Crusade for Christ Nov 1944 to March 1945 \$1150
 Ordered new Hammond Electric Organ April 1945
 Deposit of \$350 paid to staff.

CHURCH OFFICE RECORDS ~ 1945

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 1987

~ The Beginning ~

On March 10, 1887, the first Class Meeting was held at the home of Mr. Philip T. Stevens. This was the beginning of what is now the Eastport United Methodist Church. Mr. Stevens was the Leader, and Dustin Harriman was the Assistant Leader. The Stevens' home was at 166 Fourth Street (now 408 Third Street) in the village of Eastport. It no longer exists.

On April 25, 1890, after prayer and class meetings had been held for several months, and thinking it advisable to open a Sunday School, a meeting was held for that purpose. A Sunday School was opened. These were the roots of the Eastport Church.

Under the leadership of Reverend Samuel Shannon, pastor of Wesley Chapel, this Class Meeting group organized into a so-called Society. The first officers of the Sunday School were J. C. Porter, Superintendent; Ellis W. Yarrington, Assistant Superintendent; Philip T. Stevens, Secretary; Miss Nellie Wood, Treasurer; and Miss Mary E. Sears, Organist. The teachers were Mrs. Martha Stevens, Mrs. Carrie Murphy, Philip T. Stevens and Ellis W. Yarrington. W. Ward and William L. Beall were the Finance Committee.

The officers of the Sunday School at the time of dedication were James Mayo, Superintendent; Henry T. Boettcher, Assistant Superintendent; Miss Nellie Wood, Secretary; Mrs. Mary M. Skipper, Treasurer; and Mrs. Kate Griscom, Organist. Virgil Carr and Stewart Griscom were the Librarians.

The congregation was organized into the Eastport Society by Reverend John Edwards, pastor of the old Wesley Chapel of Annapolis. For the first three years, the Society met in member's homes. The first trustees were Philip T. Stevens, John W. Sears, William Carr, Ellis W. Yarrington, James Mayo, Joseph S. M. Basil, David O. Parlett, William L. Beall, and Henry T. Boettcher.

According to the minutes kept by the first secretary of the church, Henry T. Boettcher, seven people met at the schoolhouse in Eastport on November 27, 1894 "for the purpose of deciding upon a suitable building lot". These people were the Reverend John Edwards, pastor of Wesley Chapel, Philip Stevens, Ellis W. Yarrington, John W. Sears, William H. Carr, William L. Beall and Henry T. Boettcher. The group decided on an 82.5 x 164 foot lot on Chesapeake Avenue in Eastport. After the lot was purchased, it was used by Reverend Edwards for a garden.

On January 14, 1895, through the faithful efforts of the Reverend John Edwards, the Society

known as the Eastport Methodist Episcopal Church was duly and regularly incorporated with the approval of the Honorable James Revell, Associate Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Maryland. The Trustees were Philip T. Stevens, John W. Sears, William Carr, Ellis Yarrington, James Mayo, Joseph Basil, David Parlett, William Beale and Henry T. Boettcher. Reverend Edwards preached every Sunday evening and kept the Society regularly organized for work.

The Edwards Chapel Cornerstone was laid on September 12, 1895 by Reverend John Edwards, the pastor. Edwards Chapel was dedicated on February 16, 1896 by the Reverend William M. Ferguson, the Presiding Elder and Reverend Edwards, pastor.

~ The First Church ~

The Eastport Church Building Committee decided on a different lot than the lot on Chesapeake Avenue. In October 1897, the Chesapeake lot, along with \$50, was traded for a lot on Third Street (now Fourth) between Severn and Chesapeake Avenues. In the same month, plans for a church building were adopted and bids were obtained. The low bidder was D. B. Thompson. The building committee was composed of James Mayo, Henry T. Boettcher, Samuel P. Wood and David Parlett, treasurer.

The picture of the first Eastport Church was reported as of 1898 in early documents. The picture could have been taken at the Dedication of the Church building in 1898. However, the picture may have been taken at a later date such as the summer of 1913, when the last service was held before moving the building to its new location on Sixth Street. Research of newspapers and other periodicals failed to develop a definitive date for this photo.

On May 5, 1898, the cornerstone was laid for the first Eastport Methodist Church building by the Annapolis Lodge No. 89, A.F. and A.M. at what is now Fourth Street. The speakers for the occasion were the Reverend E. L. Hubbard, the pastor of the Madison Square Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore and the Reverend W. G. Herbert, an ex-pastor of the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis. That cornerstone was moved and re-installed near the side entrance to the present church sanctuary.

The Reverend Samuel Shannon was the pastor of Wesley Chapel and had the work of the Eastport Church under his charge. Other preachers who supplied the pulpit from time to time were Reverend W. L. McDowell, Reverend John Dashiell, Reverend L. T. Widerman, Reverend Watson Case, Reverend Daniel Medford and Reverend John W. Hollins.

The first Eastport Building Committee was composed of James Mayo, Henry T. Boettcher and Samuel P. Wood.

On June 5, 1898, the Church, a 30 x 46 foot gothic style building was dedicated. The entire cost, including the lot, furniture, pulpit, Bible and hymnals was \$1,575. Edward Skipper, a

member of the Maryland Avenue Methodist Church, was the architect and builder of the pulpit. D. P. Thompson, of the Maryland Avenue Church, was the contractor and builder. The Trustees were Henry T. Boettcher, Secretary; David Parlett, Treasurer; Job Griscom, Samuel P. Wood, James Mayo, Virgil O. Carr, John A., Carr and George Warner. The Presiding Elder, Reverend W. M. Ferguson, preached the sermon. The Trustees formally presented the church for dedication to the Presiding Elder, Reverend Ferguson, assisted by the pastor, Reverend John Edwards.

Besides the Trustees, the Mite Society (forerunner of the Ladies Aid Society, the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the United Methodist Women) aided very materially to the completion and construction of the church. There were as follows: Miss Nellie Wood, President; Mrs. Francis "Fannie" Boettcher, Vice-President; Mrs. Mary Skipper, Secretary and Mrs. Irene Carr, Treasurer. Givers and workers were Mrs. Mary Brewer Mayo, Miss Lena Boettcher, Mrs. Kate Griscom, Miss Mary Mayo, Mrs. Kate Walker, George Basil, Mrs. Fannie Basil, Henry T. Boettcher, Mrs. Ida Mason, Miss Rose Carr, Miss Laura Carr, John A. Carr, Mrs. L. Brown, Mrs. Mildred Brown, Bennie Brown, Mrs. Ella Cawman, Mrs. Virgil Carr, Miss Eva Carr, Mrs. H. Finkle, Mrs. Job Griscom, Mrs. A. Griscom, Mrs. H. Kelly, Mrs. P. Kelly, Willie & Myrtle Kelly, Mrs. Lanahan, Mrs. Puckett, James Mayo, George Mayo, Edith Puckett, Frank Mayo, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. E. Riley, Miss Eleanor Riley, Ernest Mayo, Herbert Mayo, Mrs. Mable Wood, Mrs. Samuel P. Wood, Mrs. Annie Wiggins, Richard Schuby, Mr. George Warner, Miss Vivian Tyler and Mr. John Wood.

In 1907, the Superintendent of the Sunday School presented a plaque to Miss Roberta Wood in appreciation for her faithful service as organist. Stewart Wood has the plaque.

The only official record found concerning the purchase of the church bell is in the April 25, 1910 minutes of the Official Board. The record reads as follows: "It was moved and seconded that Brother Mayo be appointed a committee of one to see Mr. Ridout as to purchase of bell for use in the Church steeple. Amendment to above motion and and seconded that Brothers Wilson and Shanes also be appointed to see bell".

That church bell, a small bell, was apparently installed in the church building about 1910. The bell was moved with the first church building in 1913 to the second church location. The disposition of that bell is not known.

~ The Church moves to a New Site in 1913 ~

In 1910, during the pastorate of Reverend W. F. Miller, the corner lot at First Street (now Sixth Street) and Chesapeake Avenue was purchased. The congregation had to buy an entire block of land to get the desired site. After being refused a loan by one bank, Reverend Miller went to a second bank which agreed to lend the Church the money. But, by the time all the signers were assembled, enough lots had been sold off to cut down considerably the amount the Church had to borrow.

The Trustees surprised the banker by asking for much less than requested at first. In May 1913, the Official Board met and decided to move the Church and to enlarge the building at an estimated cost of \$1,800.

The Eastport Church building was moved from its location on Third Street to the new location on First (now Sixth) and Chesapeake Avenue during the summer of 1913. The move took two weeks and services were held each Sunday in the "Church on Wheels". Members recall being in the "Church on Wheels" for service and waving through the windows to passerbys. By September 8, 1913, the Official Board approved the use of the Church basement for a Birthday Dinner for 300 persons. At the same Official Board meeting, it was suggested that the new church dedicatory services be held on the 4th Sunday in October.

According to the Annapolis Evening Capital edition of Saturday, November 1, 1913, the Church was to be rededicated the following day, Sunday, November 2, 1913. During the summer, the church edifice had been removed from Third Street to the corner of First Street and Chesapeake Avenue. The removal was quite an architectural feat in the thrifty little borough across Spa Creek and was watched with much interest. All the work of extensive remodeling and improving had been completed. The Rededication Services for the ensuing week were indicated hereafter:

Sunday, 10:45 a.m. The memorial windows for Myrtle V. Norwood and for Martha E. Stevens were unveiled. The Martha E. Stevens Memorial Window contained a crown and a cross. The Myrtle V. Norwood Memorial Window contained an open Bible. The two windows were left in the building when it was sold to the Seventh Day Adventists in 1957 and were subsequently removed, after they sold the building. The Martha E. Stevens Memorial Window is now installed in the home of Dr. Guilio Callari in Arnold, Maryland. The Norwood Memorial Window has not been located.

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Sermon by the Reverend Edward Hayes, D.D., District Superintendent; 3 p.m. sermon by the Reverend J. C. Nicholson, D.D., of Washington, D.C.; 7:30 p.m. special rally day service and an address by Dr. Hayes.

Monday, 7:30 p.m. Service, the preacher delivering the service would be announced at a later date.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. The Sermon was given by the Reverend Frank R. Isaac of Baltimore. Over 14 years later, Reverend Isaac became the minister for the Eastport Church from April 1927 to April 1930.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. The Sermon was given by the Reverend W. F. Roberts of Baltimore.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. The Sermon was given by the Reverend M. L. Beal of Baltimore.

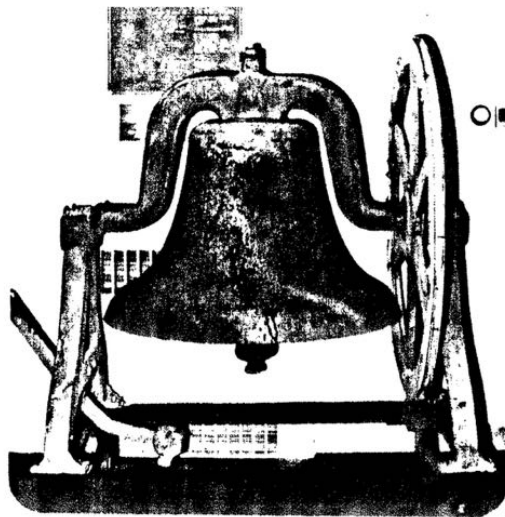
Friday, 7:30 p.m. The Sermon was given by the Reverend F. G. Watson of Baltimore.

The pastor, Reverend W. F. Miller, and the congregation extended a cordial invitation to all citizens of Annapolis and residents of the county to attend the services.

The church building was enlarged at the new site by an addition on the Chesapeake Avenue side. The steeple was also strengthened to support a new, heavy bell. The cost of the work to move and enlarge the building in 1914 was \$3,500. By April 15, 1915, all but \$450 had been paid.

The big church bell was reported as having been donated by Mrs. Nellie Wood Stevens, daughter of Samuel P. Wood and the second wife of Philip Stevens, as well as the brothers Philip and Louis F. Stevens. No official record of this bell was located. The bell is a steel alloy bell cast by the C. S. Bell Company of Hillsboro, Ohio.

The bell was first located on the church grounds at Sixth Street, until the church steeple was strengthened. The disposition of the first bell is unknown. The second, larger bell remained in the church steeple, when the church building was sold to the Seventh Day Adventist in 1957. Later, after the Seventh Day Adventist sold the building to Chris Coile, a realtor, he removed the bell and placed it on his waterfront pier.



Saint Paul, Minn.
April 25, 1910

A meeting of the Official Board was held this date with the following members present: The Pastor, Bro. Young, Stearns, Mayo, Woods, Lieut. Wood Jr., Nelson, Rawlins, Phares, Nelson & Rossburn.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Bro. P. P. Woods was unanimously nominated and elected as Treasurer to Official Board and Stewards.

Bros. Mayo, F. Young, Jr. & Rawlins were appointed a collection for Board of Stewards and Bro. Phares and Nelson for Board of Trustees.

It was agreed that the Pastor be paid the same as preceding Pastor, viz: \$700. and that \$50. additional be paid if possible by the end of Conference year.

It was agreed that the meetings of Board of Stewards be held the Monday night after the first Sunday in every month.

It was agreed that the meetings of Board of Trustees be held the Thursday night after the first Sunday in every month.

It was moved and seconded that Bro. Mayo be appointed a committee of one to see Mr. Rudant as to purchase of bell for use in Church Stemple.

Amendment to above motion made & seconded that Bros. Nelson & Phares also be appointed to see bell, carried.

No further business on hand, meeting then adjourned.

L. Brashear, Jr.
Secretary to Official Board.

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES, APRIL 25, 1910

Purchase of first Church Bell

Eastport M. E. Ch.
Jan. 10, 1911.

A meeting of the official Board was held this date with the following members present. The Pastor, Bros. Shore, Woods, Mayo, P. Stevens, B. Stevens, Lee, Wilson, Elliott, J. Young, J. Young, Jr. & Brashear.

Treasurer report as follows: Amt. on hand Nov. 30/10 - 307 amt. collected in Dec. 17, 11 Total \$1,212

Motion made, seconded & carried that the payments on the parsonage be put down to the actual demands.

Motion made, seconded & carried that Parsonage be paid when the opportunity presents itself for \$700.

The resignation of Bro. Shore as janitor was presented and unanimously accepted.

Mrs. Mason was nominated and unanimously elected as janitor.

Twenty Dollars was subscribed on delinquency for Pastor's salary for month of December.

No further business on hand, meeting then adjourned.

L. Brashear
A. T. P.

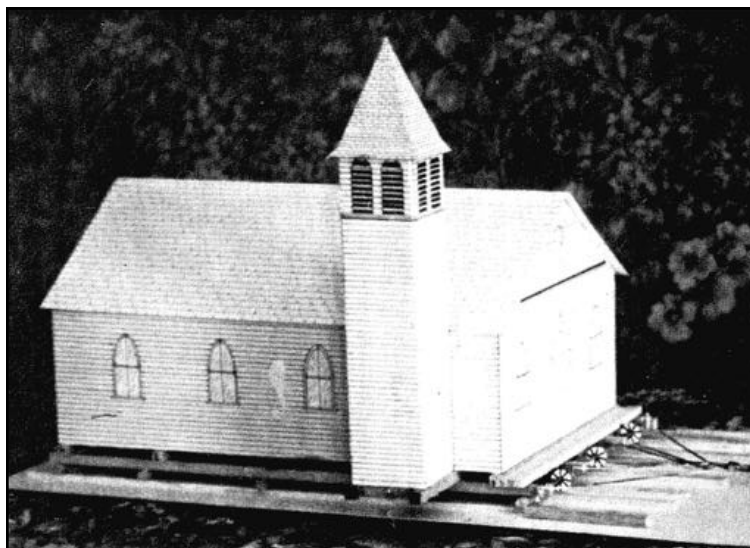
OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES, JANUARY 10, 1911

Sale of First Parsonage for \$2,000

James “Jimmie” Wheeler & The Church-on-Wheels

James “Jimmie” Wheeler was born August 14, 1910. His father had the boatyard on Spa Creek near the first church building. When Jimmie was 3 years old, he was taken by his father to watch the “Church-on-Wheels” to be moved. Jimmie’s father helped to move the church from the original location to the new location on Sixth Street. The men worked in the evenings after their normal work day. The move took place during the summer, and the building was moved only a few feet every day. It took about two weeks to move two blocks from its original position, across the corner onto Chesapeake Avenue and up Chesapeake to Sixth Street. The building sat in the street for some time until the foundations were ready. Jimmie could not recall how the building was moved sideways from the street onto its new foundation.

The building was supported on a cradle which had about five or six cross timbers going from side to side. These cross timbers were supported by four long timbers running from the front to the back of the building. Between each of the long timbers at the front of the building, a large wheel was installed. These three wheels supported the long timbers and rolled on three tracks made of 4x12 timbers laid on the ground. A rope bridle was fastened to the front end of the supporting cradle at the wheels. The bridle led to a rope and tackle arrangement that was anchored up the street. A mule or a horse pulled on the rope and the building would advance. Sometimes, the men had to help push. The log rollers, as they rolled out behind the building, would be brought forward and put under the front of the cradle. In this way, the rollers were continuously reused. The building was kept from rolling backward by chocks placed behind the last roller.



MODEL OF CHURCH ON WHEELS

Made by J. B. Shirley

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 1987

~ 25th Anniversary, June 3 - 10, 1923 ~

The 25th Anniversary Services were held the week of June 3 through June 10, 1923. Reverend John T. Jaeger was pastor. The anniversary program sermon was given by the Reverend J. St. Clair Neal, Secretary of the Baltimore City Missionary and Church Extension Society. The Sunday evening sermon was given by the Reverend Glenn R. Pease, Principal of the Anne Arundel Academy in Millersville.

Monday night, June 4, 1923, was "Home Coming". Former District Superintendents Dr. C. Herbert Richardson, Dr. James C. Nicholson, Dr. W. F. Miller, Dr. Don S. Colt and the former pastors Reverend R. Braley Jones, Reverend J. W. Hammersly, Reverend Robert J. Nicholson, Reverend W. F. Miller and Reverend G. E. M. Justice were guests.

Tuesday night, June 5, 1923 was "Masonic Night". L. Dorsey Gassaway, past Master of Annapolis Lodge 89, A.F. & A.M. presided. The invocation was made by the Reverend James L. Smiley. The address was given by Dr. Charles L. Pate, the pastor of the Garrett Park Church. The Benediction was given by the Reverend Newton C. Rice of the Odenton Masonic Lodge.

Wednesday night, June 6, 1923 was "Brotherhood Night". The men's bible classes of Calvary, Trinity and Eastport Churches attended. The Reverend John T. Jaeger, pastor presided. The invocation was given by the Reverend Newton C. Rice, pastor of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. The Reverend James W. Beale, pastor of West Baltimore Church gave the address.

Thursday night, June 7, 1923 was "Young People's Night". The Epworth Leagues of Calvary and Trinity attended with the League of Bennett Memorial Church of Baltimore. The Reverend H. W. Burgan, pastor of Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church gave the invocation. Reverend Clarence E. Wise installed the Epworth League Officers.

Friday night, June 8, 1923 was "Community Night" with greetings from the following pastors: the Reverend Edward D. Johnson, Rector of St. Anne's P. E. Church; the Reverend S. E. Persons, pastor of the Presbyterian Church; the Reverend John S. Sowers, pastor of the Baptist Church; the Reverend N. Parrish, pastor of the Baldwin Memorial Church; the Reverend Newton C. Rice, pastor of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Reverend S. H. Graper, pastor of the St. Martin's Lutheran Church.

Sunday morning services, June 10, 1923, were conducted by the pastor and honored the work of the Home Department and the Adult Bible Classes. Sunday evening was Children's Day.

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 1987

~ 50th Anniversary, January 14, 1945 ~

The 50th Anniversary was observed with special services during the week of January 14 - 21, 1945. The pastor, Reverend A. F. T. Raum was general chairman of the Anniversary Committee, which included W. Henry Moreland, Clarence E. Tyler, Robert Elliott, Joseph Talley and Harvey Mason. At the services, six former pastors participated: the Reverend W. F. Miller, the Reverend J. T. Jaeger, the Reverend E. A. Otto, the Reverend John E. Stacks, the Reverend R. C. Wheeler and the Reverend F. R. Isaac. Chaplain W. N. Thomas, U. S. Navy, and the Reverend C. E. Berger, Rector of the St. Anne's Episcopal Church also participated in the series of services. The anniversary musical program was arranged by the music committee.

At the first Sunday morning service, January 14, 1945, the Reverend W. F. Miller gave the sermon. The Reverend Samuel N. Stevens, President of Grinnell College and the son of Philip T. Stevens, led the congregation in prayer. Paul Stevens of Baltimore, another son of Philip Stevens also was at that service. Chaplain W. N. Thomas, U. S. Navy, preached the Sunday evening service, and the Edwards Chapel Choir participated in the program.

On Monday evening, January 15, 1945, "Community Night", the Reverend C. Edward Berger, Rector of St. Anne's Episcopal Church and President of the Ministerial Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, delivered the sermon, while the Reverend Alden F. Norris, the pastor of the Eastport Baptist Church read the Scripture Lesson. John Nowell was the soloist, accompanied by Mrs. Helen Erickson, Director of Music at Annapolis High School. Following the service, a reception was held in the Sunday School room. The guests were received by Reverend Miller, Mr. Clarence E. Tyler, the Reverend and Mrs. A. F. T. Raum, Mr. and Mrs. W. Henry Moreland, Reverend Norris, and Reverend Berger. At the reception Mrs. Wiley Fowler, Mrs. Kenneth Moreland, and Mrs. James Wheeler served punch. Mrs. Roland Bell, Mrs. William Parks, Mrs. Earl Boettcher, and Mrs. George Wilson served cake.

On Tuesday evening, January 16, 1945, Reverend J. T. Jaeger preached. Mrs. Albert Williams and Mrs. Thomas Cullimore sang a duet.

On Wednesday evening, January 17, 1945, Reverend E. A. Otto preached. Miss Norma Brooks of Wardour was the soloist.

On Thursday evening, January 18, 1945, Reverend J. E. Stacks preached. His wife, Mrs. Alma Bell Stacks, was the soloist with the Wesleyan Choir Guild.

On Friday evening, January 19, 1945, the singing sister evangelists, Emma and Jeanette Berge, who had appeared in the eastern United States and Canada, conducted a song service prior to the regular service. Reverend R. C. Wheeler preached. Mrs. Naomi Wheeler Rice, the daughter of the Reverend Wheeler, was the soloist.

On Sunday, January 21, 1945, the Reverend F. R. Isaac Sr. preached, and the Rachel Elliott Choir of the Eastport Church sang. The Sunday evening service was delivered by Joseph Lane, a lay preacher. A special program at the closing service included a piano solo by ten-year-old Barbara Schurr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schurr. There was also singing by the Rachel Elliott Choir of the Eastport Church.

The Anniversary Committee membership was the Reverend A. F. T. Raum, Chairman; W. Henry Moreland, Clarence E. Tyler, George E. Wilson, Joseph Talley, Robert Elliott, Mrs. Fred E. Rogers, Mrs. James Wheeler, Mrs. Alfred Erickson, George Stevens, Harvey Mason and Mrs. John Stevens. The Special Committee for the 50th Anniversary included Mrs. James Wheeler, invitations and publicity; Mrs. Robert Elliott, reception; Mrs. George Wilson, hostess; Clarence E. Tyler, booklet; Mrs. Theodore Boettcher, Mrs. Wiley Fowler, Mrs. Robert Elliott and Mrs. William Garder, music. Mrs. James Wheeler, Mrs. John Stevens and Mrs. George Erickson did the invitations. The expenses for the 50th Anniversary were \$151.37.

Eight Years, 1945 to 1953

In 1945, the Honor Roll of the Church and Sunday School contained the names of 85 of the boys and girls who had enrolled in the Armed Services. The list included one Gold Star member, one missing in action, and a number of Purple Hearts.

A new Hammond Electric Organ was ordered in April 1945 from Stief as a Memorial to Miss Rachel Elliott. A deposit of \$500 was made. A purchase priority was required for the purchase due to the wartime restrictions.

In essentials, unity

In nonessentials, liberty

In all things charity

John Wesley

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 1987

~ Building Program, 1953 to 1958 ~

The need for another building program became evident in the early 1950's. There was an active congregation of 475 members, grouped in 250 families. The Sunday School enrollment had reached 360 with a regular attendance of more than 230.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service included four circles, with special study classes to appeal to women throughout the Church. The Senior Choir enriched the services of worship. The Senior Youth Fellowship offered programs of vital interest to the young people. The Couples Club met the religious and social needs of the young families. The Methodist Men, with an enrollment of 109, showed that this was a Church for both heads of the family. The Men's Chorus added melodious evidence. A Junior Youth Fellowship extended the reach to the young, while the new Young Adult Fellowship went further yet. In another direction, a Youth Choir had been organized. Beyond the scope of the religious activity, the Church also was of service to the Brownies, the Girl Scouts, and to the Homemaker's Club.

The sanctuary was crowded to capacity. The Sunday School classes met in large rooms, including the sanctuary, nestled in pews with teachers lost in the general buzz and confusion. A new sanctuary and a new Sunday School building were needed.

A 1952 Building Committee was formed for the purpose of planning and executing the building of a church school on the site of the Chesapeake Avenue Church. The membership of that committee included Reverend A. Dean Kesler, Chairman; Mrs. William F. Gardner, Secretary; along with Norman Avery, Burton Bell, Mrs. George A. Erickson, Mrs. Wiley L. Fowler, Luther Lee, Kenneth H. Moreland, Robert Stevens, Lee Roy Turner and Charles M. Williams.

That committee considered that the cost to build was too much and decided that a new site should be purchased.

A 1954 Building Committee was appointed. This Committee was chaired by the Reverend Donald Lewis. Mrs. William Garner was the secretary until she resigned in the spring of 1955. Mrs. Wiley L. Fowler then became the secretary. For working purposes, the committee divided into two subcommittees with Charles M. Williams as Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee and Robert Stevens as Chairman of the Promotion and Finance Subcommittee. The rest of the membership was as follows:

Reverend Donald Lewis, Chairman; Charles M. Williams and Robert Stevens, Sub-Chairmen.

Other committee members included Norman Avery, Burton Bell, Miss Anne Elliott, Mrs. F. Theodore Boettcher, Mrs. George A. Erickson, Seeley T. Feldmeyer, Mrs. Wiley L. Fowler, Mrs. Williams F. Gardner, Luther Lee, Kenneth H. Moreland, Leroy Turner and Bennett Wheeler.

A commercial financial advisor was used to advise the Church with regard to money and how to canvass the membership.

During the ministry of Reverend A. Dean Kesler, a survey of the church requirements and of the probable responsiveness of the congregation to fund a building program was initiated. Building plans were in the initial research and study phase. The immediate need was to decide what the new church would be like. In 1953, a Canvass was organized in order to see how much money could be raised so that they might know what kind of building could be afforded. A Church Canvass goal of \$75,000, to augment the sale of the present property for \$50,000, was initiated. The Canvass was successfully conducted.

Under Reverend A. Dean Kesler, the Building Committee was formed. As a part of the Building Committee, a Canvass Committee was created with the following members: Charles M. Williams, Chairman; Norman Avery, Gilbert Hoffman, Robert Stevens, Burton Bell, Reginald Kane, Leroy Turner, Carman Ellinger, Harvey Kelly, George A. Erickson, Bennett Wheeler, James Wheeler, Luther Lee, George Wilson, Kenneth Moreland, Charles Smith, Seeley Feldmeyer, Wiley Fowler, George A. Erickson, Jr. and Raymond Stevens.

In 1954, during the pastorate of the Reverend Donald Earle Lewis, the building program continued. A site of almost 1.5 acres was purchased on Bay Ridge Avenue. Mr. Hugh J. Griffin of the office of Mr. A. Henzel Fink in Philadelphia was chosen as the architect.

On March 3, 1955, a Loyalty Dinner was held in the State Armory on Bladen Street. This was the kickoff of the Fund Campaign to raise \$75,000 for the Church Building Program.

In June 1956, the Building Committee voted to instruct the architect to begin the "working drawings" for the new church building. These were the detailed blueprint plans that the construction contractor was to follow. These plans would require about four months to complete and allowed the Building Committee to set a goal of October 1956 to begin construction. Much depended on the sale of the old church and the growth of the Building Fund. Recently, the Church had petitioned the City Council to rezone the church property to a Business District.

On March 28, 1957, the congregation voted unanimously to sell the church to the Seventh Day Adventist and to proceed with the plans formulated by the Church architect to build the new church. The Church Trustees and Building Committee reported in June 1957 that the total cost of the new church building, with furnishings, would be \$225,068. The amount to be borrowed would be \$150,000, at a rate of 5%, for a monthly payment of \$923.85. The Seventh Day Adventist paid \$28,500 for the old church on Sixth Street and Chesapeake Avenue.

Evening Capital

1884 - 1955

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ANOTHER CONGREGATION SEEKS TO BUILD LARGER CHURCH EDIFICE

Last night at the largest congregational dinner in its history, the Eastport Methodist Church embarked upon a major project, the opening of a canvass to raise \$75,000 to build a new church in the fast growing Eastport community.

With the growth of populations, and of congregations, there comes the need for larger churches. There also is a growing realization of the need of the church and the influence it exerts upon the minds and hearts of our people.

Eastport, and Annapolis, are a small part of the trend toward the church by those who hope for peace in a troubled world. Religion and the spirit of brotherhood, fellowship and service created in the churches are essential in our daily lives.

Over the years the habits of the people have changed considerably, and there are many and varied forms of entertainment offered. But the feeling of brotherhood and fellowship does not exist anywhere so strongly as in the churches.

Churches, too, feel this change in modes of living. They must, in a sense, compete for time of the people. Churches are planned with the usual facilities for prayer and worship, but also with facilities to attract and form a social center for the people, particularly the children.

The more a church makes itself a part of the cultural, social and recreational life of its people, along with its religious service, the more effective it becomes. The closer people are to their churches in their daily lives, the better they serve themselves, and the better the doctrine of brotherly love and understanding is spread.

If the congregation of the Eastport Methodist Church reaches its goal, it will be another milestone along the road to peace and happiness and a deterrent to crime and delinquency.

EVENING CAPITAL EDITORIAL, MARCH 4, 1955

Opening Fund Canvass

Easter Services

Again, for the third consecutive year, we shall have two identical preaching services on Easter . . .

9:00 A. M.

11:00 A. M.

The Pastor's Young People's Membership Training Class will be received into the church at 9:00 A. M.; and the new adult class will be received at the 11:00 A. M. Service.

At both of these services, pews will be reserved in the front, center aisle for new members.

Both choirs will sing beautiful Easter Anthems.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY CONGREGATION

On March 28th, after ten days notice, a congregational vote was held in the church. The congregation voted unanimously to sell our church to the Seventh Day Adventist Church and to proceed with the plans formulated by our Church Architect and the Building Committee to build our new church.

The Quarterly Conference also unanimously voted to sell the church and build the new one on Wednesday, April 3rd. The District Superintendent, Dr. E. Cranston Riggin, presided over the meeting and gave his written consent and the approval of the District Committee on Church Buildings and Grounds to the project.

Thus Eastport Methodist Church has complied with the procedure for selling property and building a new church as outlined in the *Discipline*, the official law book of the Methodist Church. We can now look for the actual building of our new church to begin this spring.

CHURCH SOLD

Our Church has been sold to the Church of the Seventh Day Adventist, who began worshipping in our church on Saturday, April 13th. The Seventh Day Adventist, holding to the Jewish custom of worshipping on the Sabbath, Saturday, will worship in our church every Saturday, but we shall have the use of the Church for our regular services on Sunday and for our regular meetings during the week until our new Church is built. This is a wonderful arrangement for several reasons. First, we shall be able to continue our own programs right up to the day when we enter our new building. If we had sold to commercial interests, or even another church, which would have

to have you join us, the folks who have just taken membership in our church. Won't you join us?

Bob Marks

had the use of the building on Sundays and many other days, our whole program would have suffered. This arrangement is ideal! Secondly, it relieves the concern of those living near the church that some type of commercial interest may have bought the property; and thirdly it makes us all feel better that the little church which we all love will still be a church and will continue to be used for God's work. It will remain in the community. Finally, and perhaps most important of all, this sale will enable us to have enough cash assets to begin building our new church. For all of these reasons we should be very happy and give God a prayer of thanksgiving.

We shall take with us the memorial items of furniture as reminders and treasures of our church's history. The organ and chimes will also go to our new church. We are hoping some day to have a new pipe organ. We are hoping someone may present a pipe organ to the new church as a lasting useful memorial in the name of a loved one.

We do not want to destroy the beauty of our present church. We want to see it as it is for years to come. Therefore, we are not taking the two beautiful stained glass windows. It would be a shame to take them from the place which they have graced and beautified so long. Somehow, it would not seem right, and without them the old church would not be the same. They would not fit in either with the architecture of our new building. If there is no danger of marring their beauty or harming them in any way, we shall take the glass plaques with the names of those in whose memory they were presented and place them in an honored place in our new building. We are taking with us also, all of the metal folding chairs, and all but twelve of the little children's chairs. We are taking all of the banquet size folding tables. We are leaving two small children's tables and four large wooden tables for the use of the Seventh Day Adventist. We are also leaving for them all of the adult size wooden chairs. We are also taking all cupboards and bookcases and other moveable items of furniture.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER, SPRING 1957

Unanimous Approval for Sale of Church Building on Sixth Street



THE NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MD., FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1955

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY IN MARYLAND'S CAPITAL CITY



EASTPORT METHODIST CHURCH FUND DRIVE—Six leaders of the Eastport Methodist Church fund canvass for \$75,000 to build a new church during a Loyalty Dinner held last night at the State Armory, Bladen Street. Left to right, they are Norman Avery, initial gifts and training committee chairman;

Bennett C. Wheeler, arrangements committee chairman; Charles M. Williams, who heads the canvass committee; the Rev. Donald E. Lewis, pastor of the church; L. Roy Turner, a member of the canvass committee and Kenneth Moreland, same committee chairman.

\$75,000 Building Fund Drive Begun By Eastport Methodists

The Eastport Methodist Church kicked off the biggest fund drive in the history of its 100 years during a Loyalty Dinner at the Bladen Street Armory last night.

Nearly 100 members and friends of the church were on hand for the beginning of the church canvass for \$75,000.

Treasurer for the affair was Bennett C. Wheeler, who later described the church's plan for expansion to new and larger quarters.

Four speakers headed the after dinner program.

The history of the church was traced by Kenneth Moreland, tactics team committee chairman.

"Around the year 1851, a few children, we know, knew the word of spreading God's word in Annapolis began to hold prayer and class meetings," Moreland explained. "The first class meeting recorded was held March 28, 1851 in the home of Philip T. Stevon, the pastor, and a 1901 Sunday school superintendent of our present church. This was the beginning of today's church."

Disseminated in 1851 Moreland said that through the efforts of the Rev. John Edwards, pastor of the Wesley Methodist Church, "the society known as the Eastport Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated on January 24, 1855."

He said that the cornerstone of the church at that time was located on a spot somewhere between what is now known as Leach's Barber Shop and the old Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company store. The stone was laid May 3, 1855, by Annapolis Lodge #2 of the Masons.

The money cost of the first church, including lot, furniture, paint, stove and organs was \$1,575.

During the pastorate of the Rev. William F. Miller, new ground was being here, the property on which the church now stands was purchased from Gottlieb Fiedler. The property was deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Eastport.

A decision was made in May, 1914, to move the church, Moreland explained. The church was moved intact on wheels and services were held during the two weeks it took to move in the "Church on Wheels," he explained, 1914-1915.

"Under the leadership of the three branches of Methodism in 1920," he added, "the church became what is now known as the Eastport Methodist Church."

L. Roy Turner, the next speaker, examined the books of the present-day church.

He pointed out that the Sunday school and the church sanctuary are overcrowded, and there is a need for additional space to carry out church activities.

"The mission of the church, its programs and activities are suffering because of our needs," he said.

"To correct these conditions, we must all increase our giving. When we do, our interest in our church and our spiritual lives will be increased."

Wheeler outlined the plans for expansion and construction of a new and larger church, which he said hinted on a four-phase development program — "Research, Planning, Construction and Dedication."

"We are at present in the research phase," he explained. "We know very definitely that we need to build in order to take care of the other needs properly."

Purpose Of Canvass

He said the canvass is "really for the purpose of determining how much we can raise, so that we can be in the best position to decide just what kind of building will best fill both our needs and our finances."

"It may well be that we shall be able to build an even finer one... than we should dare hope for if we drew our plans now," he said. "But just as soon as we have successfully finished this canvass and have your funds pledged, we shall proceed to study an architect and begin the exciting project of building, together, what kind of church building we shall construct."

Norman Avery, initial gifts and training committee chairman outlined the canvass.

Charles M. Williams, canvass chairman, said that the committee already has \$24,000 pledged and gave a list of those who had already pledged specific amounts to the fund drive.

He said that the committee is charging each year gifts to make it easy for everyone sign up the pledges spread over 180 weeks.

Closing remarks were made by the Rev. Donald E. Lewis, pastor of the church.

"I am pleased at the number of pledges we have already received," he said, "and I want to thank everyone who has been working so well on the canvass. I know we will make the goal we want and be able to provide the type of church we all want in Eastport."

EVENING CAPITAL EDITORIAL, MARCH 4, 1955

Building Fund Canvass Dinner



(Photo by Platt)

EASTPORT METHODISTS DIG IN—To help the architect for their new church with his planning, the Eastport Methodist Church yesterday took a soil test on the lot where the church will be built at the intersection of Bay Ridge Road and Chesapeake Avenue. Results will be used in planning the footings for the building. On hand for the test—the initial step in the long range building program—were, left to right, Hugh J. Griffin, of Philadelphia, the architect; William Hall, an engineer with his office; Charles M. Williams, chairman of the building committee; and the Rev. Donald E. Lewis, pastor. With a preliminary architectural drawing expected to be ready in about a month's time, the church hopes to begin actual construction work next fall. It is planning a building large enough to take care of 400 members in the church proper, and a Sunday School capable of housing between 500 and 600 pupils.

N. J. K.

EVENING CAPITAL, JUNE 30, 1957

Testing Soil for Construction

Methodists Launch New Church^{N. D.}

Approximately 300 people, including Mayor Arthur G. Ellington and local clergymen, attended the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Eastport Methodist Church on Bay Ridge Avenue at Jefferson Street, yesterday afternoon.

The Rev. Donald E. Lewis, minister of the church who termed it a "very nice crowd," led in the groundbreaking, followed by members of the congregation and church organizations who each turned over a shovelful of earth. The church choir provided music for the ceremony.

The church building, which will be completed in one year, represents the first unit in an overall building plan which will eventually include a fellowship hall and additional classrooms. This first building will consist of a main church, designed to seat 400 persons, a smaller chapel, and several classrooms in the basement.

The Rev. Clarence E. Kirby, chairman of the Baltimore South District committee on building and church location, and the Rev. Dr. E. Cranston Riggin, district superintendent of the Baltimore South District, also participated in the program.

Three former ministers of the parish attended the services, the Rev. John T. Jaeger, the Rev. John E. Stacks, and the Rev. A. Dean Kesler. The Rev. Ernest A. Otto was unable to attend.

George V. Shelton is the contractor for the new church, while Philadelphia architects Hugh J. Griffin and A. Hensel Fink designed the building plans.



FIVE MINISTERS BREAK GROUND—Left to right, the Rev. John T. Jaeger, Rev. A. Dean Kesler, Rev. Clarence E. Kirby, Rev. Donald E. Lewis, and the Rev. John E. Stacks break ground for the new Eastport Methodist Church scheduled to be completed in one year. The new church will be located on Bay Ridge Avenue at Jefferson Street. (Photo by Stevens)

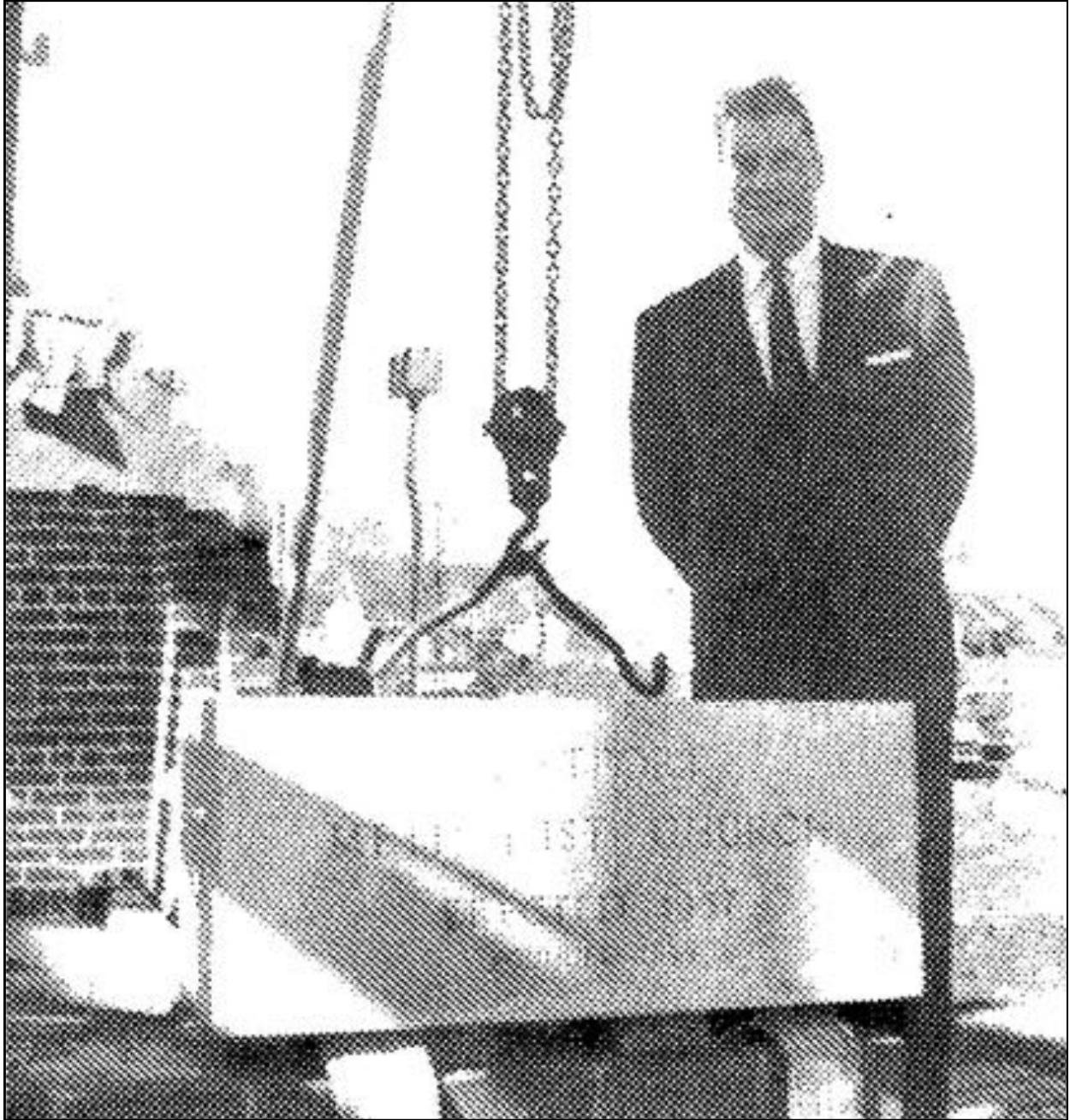
EVENING CAPITAL, JUNE 30, 1957

Breaking Ground for Construction of New Church Building



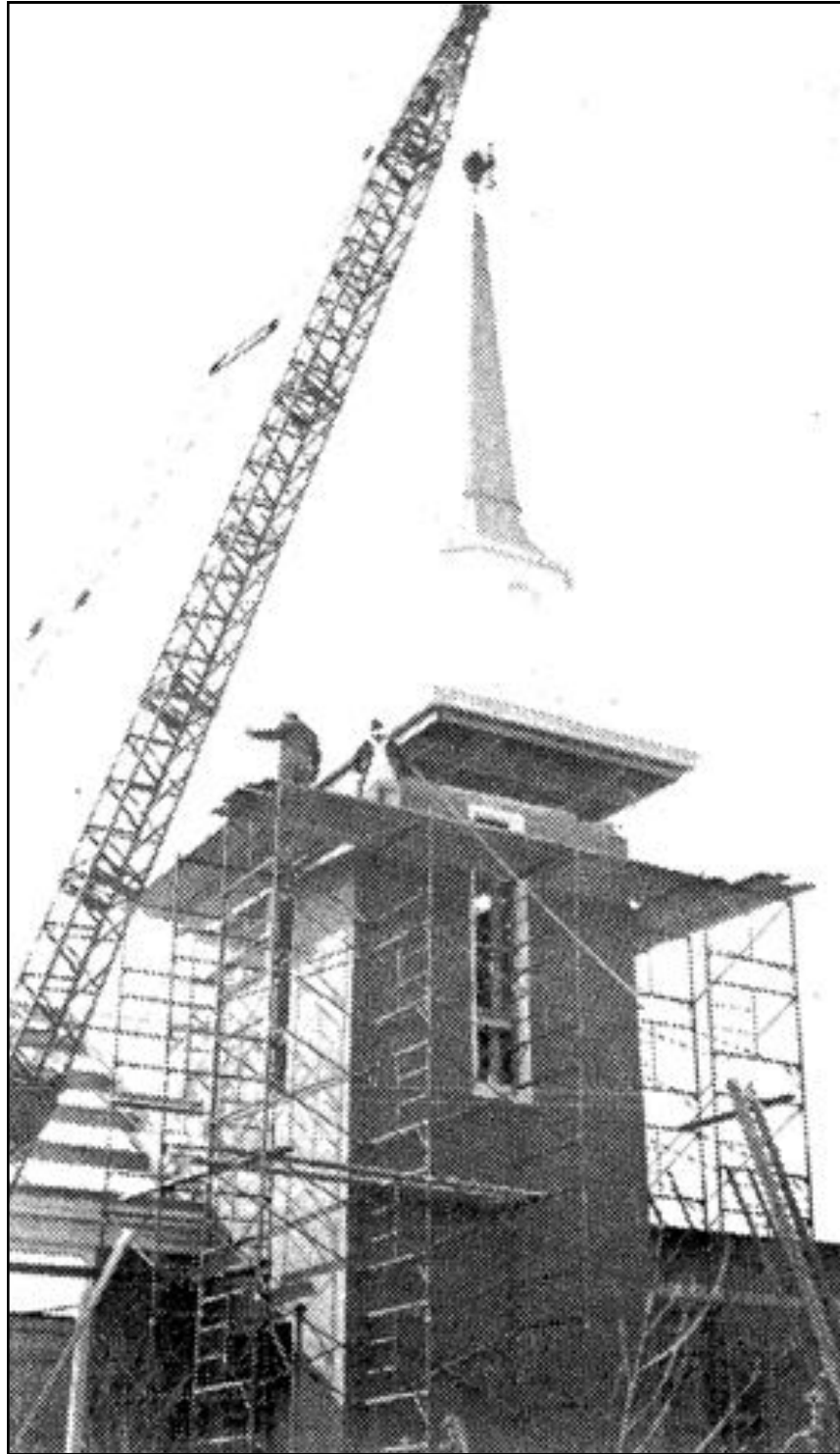
CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS, AUGUST 1, 1957

Church Records



LAYING OF CORNERSTONE, NOVEMBER 9, 1957

Reverend Lewis attending



LIFTING OF STEEPLE AND CROSS, JANUARY 30, 1958

Church Records

~ Construction Started in 1957 ~

On June 30, 1957 at 3 p.m. ground was broken for the new church building at 926 Bay Ridge Avenue. The Call to Worship was made by the Reverend Donald E. Lewis, pastor. The Prayer of Dedication was given by the Reverend Ernest K. Otto. The Responsive Psalm was led by the Reverend John E. Stacks. The Scripture Lesson was read by the Reverend A. Dean Kesler. The Remarks were made by the Reverend Clarence E. Kirby, Chairman of the District Building and Church Location Committee. The Pastor and the following organizations participated in the Service: Sunday School, Methodist Youth Fellowship, Trustees, Former Pastors, Stewards, Woman's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Men, Couples Club, Young Adults and the Building Committee. The construction of the church building by the firm of George Shelton, General Contractor began.

The Chancel Window was presented by Mrs. Alma Erickson Tyler in Memory of Mr. Clarence E. Tyler. The window was designed and constructed by the Reeves Stain Glass Window Company of Philadelphia. Carman Ellinger, Jack Nuckels, and Marvin Hunzeker served on the Window Committee.

The Cornerstone was laid on November 9, 1957 with due ceremony by the Grand Masonic Lodge of the A.F. and A.M., of the State of Maryland. The Reverend E. Cranston Riggan, District Superintendent, gave the address.

The church steeple was constructed as a separate unit on the ground. The 4.5 ton steeple was built of steel covered with copper and wood. It was lifted into place on the morning of Thursday, January 30, 1958. The operation took less than half an hour to lift and secure the steeple in its final location.

The Church's 12-foot Steeple Cross was presented by the W. Henry Moreland family. The Cross was also lifted into place on January 30, 1958, after the steeple had been secured.

The 1958 Building Committee was composed of the following: Charles M. Williams, Norman Avery, Burton Bell, Mrs. T. Boettcher, Mrs. George Erickson, Seeley T. Feldmeyer, Mrs. Wiley Fowler, Luther Lee, Kenneth H. Moreland, Mrs. Charles T. Smith, Robert Stevens, Bennett Wheeler, Mrs. James Wheeler, Henry Bliss, Carman Ellinger, Emory Owens, Phillip Peacock, Bernard Wayson and Mrs. Bernard Wayson.

On Sunday, June 8, 1958, the last service was held by the Eastport Methodist Church in the old Church building on Chesapeake Avenue.

~ Our Church in 1958 ~

On Sunday, June 15, 1958, one year after the start of construction, during the pastorate of the Reverend Donald Earle Lewis, the Services of Consecration and Opening of the New Eastport Methodist Church and School at 926 Bay Ridge Avenue were held. The first phase of construction had been completed.

On that Sunday, Reverend C. Cranston Riggin gave the Pastoral Prayer and the Declaration of Consecration. Reverend Robert H. Parker led the Responsive Reading. Reverend Lewis gave the Sermon. Reverend Parker gave the Benediction.

That evening, Reverend Robert Zimmerli, pastor of the Edwards Chapel Methodist Church, led the Prayer. Reverend Norman L. Trott, President of Wesley Theological Seminary gave the Sermon.

Tuesday evening, June 17, 1958, Reverend William Andre Keese, pastor of Grace Methodist Church, Baltimore gave the Sermon.

Wednesday evening, June 18, 1958, Reverend A. Dean Kesler led the Responsive Reading. Reverend John E. Stack read the Scripture Lesson. Reverend John T. Jaeger gave the Prayer of Dedication. Reverend William E. Hall, pastor of the Calvary Methodist Church of Frederick gave the Sermon, and Reverend Jaeger gave the Benediction.

On Friday evening, June 20, 1958, Youth Night, Reverend Roy Kobler, pastor of Pasadena Methodist Church, was the Hymn Sing Leader. Patricia Clar, President of the Sub-District Methodist Youth Fellowship, read the Scripture Lesson. Arden Anderson, President of the Senior Methodist Youth Fellowship, gave the Prayer. Reverend Robert H. Parker, Superintendent of the Baltimore South District, gave the Sermon. Elaine Roberts, President of the Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship gave the Benediction. The music for the evening was provided by our church groups. Mrs. F. Theodore Boettcher was the Church Organist; Everett McLaughlin was the Wesleyan Choir Director, and Mrs. Wiley L. Fowler was the Youth Choir Director.

Six rooms in the basement of the Church were leased to the Junior High School 7th graders from the Severna Park area. This was done to help the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to relieve crowded classroom conditions and split sessions. The students were all 7th graders who would be transferred to the new Severna Park Junior High School upon its completion. The school had a full program, principal, teachers and library.

In July 1959, the Official Board considered the wisdom of repairing the parsonage for \$5,595 or building a new parsonage.

~ Educational and Fellowship Addition ~

As of Sunday March 17, 1963, the Church attendance was 273 and the offering was \$762.99. That same month, on March 24, during the ministry of Reverend Thomas W. Sunderland, the Educational and Fellowship Unit, comprising the kitchen and glass windowed hallway was completed.

At the Service of Consecration of the Educational and Fellowship Unit, Reverend John Bayley Jones, District Superintendent, led the Reading. Reverend E. Cranston Riggin read from the Scriptures. After the Service, a Coffee Hour was held in the Fellowship Hall.

In 1963, Reverend Benjamin F. Denton became pastor for two years. The Church was beginning to make growing strides in its ministry and outreach to the Eastport Community.

Cole Chapel was named in memory of Mr. James Cole, who had been an Honorary Member of the Official Board and died in 1964 without any close living relatives.

In June 1965, Reverend Paul J. Sampson became pastor until June 1970. The Church continued to lease the basement class rooms to the Board of Education in 1965. The Parsonage was in need of approximately \$5,100 in repairs and remodeling. In November 1965, the Official Board approved a motion to obtain an appraisal of the parsonage on Sixth Street and to look for a site closer to the Church on Bay Ridge Avenue. In December 1965, the Official Board approved the purchase of property on Madison Street for \$6,000. In January 1966, a Committee was appointed to make plans regarding the parsonage.

The old parsonage property on Sixth Street had been zoned Commercial in 1952. As of January 1966, the Official Board was again considering the old parsonage maintenance versus a new parsonage. The old parsonage was not to be put on the market until definite plans had been formed. On May 17, 1966, the sale of the old parsonage at 511 Sixth Street and the purchase of a house and lot at 1213 Van Buren Drive was approved at a cost of \$22,500.

In 1968, an Anniversary Supper was held to commemorate having been in the new Church for 10 years.

The name of the Church was changed in 1968 to the Eastport United Methodist Church, due to the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren with the Methodist Church. In June 1970, the Reverend Edwin G. Reter became pastor. During the next few years, the growth and ministry of the Church entered a new phase of development. The membership reached an approximate total of 750 members.

In February 1972, the Official Board approved the purchase of a new organ, which would cost between \$25,000 and \$60,000. The decision about the desirability of a pipe or electric organ was left to the Music Committee.

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 1987

~ 75th Anniversary, April 29 to May 6, 1973 ~

The 75th Anniversary was celebrated the week of Sunday April 29, 1973 through Sunday, May 6, 1973. The Reverend Edwin G. Reter, the pastor, extended the Church welcome to guests. Reverend Raymond Moreland, the Assistant Pastor, participated in the various ceremonies.

On Sunday, April 29, 1973, the Worship Service was led by Reverend Edgar Hammersla, the District Superintendent. The Service was followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Monday evening was Community Night and Open House. There were exhibits and a movie, along with refreshments, also in Fellowship Hall.

On Wednesday evening, May 2, 1973, there was a mass Choirs Concert directed by Professor J. Edward Moyer, Professor of Church Music and Director of Admissions at the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. The Festival Choir Concert included the following Choirs and Directors:

Asbury Methodist	Laura Parker
Calvary United Methodist	Ralph Jacobus
Eastport United Methodist	William Kerns
First Presbyterian	Jean Ressler
Mt. Zion Methodist	Henrietta Thompson
St. Luke's Chapel	Theodore Redick
St. Martin's Lutheran	Richard Dresser
Trinity Methodist	Mrs. Roy Tucker
Organ Accompanist	Marjorie Whittington

The Concert was followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Thursday evening, the 75th Anniversary Banquet was held at Calvary United Methodist Church. Former pastors were introduced, and special music gave a highlight to the evening. A special cake in the shape of the church building was made by Mrs. Madeline Taylor.

On Saturday evening, the Church-sponsored Soul Searchers presented the religious musical, "Life". Refreshments followed the presentation.

Sunday morning, May 6, 1973, the 75th Anniversary Service was held. Bishop James Mathews was the guest minister. Following the Service, a luncheon was served in Fellowship Hall.

In April 1977, Mrs. Lois Ruth Smith Rutledge introduced a plea to the Administrative Board to acquire the bell that had been in the steeple of the old church on Sixth Street. A motion was made and passed that a task force be appointed to investigate the possibility and report their findings at the next Board meeting. In June 1977, John Rutledge reported that Mrs. Lois Ruth Rutledge had contacted Mr. Coile and that he would donate the bell back to the church. The bell was appraised and Mr. Coile was informed of the value of the bell. Mr. Coile then donated the bell to the Church. Charles M. Williams retrieved the bell and it was temporarily stored in the Church foyer. The bell was later installed in the present church steeple at 926 Bay Ridge Avenue in honor of Charles' parents, Charles and Caroline Williams. At that time, the bell was provided with an electrical clapper. The 1898 bell pulley wheel was later rehabilitated and now hangs in the Narthex.



~ Burning of the Mortgage ~

On January 30, 1983, at an afternoon service, during the pastorate of Reverend Edwin A. Ankeny, we celebrated the Burning of the Mortgage. Mr. Eric Edstrom, Lay Leader, read the Old Testament Lesson while Gerald Grace, the Assistant Pastor, read the Epistle Lesson. Mrs. Marjorie Stevens, Chairwoman of the Mortgage Burning Committee, read the Lesson from the Gospel. Reverend Dean Kesler gave the Moments of Reflection. Mr. Charles Williams gave the Remarks by the Trustees and Building Committee. Reverend Richard Clifford, the District Superintendent of the Annapolis District, gave the Afternoon Message. The Trustees presented the Church for Dedication. Reverend Ankeny gave the Pastoral Prayer of the People, and Mr. Edstrom gave the Benediction.

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 1987

~ 100th Anniversary, April 19 - 26, 1987 ~

The congregation of Eastport United Methodist Church invited members and friends to attend "*RESURRECTION*" - *The Easter Celebration of the Centennial of the First Methodist Class Meeting in Eastport*. Special activities were held from April 19 through April 26, 1987. Past ministers and other notables were invited to attend and to participate in the various events.

The special week-long program began with an Easter Celebration worship service on Sunday, April 19th at 10:30 AM. Items carried in the Procession included the Centennial Banner; 1899 Pairo Silver Patten, Chalice, Flaggon; 1896 Methodist Episcopal Hymnal; 1859 John Dashiell Pulpit Bible; Books of Remembrance--Volume 1, November 1970-October 1983 and Volume 2, April 1983-March 1987. The Centennial Banner created by Paulette Schwallenberg according to a design by The Reverend-Doctor Richard Roper was blessed. Then Dr. Roper extended the celebration welcome to members and guests. After the sermon was "The Naming." As the names were read, those in the congregation who were descendants of the following men stood in their honor: Philip T. Stevens, John W. Sears, William Carr, Ellis W. Yarrington, James Mayo, Joseph S.M. Basil, David O. Parlett, William L. Beall, and Henry T. Boettcher.

On April 22, a Congregational Hymn Sing was held at 7:30 PM. A special evening featuring early Methodist songs from the 1880's was lead by The Singing Master, James Wilcox, with special music by Mary Jane Finkle, James Wilcox, Joanne Pitzer, Jeanne Jones, and Marcia Outerbridge. Marge Kerns was the accompanist.

The 100th Centennial Dinner was held at Calvary United Methodist Church on April 24th at 6:30 PM. The price of the dinner was \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Mr. Paul Moreland, Chair of the Anniversary Team, introduced the former pastors, and special music was enjoyed throughout the evening. A commemorative program was held recognizing various members of the congregation. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of an original play, *The First Class Meeting*, acted out by the descendants of Philip Stevens.

Former pastors of EUMC, The Reverends Edwin Ankeny, Jerry Grace, Dean Kesler, Edwin Reter, and Norma Jean Lewis, wife of The Reverend Donald Lewis, graced us with their presence and remembrances.

April 26th Heritage Sunday Celebration was held at 10:30 AM. The week climaxed with a special musical program, *Music of the Resurrection*, on Heritage Sunday, April 26th at 4:00 PM.

A church directory with colored photographs of the families of the congregation was created for this special occasion.

*The Next
25 Years of
Eastport
United Methodist
Church*

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 2012

~ 125th Anniversary, April 21 & 22, 2012 ~

The leadership of the Eastport United Methodist Church realizes that it has a proud history and heritage, but also recognizes its responsibility to continue to serve Christ, His People, and the community.

The 125th Anniversary events, to be held on April 21 and 22, 2012, will celebrate 125 Years of Blessings and Service.

On Saturday, we'll gather at Calvary United Methodist Church (CUMC) at 5:00 PM for an evening of fellowship, sharing our meal together, and a special program. Past Pastors will be joining us.

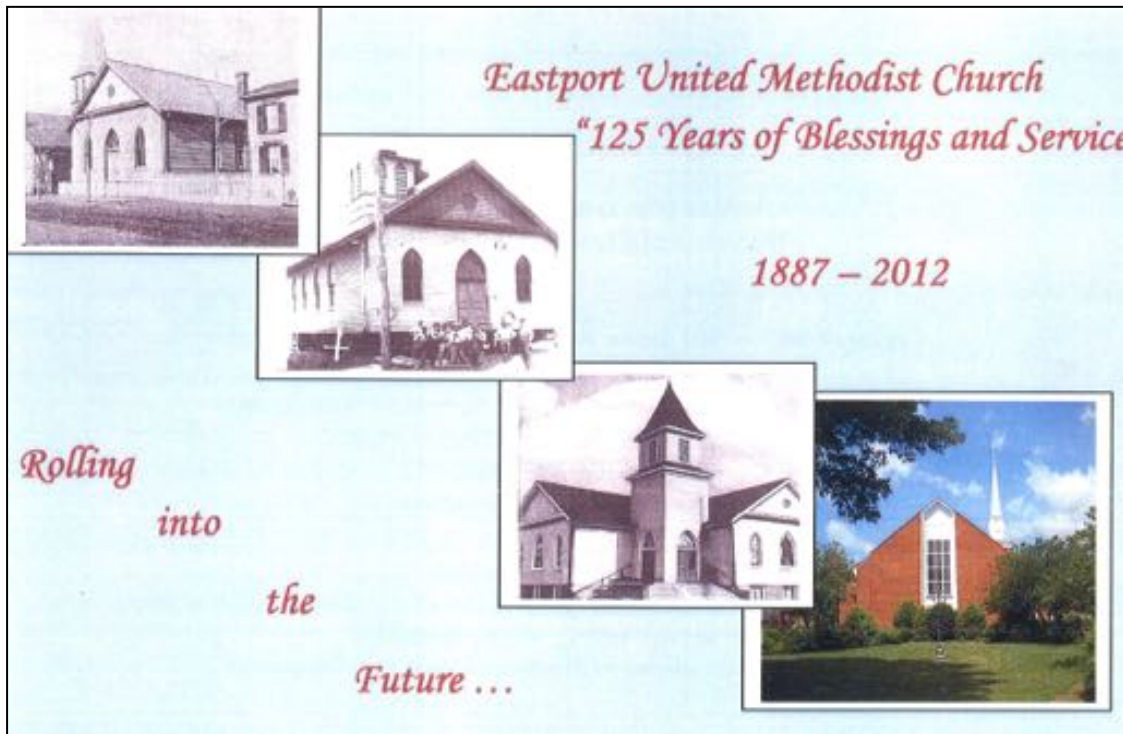
Our Anniversary Team is using CUMC's fellowship hall for this event for two reasons: (1) their room will seat more people, and (2) all EUMC members and guests will be served dinner. No cooking or cleanup for our members on this special night!

Our evening begins with appetizers, table displays for reminiscing, and socializing. A roast beef and fried chicken dinner follows at 6:00 PM with our special program scheduled for 7:00 PM.

Sunday morning we'll start our day with a special worship service and music program at 10:00 AM. District Superintendent Chris Holmes will be our guest Pastor offering the reflection. Past ministers will be invited to participate in the service, and music offerings by our Wesleyan Choir, Prays Band, Soul Searchers, and Heavenly Bells are sure to be inspirational. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Anniversary Team members have been meeting, planning, and working on this event for the past year. Our team includes: Joan Dove, Wendy and Eric Edstrom, Audrey Howard, Harriet Macey, Ann Rawls, Pastor MaAn Barcelo, Pud Schultz, Betty Storton, Margaret Terry, Kathy Volz, and Jean Strucko as Chairperson.

**WE HOPE ALL WHO WORSHIP AT EUMC ENJOY THIS
SPECIAL CELEBRATION!**



Eastport United Methodist Church

**Invites you to celebrate with us
"125 Years of Blessings and Service"**

**Saturday, April 21 - Banquet, Recognitions, & Entertainment 5:00 P.M. at
Calvary UMC ~ 301 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, Maryland**

**Sunday, April 22 - Worship & Praise Service 10:00 A.M. at
Eastport UMC ~ 926 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland
Special music will be presented**

Response card is included.

Please use this to indicate whether or not you will be able to attend, and how many people in your family will be attending. Include payment for dinner with response card.

Invitations will be mailed on or about March 10, 2012

**Eastport United Methodist Church
125th Anniversary**

From our founder, John Wesley's teachings,
And Jesus showing us how to pray,
We grew in strength and membership,
As Methodists today.
We started out on 4th Street,
And through planning and some deals,
We moved our church to 6th Street,
Known as the "church on wheels",
But this didn't become our final home,
We found a better place to stay,
And we built on Bay Ridge Avenue,
That's where we are today.
And through many people's efforts,
We shared our hopes and fears,
And we stayed strong together,
125 years.
But we are more than just a church,
Or the building that you see,
For the love and faith that we all share,
Makes us one big family.
As we move on toward the future,
And what challenges we find,
May God be there to guide us,
In one Christian heart and mind.

Steve Parks

~ Administrative Council ~

The Administrative Council is charged with the responsibility of long-range planning for Eastport UMC and supporting its current ministries. Council members represent a team or position in the church. The Council meets bi-monthly on the third Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The Administrative Council Chair is encouraged to attend all team meetings. This Council also sponsors an annual day-retreat, game nights, and an annual review of our membership. Some people think of the Council as serving a business life function, while others believe the Council is the spiritual cheerleader of what the church is trying to accomplish. The reality is, it is both. It is intended to be a future-oriented body, focused on the mission, vision, goals, and strategic planning of our church. We encourage all worshippers to accept a leadership position in our church and thus become part of the Council. We also encourage any and all members to attend Council meetings. We want this to be your church and your Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CHAIRS (1987 – 2012)

John Wright	1987
Thomas Engelke	1988 Jan.- 1988 Aug.
James (Jim) Wilcox	1988 Sept.- 1991 Dec.
Dee Horton	1992-1993
Richard Hughes	1994-1996
Lee Horton	1997-2000
Dawn Moyer	2001-2002
Marjorie Hughes	2003-2004
Eric Edstrom	2005-2006
Jean Williams Strucko	2007-2012

~ Board of Trustees ~

EUMC's Board of Trustees is responsible for the maintenance and security of our building, its physical properties, and respective grounds to ensure that all are maintained in good working order. The Board sets policies for the use of the property and equipment to ensure that all applicable laws, regulations and government directives are complied with regarding the safety and health of the congregation and building users. The Board enters into and manages relevant contracts that support the ministries of EUMC. It is also authorized to receive memorial gifts and donations to the building fund which are then directed to appropriate tasks. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the board, many projects were completed over the years.

Projects Completed in the Last Five Years

Painted Narthex and hallway areas upstairs
Replaced large window in hallway near church mail boxes
Cleaned out and painted seven rooms downstairs
Installed black wrought iron fence at the back of fellowship hall above stairwell
Added shed attachment with concrete pad for trash cans
Repaired steeple bell
Painted all outside doors and small windows
Replaced HVAC systems and upgraded control units
Contracted with Colonial Nursery School
Contracted with Seventh Day Adventist
Replaced downstairs windows with energy-efficient vinyl units
Installed new sound system in Sanctuary
Purchased new projector for Sanctuary
Fixed drainage problem near church office door

Front Pews Removed - In December of 2010, the left and right front pews in our sanctuary were removed to allow more room for the *Heavenly Bells'* choir tables, *Prays Band* equipment, *Soul Searchers* performances, Cantata instrumental accompaniment, and visiting vocal groups.

T-Mobile – In 2009, EUMC contracted with T-Mobile to use the steeple for a concealed mobile telephone tower. This was an opportunity for us as we were in dire need of replacing the steeple and surrounding roof. The contract required the replacement of the existing steeple with one that allowed radio waves to penetrate freely.

It is built of nearly maintenance-free materials. However if maintenance is required, it will be done by T-Mobile. EUMC also receives a donation each month. This has helped immensely with paying for many of the other repairs we have been making on the church buildings and property.

The only major difference is that the stainless steel cross on top was also replaced. The family of Henry and Margaret Moreland were contacted about the replacement steeple, and they agreed to the removal of the steel cross. The original cross now graces the meditation garden at the front of the church!

Projects Scheduled for 2011

Paint frame surrounding front stained-glass window-*completed*

Paint downstairs bathroom near UMW room-*completed*

Paint downstairs hallway ceiling and walls-*completed*

Install new 5" fence around playground area-*completed*

Install new carpeting in Sanctuary, hallway, and Chapel-*completed*

Repair/Replace roof between steeple and sanctuary-*completed*

Continue outside painting as required

Refinish hardwood floor in Sanctuary-*completed*

Replace all lighting fixtures and light bulbs with energy-efficient materials-This task was completed by BGE at a cost of \$10,000 of which EUMC paid 20% (\$2,000). This \$2,000 investment will be recouped within six months due to the savings in the cost of energy.-*completed*

Future Major Projects

Replace guttering

Paint and repair the cornice

Replace office roof and side entrance – *completed March 2012*

Repair stairwell wall at front of church

Repainting of brick work

Replacement of all exterior doors



125TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

~ Pastors of Eastport United Methodist Church ~

Annapolis Circuit: Maryland Avenue and Eastport

John Edwards	1894- June1898
Fletcher Guard Watson	June 1898 – April 1900
Eugene Pearce	April 1900 – April 1901
R. Bradley Jones	April 1901 – April 1904
J. M. Hammersly	April 1904 – April 1907
Robert J. Nicholson	April 1907 – April 1910
William Freeman Miller	April 1910 – April 1915

Eastport and Edwards Chapel Circuit

G.E.W. Justice	April 1915 – April 1917
John L. Walsh	April 1917 – April 1920
John Traugott Jaeger	April 1920 – April 1924
J. Thomas Hart	April 1924 – April 1926
Richard G. Koontz	April 1926 – April 1927
Frank Reid Isaac, Sr.	April 1927 – April 1930
R.C. Wheeler	June 1930 – June 1937
Ernest Albert Otto	June 1937 – June 1940
John E. Stacks	June 1940 – June 1943
Archibald Frederick Targette Raum	June 1943 – February 1947
William Freeman Miller	February 1947 – June 1947
E. William Hall	June 1947 – June 1950
A. Dean Kesler	June 1950 – June 1954

Eastport only

Donald Earle Lewis	June 1954 – June 1959
Thomas Wesley Sunderland	June 1959 – June 1963
Benjamin Franklin Denton	June 1963 – June 1965
Paul Jennings Sampson	June 1965 – June 1970
Edwin Gilbert Reter	June 1970 – June 1974
Edwin A. Ankeny	June 1974 – June1983
Richard Roper	June 1983 – June 1988
Robert Carter	June 1988 – June 1992
John Parks	June1992- June 1993
Carolyn Bray	June 1993 – January 1999
Les Metcalf	January 1999 - May 1999
Jeffrey Paulson	June 1999 – June 2005
MaAn Barcelo	June 2005 – Present

~ Our First Female Pastor ~

In 1956, the United Methodist Church, after years of hemming and hawing, finally granted full clergy rights and ordained women. However, it was not until 1993 that EUMC actually got its first woman pastor. She came in the person of The Reverend Dr. Carolyn Sue Bray, DMin.

Carolyn came at the beginning of February that year. She worked hard to help the congregation continue to heal from a very traumatic experience. As the pastor in charge when the church basement flooded in July 1994, she led the congregation in the difficult job of cleaning up and restoring the space. Then Lay Leader, Dee Horton, remembers Carolyn as a real "hands on" kind of person. She got her hands dirty whenever the need called for it. She was a "go to" person who didn't ask anyone to do anything she wasn't willing to do herself.

Carolyn was also very good with children; they seemed to relate extremely well to her. And for those of the congregation who were sick or hospitalized, she would often go beyond what would normally have been expected of her.

Her greatest strength was in preaching. She delivered excellent sermons that folks recall had great relevance for their daily walk with the Lord.

Pastor Carolyn left EUMC in January 1999.

~ The First Cross-Cultural Appointment ~

Nine years after Pastor Carolyn left, EUMC got its second female pastor in the person of the current Pastor in charge, The Reverend MaAn Barcelo. A naturalized U.S. citizen by marriage to retired economist, Vern Renshaw, PhD., Pastor MaAn was born and raised on Leyte Island in the Philippines. She graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. in 2001 with a focus on Pastoral Care. After completing her residency as Chaplain at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, she served as Associate Pastor at Grace UMC in Baltimore. After her ordination as elder in full connection in May 2005, she was appointed by Bishop John Schol to EUMC. Her arrival gave EUMC its first experience with a cross-cultural appointment.

Pastor MaAn is passionate about helping the congregation deepen its relationship with God through worship that enriches and the regular observance of spiritual practices. Empowered by this relationship, she daily desires for members to then look outside to the larger community to engage others through different forms of outreach ministries even as they look within to serve God in the congregation.

Over the years as they struggled to understand sermons delivered in English with a Filipino accent, the congregation has graciously responded by strengthening ministries from the past and embracing new ones mentioned elsewhere in this booklet. For all that has been, for all that is, and for all that will still be accomplished for the glory of God and the good of the congregation and the communities we all serve selflessly without counting the cost, she is very grateful to each and every dedicated member of the congregation.

Missions

The Missions Team's purpose is to coordinate volunteers of EUMC, the United Methodist Men, and the United Methodist Women in mission activities conducted locally, nationally, and internationally. All work together to serve those in need.



Thanksgiving Baskets - Through the generous giving and tireless efforts of our congregants, Thanksgiving baskets are provided each year to a number of neighborhood families in need. Recipients are identified by local schools. Kevin and Sally Hight head this ministry.

Food Bank - Eastport United Methodist Church is an official Anne Arundel County Foodbank distribution site. Distribution takes place on the third Wednesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers set up at 10:30 a.m. and manage the distribution and cleanup in the afternoon.

Food Pantry - Members regularly deposit non-perishable foods in a collection box in our Fellowship Hall. They also deposit loose change in the big glass fish "Nemo," and many opt to make food pantry donations in lieu of poinsettias at Christmas and lilies at Easter. These efforts increase the amount of food we are able to provide for the needy.



Pastor MaAn and volunteers from Mt. Zion UMC and St. Luke's.

Ministry to Neighborhood Families/ECCO (Eastport Community Center Outreach) - Ann Rawls and a dedicated group of EUMC members are committed to helping families in nearby Eastport Terrace and Harbour House communities through participation in Thursday night motivational programs and family dinners. This program is in partnership with the Eastport Civic Association and other nearby churches. This outreach program was started five years ago.

Homework & Reading Assistance Program - Starting in 2008, this program continues to thrive with our volunteers working with an average of 15 students a session. The homework volunteers from EUMC and the community require the children to do their homework and read at least two books. If children have no homework, then reading appropriate for their grade level is required, and they must read to improve their skill level. Children range from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. The first student, Ana Perez, who came to the church looking for help with her homework, has returned this year to help with the children. Ana is now in the ninth grade.

In addition to homework assistance, volunteers and children also have fun playing games, working puzzles, creating Christmas and Easter projects, and making pizzas. They have a Christmas Party with their families, and participate in our Pumpkin Carving event with their parents. Joyce Conley, Mike Keller, Ann Rawls, Vern Renshaw, Paulette Schwallenberg, and Dick Strucko are EUMC's dedicated volunteers. This program has helped greatly with the children's school work, and they consider EUMC to be their church. This program was honored in November 2011 for its positive impact on our neighborhood children. It's been inducted into the *Volunteer Project Hall of Fame*, sponsored by the Volunteer Center for Anne Arundel County and the Coordinators of Volunteers of Anne Arundel County. It was also awarded the "Kids at Hope Award."



Homework Assistance Program

Financial Support - Two-thousand dollars was sent to the Philippines to help with the devastation from Typhoon Sendong. UMCOR received \$1,500 for the Haiti relief fund. “Nothing but Nets,” a program to help eradicate malaria in Zimbabwe, received \$1,000. EUMC members raised \$5,000 for the Heifer Fund, a mission to bring an end to world hunger through purchasing farm animals that people in need can raise.

Yarn Ministry - Church members knitted and crocheted squares that were connected and made into afghans for wounded veterans. From this project, our Yarn Ministry grew. This group makes lap blankets for sick church members and baby blankets for our new arrivals.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF - UNICEF boxes are passed out and church members continue to support worldwide projects through UNICEF.

Backpacks - Over 105 backpacks containing school supplies are distributed to local elementary and middle schools.

Gracious Greetings -A dedicated group of volunteers make greeting cards to send to church members on their birthdays, anniversaries, and at times of illness. They also send cards to residents of the Timothy House on holidays. Recently, they have started sending cards to military personnel stationed overseas. Military recipients are suggested by families and friends of EUMC.

Volunteers In Mission - For the past four years, the Mission Team has sent participants to Mississippi and Louisiana to help rebuild those areas after the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

Mission Trip to Kentucky - Team members Ann Rawls and Jackie Cunningham joined 25 other United Methodist volunteers and traveled to [Henderson Settlement in Kentucky](#) to provide assistance to the area's residents. Ann's and Jackie's weeklong experience included installing trailer windows and assisting in revitalizing the home. Ann and Jackie note that it "was truly an experience that they wish everyone could participate in."

Habitat for Humanity - For the past five years, EUMC volunteers have worked on five homes in Brooklyn Park and in Annapolis near Clay Street. They worked along with the potential home owners and other community volunteers.

**Laying
New Floor**



**Building
with
Habitat for Humanity**

**Pastor MaAn
making
Applebutter**



~ United Methodist Men ~

The Eastport United Methodist Men (UMM) seeks to help the men of the church grow in Christ and build the kingdom of God in our community. The UMM takes inspiration from James, who admonished the followers of Christ, “Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead put it into practice. Whoever listens to the word but does not put it into practice is like a man who looks in a mirror and seeks himself as he is.” To that end, the UMM engage in study and prayer, witness in words and actions, and engage in Christian service. The UMM gather monthly for a Prayer and Pizza Fellowship which lifts up members of the congregation and others who are in need of divine assistance and guidance. They also plan activities, programs and ministries. But, the UMM include all men of the church and not just the regular participants at these meetings. The following are some projects the UMM have initiated:

Men’s Winter Relief

Each year since 2001, the Eastport United Methodist Men have coordinated a church wide effort to provide shelter, meals, companionship, and entertainment for one week for men who find themselves temporarily homeless due to personal circumstances. The program, which is sponsored by the Arundel House of Hope and involves churches throughout the county, operates from October to April. EUMC has accommodated an average of 25-30 men each year.



In the past two years, the church has hosted men during Thanksgiving week when preschool classrooms are available as sleeping quarters. A sumptuous meal is provided to the men on Thanksgiving Day and served by volunteers from the church and community. Men’s Winter Relief at EUMC has traditionally begun with a huge potluck dinner, in which members of the congregation join their guests. Men of the church spend evening and nights with the homeless to provide them company. On occasion, several of those participating in the program have contributed to worship services at the church by providing music or reading poetry. One of the men in the 2011 program summed up the gratitude he felt: “It means a lot. It shows that people really do care about people like us”.

Prayer Partnership

The Prayer Partnership is a congregation-wide ministry initiated by the Eastport United Methodist Men to generate concentrated prayer throughout the week by our members for a major concern. Each person volunteers to pray once a week on a particular day for an issue selected for the Prayer Partnership. The experience of the church is that the power of prayer is mighty and that God does listen. The first six prayer topics resulted in a positive response: The Cool Runnings Campaign to raise \$66,000 in a few months to upgrade the heating and air conditioning systems in the church, the recruitment of team leaders for the youth program in the church and a person to teach the Sunday School class for those in their teenage years, a volunteer to coordinate the 2009 Vacation Bible School, a person to serve as church treasurer, additional membership for the Wesleyan Choir, and a drive to raise sufficient funds to replace carpet and flooring in the church. The Prayer Partnership is awaiting results of its seventh challenge: the recruitment of a leader, or leaders, for the Teens and Tweens Sunday School.

UMM Retreat

The Eastport United Methodist Men hold an annual retreat on a Saturday morning in February at the church. The retreat features a special program. Examples from the past include discussions of issues of special concern to men, talks by evangelicals, presentations by representatives from the Baltimore District UMM and from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, a panel on consumer issues, and the sharing of important life experiences by men of the congregation. The agenda of the retreats also includes a planning session for men's programs, activities and ministries for the coming year at the church, as well as a time for prayer and reflection.

~ United Methodist Women ~

The purpose of the Eastport United Methodist Women (UMW) is to know God; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand mission work through helping women and children.

The UMW restarted in the fall of 2000 after several years of absence. Originally, meetings were held after the worship service. Later it was decided to hold the monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from September through May. The members bring a brown bag dinner, and the hostess provides drinks and desserts. Another member provides the devotions and/or program. Guest speakers will occasionally offer the program.

UMW make a yearly personal pledge for donations to mission work. Plus, they sponsor two fund raisers to support their mission work both nationally and internationally. Their first soup

sale was held in December of 2000. The soup sale, which offers three to four different kinds of soup donated by members, is now held in February. Quart and pint size servings are sold. The first tea was held in January of 2002. It is now held on the first Sunday in May from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The members prepare and donate scones with accompaniments, finger sandwiches, desserts, and various kinds of teas. This event has been extremely successful with as many as 123 women in attendance. An afternoon of fun, fellowship and good food is enjoyed by all!

Bereavement luncheons, transportation to doctors' appointments, and dinners to our incapacitated members are coordinated and prepared by our UMW. They also donate financially to EUMC. In May, a mother/child luncheon is sponsored by the UMW.

Support of local mission work includes the following: Christmas gift bags and home-made cookies distributed to the Timothy House residents; treat bags for the deaf and blind campers; and school supply backpacks to four elementary schools.

District missions include financial support of the Susanna Wesley House, the district scholarship fund, and district general missions.

International missions include birthing kits and flood buckets to weather ravaged areas of the world, and financial support to Paso a Paso, a village in Guatemala, to help residents obtain wells and sponsor six children to attend school.

The UMW has a core group of 16-20 women in regular attendance. However, all women of Eastport United Methodist Church are members and are welcome to participate in any and all activities.



~ Soul Searchers ~

The Soul Searchers of EUMC was originally started in 1972 under the direction of Ray Morland and Bill Kerns as an interdenominational youth singing and drama group. The group has continued the tradition through today nearly forty years later spreading the word of God under the direction of Nicole and Scott Hughes. The group starts practicing in January every Sunday up until June, when the group begins its local tour, performing at eight churches, culminating with a five day trip at the end of June. The group has traveled to places such as Myrtle Beach, SC, Erie, PA and Orlando, FL. The group this year is looking to travel to Pigeon Forge, TN. When the group travels, they bring along their own lights, sound, scenery, projector, and props. The shows the Soul Searchers perform are often high-energy, contemporary Christian music involving four part singing, choreography, and a multi-media production. The group continues to grow each and every year with the love that comes with spreading God's word!



*If your heart is as my heart,
then give me your hand*

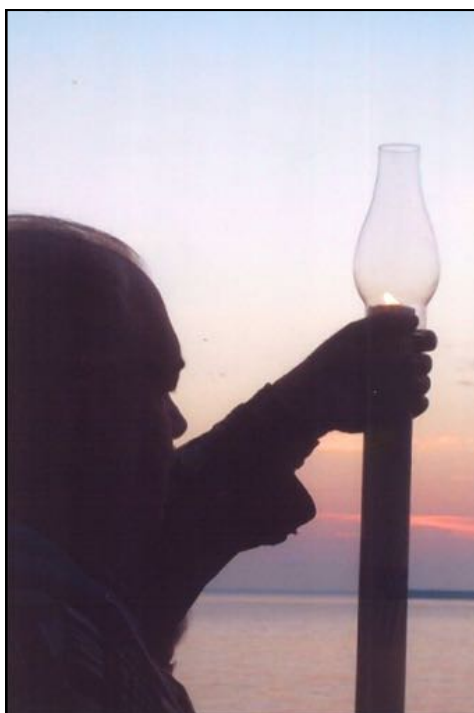
John Wesley

~ Safe Sanctuaries ~

The purpose of our “Safe Sanctuaries” plan is to insure a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by our church. This action was mandated by our Baltimore-Washington Conference. Our Safe Sanctuaries plan includes six documents. The first and most important document is our Policies and Participation Covenant Statement. This is the one that we’ll request all volunteers to read and complete. The second document is for Outside Groups Using the Church Building. The third document outlines our plan for Responding to Allegations of Abuse. The fourth document states the Areas of Responsibilities. The fifth Document is our Accident Report Form. And the sixth and last document is our form for Reporting a Suspected Incident of Child Abuse.

After attending a seminar on this topic, Pastor MaAn and Jean Strucko formed a Task Force to create EUMC’s Safe Sanctuaries Plan. Team members included our Sunday School Superintendent, Valerie Devaris Bergsman; our Nursery Coordinator, Russ Parrish; our Chair of our Staff Parish Relations Team, Mitch Krebs; our Board of Trustees representative, Joyce Conley; and our Soul Searchers Director, Scott Hughes. Our Task Force started meeting in December of 2008. After much thought, discussion, and eight drafts of our plan, it was presented to our Administrative Council who made a few edits and then gave final approval in April of 2009.

Copies of the entire plan are available to anyone; please request a copy from our Administrative Assistants. The Chair of our Staff Parish Relations Team (SPRT) will request all volunteers to read and complete our Policies and Participation Covenant Statement.



~ Evangelism Team ~

The primary task of the Evangelism Team is to ensure that our congregation will reach out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ and to receive them into our midst so that they may develop a relationship with God and live as Christian disciples. The Evangelism Team is immensely assisted in its ministries by the Communications Team, led by Joyce Conley.

Some of the things we do to accomplish this are: giving an information packet to first time visitors, which includes the most recent issue of “The Spire,” the church brochure, a list of all activities available at EUMC, a visitor information card, and an EUMC pen. Our bread ministry provides a loaf of fresh bread to recent visitors. And the Christmas Eve “Homecoming” program encourages inactive members to return and invites new visitors to attend Christmas Eve services.

EUMC shirts, both blue and gray, were ordered by this team, and all members were encouraged to wear their shirts to activities to promote our church. Reusable red bags with EUMC’s logo were given to all worshippers, food bank participants, and visitors to our church. Our most recent project provided all worshippers with EUMC euro-car magnets. Currently, a booklet on opportunities to serve is being created.

Team members provide lunch for new member classes, host fellowship times on Christmas Eve, provide outside greeters for holidays and special occasions, and give Mother’s Day and Father’s Day gifts to the congregation.

This year the Team organized an EUMC group to participate in the city’s Memorial Day parade to honor fallen service men and women and to show support to all veterans and active military members. On May 30, 2011, members walked and rode in our first annual Memorial Day parade. Team members welcome visitors and guests, and strive to create activities and programs so that the Lord will be known and His house will be full.

~ Nursery Start-up ~

In the late spring of 2006, Russ and Lisa Parrish and their young children started attending our worship services. During our fellowship hour, a parishioner told our Administrative Council Chair, Jean Strucko, that they were considering attending another church that had a nursery. Jean spoke with Russ directly, and they agreed that his family would continue attending if we established a nursery by the end of summer. And so the project began.

Volunteers were solicited to cover both worship services for the nursery in a temporary room. In July, the third and fifth grade Sunday school rooms were emptied of all file cabinets and other belongings. These rooms had become storage areas. The United Methodist Women cleaned the rooms thoroughly. They also donated \$200 for nursery project expenses. Dick and Jean Strucko along with David Hollidayoke prepared and painted the room and bookcases.

Cribs, toys, books, crayons, and other items were donated by church members. The bookstand, children’s benches, and rocking chair were refinished by other volunteers.

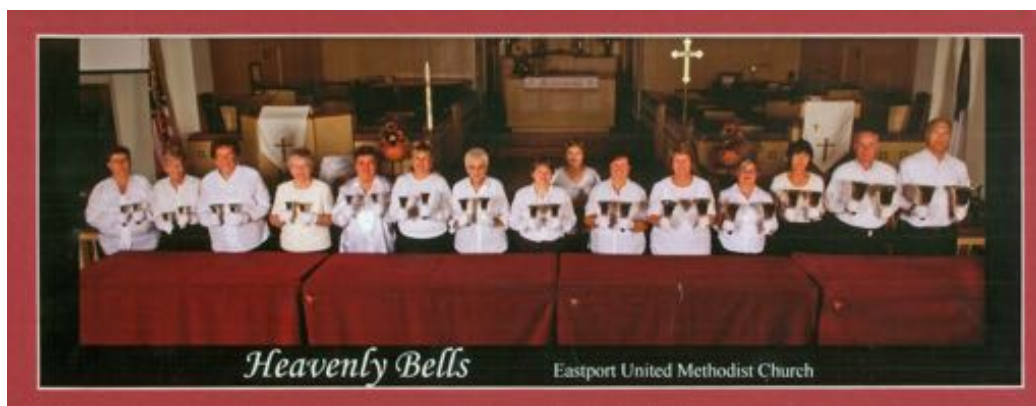
Nursery guidelines and a volunteer list were created. Once the nursery room was completed and nursery guidelines established, Brenda Jones accepted the position to oversee the volunteers. In January 2007, Russ Parrish took on that responsibly when Brenda needed to resign. He continues to serve as the nursery coordinator today. It's been wonderful to watch the number of our children increase in our nursery.

~ Heavenly Bells ~

At the quarterly fall meeting of the Worship Team in 2004, David Williams, our music director, suggested a hand bell choir for our church. The team agreed that it was a good idea.

In November 2004, Jean Strucko, Worship Chair, presented this idea to the Administrative Council. The Council voted to approve the purchase of hand bells and equipment for a three-octave choir if there was proven interest. Jean was instructed to recruit at least eight people for the choir who would be committed to rehearsing and playing the bells, as well as some startup money. The remainder of the funds would come from the Memorial Fund. She was also told that this had been tried on three previous occasions and not to get her hopes up.

At the Administrative Council meeting in December 2004, Jean reported that seven people were committed to participating in the bell choir and a few others were showing interest, and that a private donation of \$1,000 was received for seed money.



In January 2005, three-octave bells, tables, covers, etc. were ordered from Jeffers Handbell Supply Inc. through Malmark, Inc. of Plumsteadville, PA, by David Williams.

Jean wrote an article for the January/February "Spire" entitled "Ring in the New Year." It requested worshippers to help the church in a special way by ringing in the New Year as a hand bell choir member. She held an organizational meeting on March 15th with 14 men and women interested in the bell choir.

Margie Hughes had signed on to be a bell ringer. But, Jean requested her to be the choir director. After some time of prayerful consideration, Margie agreed, and she continues to serve as the Heavenly Bells Choir Director. And the practicing began!

On June 5, 2005, the Dedication of the “Heavenly Bells of Eastport United Methodist Church” was held. “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” was offered at that worship service by 15 bell ringers.

Choir members sponsored two meatloaf dinners in March 2006 and March 2007 to buy music and additional bells and equipment. Various members have also attended several bell festivals and seminars to learn additional techniques and to enhance their skill level.

In February 2007, three octaves of hand chimes were purchased in memory of Lillian Moreland Williams by her children (Audrey, Harriet, Charles, and Jean) and grandchildren. On April 8, 2007 (Easter Sunday), the Blessing of the Hand Chimes was given, and the *Heavenly Bells* played a musical offering entitled “Chimes” by Bill Ingram.

The choir welcomed two new bell ringers this past year – Jill Peddicord and Sherrie Little.

Charter members in the picture from left to right are: Barbara Nutwell, Joan Dove, Betty Stornton, Margaret Terry, Audrey Howard, Jackie Cunningham, Betty Tillack, Kathy Volz, Margie Hughes, Jean Strucko, Harriet Macey, Wendy Edstrom, Joyce Chesney, Dick Strucko, and Eric Edstrom.

Church Fellowship Events

As a church of the 21st Century, the United Methodist membership devotes much of its time to many serious Missions. In difficult economic times, there is much demand for the Church’s services with respect to Thanksgiving Baskets, the Food Bank, Financial Support, Supplies for School and Winter Relief.

But, in the midst of this, there is also time for some good fun and fellowship. To this end, the United Methodist Church membership enjoys many activities throughout the year. Some are just for the joy of mutual company, others raise the money necessary to continue helping the needy. A sampling of Church events would include:

The Annual Peach Festival

Church Picnics

Covered Dish Dinners

Bus Trips

Game Nights

Pumpkin Carving

The Out to Brunch Bunch

Hanging of the Greens

~ The Annual Peach Festival ~

Mention Eastport United Methodist Church to anyone in Annapolis, and you'll probably hear, "Oh, yeah, that's the church that has the Peach Festival." --- 37 years of it!

The Peach Festival began in 1974, when it was decided to hold an event in August, "because there's nothing going on in August..." What could we do? What do we do best? Cook! (and eat). Well, what's in season in August? Peaches!! OK, then a Peach Festival it is. We started small, relative to what we have become, which is serving 500 meals in a five hour period of time, not including the carry-outs AND the "extra events."

The Peach Festival started out as a fundraiser to support our ministries. When times got tough for our church financially, we began to use some of these funds in order to keep our church running and the bills paid so that we could continue our service to God and His people. In recent years, we have been able to go back to the original intent and allocate the great majority to our missions and ministries.



We've come a long way since 1974; many things have changed, have been added or given up...

Several years ago, we added barbecued chicken cooked on an outdoor grill, in addition to the oven-fried chicken we serve. We have several "Grill Masters."

The fresh produce stand is no longer. But now we sell our famous Pickled Beets, and Peach jellies and jams, made by our very own canning ladies. Peach pies and peach cakes (well over 200 of each) are made by our "bakers." People stand in line for all of these treats.

The yard sale, which started out on Peach Festival day, is now held in May or June. This enables more people to work on the Peach Festival part. And it's much cooler weather in May than in August!

The craft sale has run its course, but in its place now is the ever-popular Silent Auction. Many and various items are bid on, from vacations and day trips to beautiful handmade jewelry, restaurant gift certificates, and certificates for various services (Think massages, dog walking).

Yes, we've changed in some ways, and will probably continue changing with the times, but one thing will always remain true: the EUMC passion for service in the name of God, who blesses our church family so richly, will continue well into the future.

~ Church Picnics ~

Fond memories take us back to MagoVista Beach located in Arnold where our first picnics were held. A vivid memory is leaving the "old church" on Sixth Street in a big bus – mostly children looking forward to swimming all day long. There was a very large open-air covered pavilion where you could rest and get in the shade and have your lunch. After a fun day of swimming and playing, parents served a delicious dinner late in the afternoon with fried chicken, crab cakes, side dishes, and for dessert, strawberry shortcake. The church would provide ice cream bars and cones. Families stayed into the early evening playing softball, horse shoes, kick ball, and other games.

Our most recent picnics have been held at 2:00 PM on the third Sunday of September. Locations have included Quiet Waters Park, our church yard, and most recently, the Bay Ridge Community Center. Children and adults have fun playing games; e.g., water balloon toss, sack races, musical chairs, raw egg toss and bubble gum contests. A clown for our younger children and "young at heart" children added to our fun.

The Worship Team provides the meat and drinks, and church members prepare and share side dishes and desserts. After enjoying the delicious food, we gather in a large circle and each one of us shares our personal story so we can get to know one another better. For the last three years, our unforgettable Talent Contest has entertained picnic attendees. Our children have also enjoyed the addition of a Moon Bounce and playground equipment.



~ Covered Dish Dinners ~

“Lord bless this food...”

Who remembers when our regular “2nd Monday of the Month” covered dish dinners began? More than likely, there is no one who remembers exactly. As with many traditions, one pot luck dinner was held and someone may have said, “Let’s do this again next month.” The next month someone else might have asked, “When is next month’s covered dish?” And so it began, and continues.

Now we have an “official” schedule of teams that host each covered dish dinner, providing the main meat, while the rest of us bring a covered dish (of course), many of us having a “specialty,” one of the more memorable desserts being Sandy Stuntz’s “Death by Chocolate.” Lest you think the word death is a bit over-dramatic, just try being the one to take the last tiny bit left in the bottom of the serving dish! Who can beat Mary’s macaroni and cheese, or Jean’s terrific tossed salad? No doubt each of us has her or his own favorite among all the delicious dishes. It is a given fact that we have GREAT cooks here at EUMC.

More traditions have grown from one-time events at these dinners, like: corned beef and cabbage at the dinner in March for St. Patrick’s Day; an informal renewal of marriage vows in February for Valentine’s Day; and having the covered dish dinner with our guests who stay in our building during Winter Relief Week for the Homeless; not to mention the pot luck luncheon after services on the first Sunday of Advent, after we have “hung the greens” – complete with a visit from Santa (usually not to the delight of the children ONLY!)

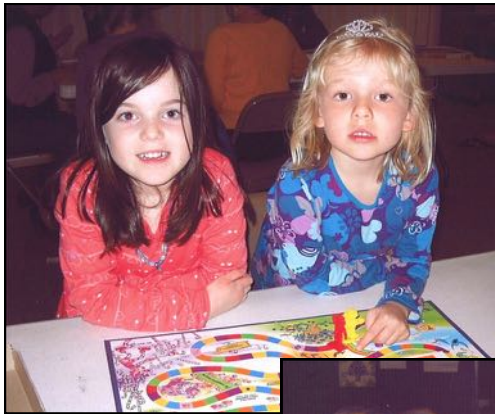
In lieu of a covered dish dinner in September, we have a covered dish picnic, which has been held at various locations over the years—Quiet Waters Park, the church yard and, most recently, Bay Ridge Community Building. Whatever the month, wherever the location, sharing a meal with our church family is a special occasion. As we bless the food at each of these meals, and ask that our bodies be strengthened for service in the name of our Lord, we ask the Lord to continue to bless each and every one of us, and our church with many more years of blessings and service.



~ Bus Trips ~

EUMC has had four church bus trips to Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The first trip was June 22, 2006 to see the production of RUTH. December 14, 2006 members and guests went to see “The Miracle of Christmas”. June 19, 2007 the congregation and guests went to see “In the Beginning” and on November 20, 2010 we went to the Living Waters Theatre for the production of “Voices of Christmas”.

The church is taking its fifth bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster on June 28, 2012 to see their newest and latest production “Jonah!”.



~ Game Night ~

The idea for Game Night originated at our Annual Fall Retreat meeting in September 2009. It was decided that the second Saturday of each month at 5:30 members and guests would come to church with their favorite games to share. Game Nights are sponsored from October through April of each year. The menu of pizza and drinks are supplied by the church budget, and desserts are provided by team members and occasionally other volunteers. The first Game Night was held on November 21, 2009. The number of participants varies each month running from five people up to twenty-five, but averaging fifteen. The Game Night Team consists of Audrey Howard, Myrna Dobbs, Harriet Macey, Sue Nasatka, and Jean Strucko as chairperson. These social times provide an opportunity for church members and their families to share a meal and learn new games together. We all enjoy the fun and laughter at these gatherings.

~ Pumpkin Carving ~

The annual Pumpkin Carving was started in 1999 as an activity that families of all ages and generations could enjoy together. The event is held before Halloween with kid-friendly food. The idea was to allow busy families to make cherished memories together around an easy meal with no stress. They are encouraged to come; have fun; and leave the mess! Everyone brings their pumpkins, their favorite carving tools and the creativity begins. The huge piles of leftover pumpkin guts and seeds are a testament to the fun and fellowship. The evening culminates in grand style with all the carved and illuminated pumpkins on display in a Grand Illumination that warms the hearts of everyone!



~ The Out to Brunch Bunch ~

The "Out to Brunch Bunch" started as an idea of JoAnn Kulesza's, mainly stemming from our Fellowship Time and how little time we actually get to talk with each other and really get to know our Church family members. So, we thought we might be able to provide another opportunity for a larger group to go out to brunch once a month or so, as there were some of us doing that informally already. Thus, the Out to Brunch Bunch was born. Our first couple of outings were to the Country Buffet, which seemed to please everyone's palates and made payment easy. We went to the Double T Diner a few times and Jack's Fortune most recently. We hope the Out to Brunch Bunch will continue for many years to come.

~ Hanging of the Greens ~

The first “Hanging of the Greens” service, to decorate the Sanctuary for our Advent Season, was held on Sunday, December 1, 1996 at 4:00 PM. The symbolisms of the various decorations were explained, and Christmas carols were sung.

Young and old helped decorate the Sanctuary. This special service was followed by a covered-dish dinner to continue sharing in the Christmas spirit.

Today, we prepare the Sanctuary for Christmas during our Sunday morning worship service on the first Sunday of Advent. Near the end of our worship service, the Sanctuary is decorated with the children hanging ornaments on the Chrismon tree.

Following the service, a covered-dish luncheon is served in our Fellowship Hall.

In 2004, it was decided to make it more fun for the children. Jean Strucko set up a table for decorating Christmas cookies, and asked Audrey Howard and Harriet Macey to supply craft materials for making a Christmas ornament. After lunch Santa Claus arrived with gift bags containing candy, pencils, and many religious symbols, including a Christian bookmark and cross.

“And before we know, Christmas is here!”

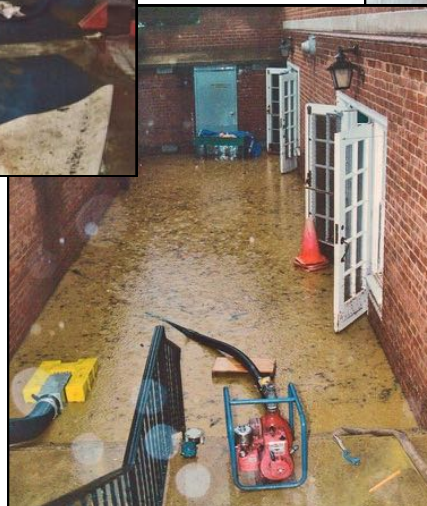


Maintaining the Church

Although the spirit of our congregation can be continuously renewed through prayer, fellowship and worship, the physical church building occasionally requires another type of restoration. Over the past 25 years, the Board of Trustees has done an excellent job of keeping everything up and running. But beyond on-going maintenance, there are few special projects and events that are worth noting.

~ A Major Flood ~

A furious thunderstorm occurred on July 26, 1994, dropping almost two inches of rain by 5:00 p.m., according to the National Weather Service. Eighteen inches of muddy storm waters flooded the downstairs level of Eastport United Methodist Church. This was due to poor sediment control and storm water management caused by new construction next door. Inadequate city drain pipes were an additional cause. The water ruined 150-year-old records and caused an estimated \$70,000 in damages to basement classrooms and offices. Up to 25 Annapolis Firefighters worked to pump out the muddy waters. In the following days, weeks, and months, church members gave of their time, money and energy to help with the cleanup. The Reverend Carolyn S. Bray encouraged members through this devastating experience and monumental cleanup job. Quote by Pastor Bray: “Faith can move mountains, and today we are walking by faith. We have a lot for which to be thankful: No one has been hurt, including the daycare children. And we were able to have the Peach Festival. The City is working on the problem. We are still in the business of serving God and our neighbor. Thank God for all!”



~ A Cool way to raise money for repairs ~

One of the wonderful things that many of us at Eastport Church have discovered for ourselves time and time again is that “Ask, and you shall receive” is not just some Biblical slogan. For us at Eastport, it has real meaning.

Back in 2007, almost exactly five years ago, the Trustees and the Finance team were facing the fact that things were wearing out on our then-50-year-old church building. They would have to be replaced (and quickly) if we were to prosper and grow for at least another 50 years. High on the list of necessary major capital improvements was the replacement of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Major components were installed in 1957 and had not been replaced since the present building was constructed! It is worth noting that the average lifespan of major building systems is approximately 20 years. We were clearly living on borrowed time.

When Bill Riggs told his wife, our multi-talented Music Minister, JoAnn Kulesza, of the challenges the Church was facing, she immediately inspired a collective act of faith and successful fundraising that became known at once as the “Cool Runnings” campaign. To help launch it, Bill wrote the following article for the Eastport church newsletter, *The Spire*.

Cool Runnings

One of JoAnn’s favorite movies is a comedy called “Cool Runnings”. It is an almost-true story of the creation of the Jamaican bobsled team, which competed in the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1988. The idea of an Olympic bobsled team representing a tropical island nation in the Caribbean defies credulity. JoAnn and I visited Jamaica a couple of years ago, and we learned that the locals often stay home from work if the temperature dips below 80 degrees Fahrenheit –too cold! Not exactly what we hardy Marylanders would consider as a ‘snow day’.

Nevertheless, although Jamaica has never won a medal in the Winter Olympics, the country has captured world imagination with its perseverance in fielding a real bobsled team.

*At Eastport Church, we are confronted with a similarly ambitious set of tasks –maintaining and improving our physical plant, God’s house. Vern Renshaw and I recently reported in *The Spire* that the Trustees and Finance Team have projected that necessary maintenance, repairs, and replacement of worn-out components and systems in our church building will cost in excess of \$265,000 over the next ten years. We pointed out that, although this is a lot of money, it is manageable when we divide the cost by the average number of families attending worship regularly at Eastport (approximately 100) and calculate the expense on a weekly, or even daily, schedule.*

For less than 75 cents a day, each family regularly attending worship at Eastport could contribute its share to maintaining and improving the physical environment at our church. Pretty cool!

Actually, we will be pretty cool –and pretty warm next winter, once we put this plan into action. Our first and most major expenses are to replace the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning

(HVAC) systems at the church –most of which were installed when the church was built, 50 years ago.

We have learned that stewardship, which is the care and nurture of that which has been entrusted to us by God, is a spiritual discipline. However, that doesn't mean it can't be fun, too.

Very soon we will be initiating a program to raise the money necessary to pay for repairing and improving our church property. Maybe we'll even call the program "Cool Runnings". If you think you have a better idea for our campaign, write it on the bottom left hand corner of your first check to support this necessary act of stewardship.

Of course we DID call the campaign "Cool Runnings". To keep track of our progress, we created a long (over 20 feet long!) drawing of an icy bobsled run, with a paper sled that could be moved along the course as money came in. Dollar increments along the way were marked out on the drawing of the bobsled course.

The congregation rallied behind the campaign, and money began to accumulate quickly. We began the campaign around Memorial Day, and by the end of the year, we had exceeded our goal of \$65,000. And by the time the 2008 air conditioning season began, we had fully functioning brand new energy-efficient air conditioning systems for the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and kitchen, as well as a vastly improved heating system for the church –all of which were controlled by digital programmable thermostats. The generosity of our members, and of others in the community (including other churches!) that contributed to our "Cool Runnings" campaign demonstrated once again that the Holy Spirit is alive, present, and active in Eastport.

~ New Carpet ~

During a board of trustees meeting Pastor MaAn brought up the subject of carpet replacement by the time of the 125th Anniversary Celebration. After discussion, it was decided we would seek contributions toward the project in the sum of \$15,000 based on prior bids. To start the fundraising, Tom Schwallenberg stated he had an anonymous donor of a sizeable portion of the funds. As the fundraising continued, the men's group made the prayer request their goal to help raise the funds. Towards the end of the campaign, Tom again came forward with a donor who would match any contribution. The goal was met. Eric Smaridge drew up a diagram of the areas to be covered which became a good reference as the bidding process began.

We obtained bids from four sources. The bids were for just replacing the original carpet and for replacing carpet covering the entire sanctuary. The idea of covering the whole sanctuary was agreed upon but that went over budget. The Board of Trustees agreed to cover the added cost. The color of blue chosen was a near match to the deepest blue in the altar window. The hardest decision was what to use as the hall carpet. Carpet tiles that are used for high traffic entrée and hallways were finally chosen.

The successful bidder was Church Interiors Inc. of North Carolina who do only church installations and remodeling. They furnished a higher grade carpet with a longer life than other bidders at a cost lower than the highest local bidder. Throughout this whole project, Tom Schwallenberg was always ready to advise and offer whatever assistance was requested of him; many thanks to him and all who participated and contributed.

~ The Steeple Cross ~

The steeple cross presented to Eastport United Methodist Church by Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Moreland and family set upon our church's highest point for 54 years. Mr. Moreland served as our Sunday School Superintendent for 30 years at a time when there were over 280 children attending Sunday school. The cross was removed in 2011 to allow for a new tower and cross constructed by T-Mobile for use as a cellular tower. The original steeple cross now graces our Meditation Garden at the front of our church.



**The steeple cross going up in 1958
and where it stands today**



~ Building the Playground ~

Louis Bergsman has fond memories of the old wooden playground at Eastport United Methodist Church. Louis spent many days on the playground after church services and as a student in the Eastport Early Learning Center. He climbed on the wooden structure, played in the sandbox, and just ran around with his friends. So when it was time for Louis to decide on a service project for his Eagle rank in Boy Scouts, he instantly thought of giving back to the community the he had grown up in. His Eagle service project would be rebuilding the playground which at that time was just an open area with a sandbox; the rotting wooden climbing structure had been removed.

Louis researched playground equipment, came up with a proposal and with the help of Eric Edstrom presented it to the church's Board of Trustees for approval. Eric was Louis' project and Eagle Scout mentor in the church. There were some funds for the playground from contributions of church members and the church, but that was not enough. To supplement those funds, Louis organized a spaghetti dinner that was prepared and served by the scouts in Troop 396. He also solicited donations from local businesses such as Stevens Hardware, Johnson's Lumber, Pastrana Construction and Garmin Brothers Sawmill. Louis ordered the playground equipment and was there the day it arrived to arrange the materials so that the day of building he could assign people to different jobs. Louis led volunteers from the church, Troop 396, friends and family members in the prepping of the site, installing the new equipment, painting and repairing the fence and spreading new mulch.

After over 800 hours of work by Louis and the volunteers, many months of planning, and one week of installation work, EUMC had a new playground with a new metal climbing structure and two spring riders. On September 9, 2007, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground and a rededication ceremony.



Education and Nurture

All we know about our faith and about being a church, we did not learn in the Nursery and at Church School, no matter how much our teachers tried. So, participation in Vacation Bible School, Bible study and other classes or discussions, help nourish us all to grow and mature in our faith. In addition, involvement in age appropriate small groups strengthens the unity of mind and heart we have in Christ and in one another. Care of the homebound, visits to the hospital, senior facilities and nursing homes, providing support for the grieving by the congregation, the Visitation Team and the Pastor show without a doubt how we care for one another.



Worship

Our relationship with God is the cornerstone on which who we are and all that we do together as a congregation is anchored. This relationship is deepened and strengthened by our use and practice of the different means of grace that God has graciously offered to us, by our regular participation in worship on Sundays and at other times during the church year. Believing in the priesthood of all believers, worship leadership is shared among the Pastor, the Lay Speakers and other members of the congregation with gifts for expounding on God's Word. Worship is also enhanced by the Wesleyan and Children's Choirs, the Prays Band and the Heavenly Bells. Hospitality to all who worship with us is provided by the greeters and ushers and those who host Fellowship Time after the service. Other forms of lay participation at worship take the form of reading, serving as liturgist and prayer leader, communion assistants and leadership at Children's Time.

~ New Year's Eve Interfaith Worship ~

In 2009, EUMC planned and hosted its first New Year's Eve Interfaith Worship Celebration which has become an annual event. In 2010 attendance doubled, indicating a sincere interest in the community. Participation included representatives from many faiths – Methodist, Episcopal, Catholic, Quaker, Seventh Day Adventist, Unitarian, Baha'i, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist.

Civic and local groups are also represented, including public schools, the medical community, veterinary services, the City of Annapolis Police and Fire Departments, Office of the Mayor, Human Relations Commission, the Hispanic community, local civic associations, Light House Shelter, and Hospice of the Chesapeake.

The service is preceded by music from a variety of faith traditions. We're grateful to our congregation for its support, and proud to be the church that provides this opportunity for all people to bridge the gaps between religions and transcend what divides us.

~ The Sunrise Service ~

In determining how to end this history, something that symbolized a new beginning seemed most appropriate. For Eastport United Methodist Church, that would be the Sunrise Service held each Easter Sunday at Thomas Point State Park. The tradition began over 50 years ago, when members of the congregation (Charles and Naomi Smith) were caretakers of the Park.

The service takes place on a spit of land that juts out into the Chesapeake Bay. In the pre-dawn hours, hearty souls gather together in the chilly night air. We bring together the faithful from Eastport United Methodist, along with members of other Churches, and anyone who wants to come. Huddled around a bonfire, readings, sermons and singing greet the sun as it emerges over the Eastern Shore. The new day and everlasting life is once again confirmed as:

Christ is Risen; Christ will come again!

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1887 - 2012

~ 125th Anniversary, April 21 & 22, 2012 ~



Friends and Family



Special Worship Services



More Friends and Family



OUR CHILDREN...OUR FUTURE



