

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

January 2013



Pastor Daniel Mejia

“You are most like God when you are bringing people together in reconciliation.”

E. Stanley Jones

Here we are, about to begin a new year, 2013 to be exact. This is my first article of the year. The first one is supposed to inspire you and get you excited about the beginning of a new year. But here I am, staring at a blank computer screen experiencing a bit of writer’s block. This time it’s not just that I feel tapped out of interesting ideas to write. This time I can’t shake out of my head the school shooting that took place in Newtown, Connecticut.

Believe me, I’m trying to keep it light-hearted; but there still is some darkness and heaviness in my heart that will take a while to dissipate. I’ve been reading the news and listening to the radio and TV reports. The information about the shooting that killed 20 children and seven adults, including the perpetrator, is constantly in our faces. We have been inundated with information and details; but ultimately, the information and the details will lead us to the same tragic conclusion, innocent

lives have been lost. And the biggest questions on my mind are, how can we recover from this, and is there something we can do?

In times like this I keep coming back to the wisdom of the saints, who with their lives and words show us a better way.

Mother Teresa, serving in the midst of poverty and leprosy in India, shares these words:

“There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.”

There has been an outpouring of love, prayers, and good wishes to the families who unjustifiably lost loved ones. Even President Obama was touched and moved to tears when he tried to address the nation for the first time. There is something inside of us that compels us to empathy and sympathy for those who are suffering, and it is a beautiful thing when we let our true selves move us with compassion and godly actions. Just as it happened on September 11, 2001 our lives cannot go back to ‘business as usual’ after this tragedy. Questions about gun control, mental illness, and safety in schools will dominate the airwaves and Internet for a while. These questions regardless of your political persuasion are at the core of our faith. Jesus con-

stantly challenges us to care for those who are sick, lost, and hurting. But I keep asking myself, How can we recover from this? And is there something we can do? Are we called only to care for people after they have become victims, or are we called to challenge and change the system that many times makes the people innocent victims? What comes to mind in answer to these questions are the words of the prophet Micah who was speaking to a nation indifferent to the pain of the poor, the suffering, the hurting.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

But right now, all we can do is grieve in silence for the victims;

But right now, all we can do is pray in silence for the victims;

But right now, all we can do is to hope for a better tomorrow for the victims;

But right now all we can do is work for a better tomorrow for the victims;

So that as we grieve with them, pray for them, and work for them the light of Christ will shine in them.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

Special Giving

by Charlie Deegan

I can always tell when it's getting toward the end of the year, even without a calendar! The letters and emails from a zillion charities start arriving. OK, I'm exaggerating, but only slightly. Year-end giving is a typically American practice, because it gives donors an opportunity to help others and get a tax break at the same time. Given the pending "fiscal cliff," this may be the last year we have to get this tax break. If you are thinking about making a one-time charitable donation as December comes to a close, I have a few suggestions.

Personally check out each organization before you give. Just because an organization is tax-exempt does not mean it spends its money wisely. Fundraising and administrative costs can gobble up a lot of donations. (One reason that Bobbie and I joined the Beltsville Lion's Club was because every dollar Lions collect is used to provide services for others. Administrative costs are paid out of a separate bank account funded solely by us Lions). Sites such as www.CharityNavigator.org rate organizations on their finances and their accountability/transparency. Charity-Navigator also informs potential donors of the salary paid to an organization's CEO.

Keep in mind that your money would go to a good cause close to home when you donate it to one of Emmanuel's ministries, and none of it would be spent on administrative costs or fundraising! Now would be a good time to make that one time special gift to your Church.

Dedication of Remodeled Youth Room Set for Jan.13

On Sunday, Jan. 13th we will be holding a Youth Room Dedication to celebrate a newly remodeled youth space and give a big, thankful shout out to our generous benefactors, Kathy Mellott and her mother, Charlotte Eccard.

Plans for the remodel started earlier this year but funding was stretched due to the Youth SPY Mission in July. We weren't sure when the project would start until we heard from Kathy about a monetary donation her mother earmarked for the old Teen Room.

With financial resources in hand and various contributions from other members, Byron Bobo and the youth group began work on the room in August. Since then, they were kept busy cleaning, clearing out old furniture, painting, buying and assembling new furniture. Our youth now have an updated space for meetings, Friday Live events, and an awesome place to just hang out. Please join us between services at 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Room on the second floor of the Education Building for this dedication and a look at the new décor.

Food Pantry

Thanks to all in the congregation who keep our food pantry full throughout the year. Last year we gave out many boxes of food to families in our community during the workweek hours. As this long-time ministry continues, please know that you truly make a difference in the lives of many of our neighbors.



Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Prison Ministries Angel Tree Project this Christmas. All the gifts were picked up on Dec. 8. I know each gift represents not only a smile on a child's face, but a wonderful person who took the time to choose the perfect gift. As always, many thanks to Jane Grays for all of her help!

Becky Cavallo

The Ministry of Ushering

The purpose of ushering in church is not merely to serve people, as in a theater or restaurant. Its purpose is to serve God. When the ushers see to it that an atmosphere of reverence and order is maintained before, during, and after the service. They do it for God. When they usher the worshippers to their seats, they do it for God. When they gather the offerings, they serve God. What they do, they do not "as unto men, but unto God." They are a part of the total congregation which presents itself before God to worship Him.

We have many wonderful ushers at Emmanuel and are looking at expanding our opportunities at ushering. Also, we would like to hear from our ushers about what is working for them for them and what isn't working. Ushers are an important and vital part of our weekly worship services. We are having a meeting for our current ushers and anyone who is interested in becoming an usher on Monday January 14 at 6 p.m. Ushers do not have to be only men. We invite women as well as teens who may be interested.

If you have any questions, see Pat Allen, Margie Mock or anyone on the worship committee.

Bethlehem Idol a Huge Success

The December production of Bethlehem Idol was an evening of laugh out loud fun for everyone. The show brought together teens and adults who used their many talents to bring a wide assortment of characters and acts together. Everyone involved had a great time and we raised approximately \$600 for the youth and the drama ministry.



Inspiration

Faithful Readers Book Group

For our *Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Jan. 12, 2013* meeting, bring a book that you have read that spiritually inspired you, changed your thinking about religion, something uplifting, a message of hope, an intellectual read, a novel, or true story, etc.

We'll each take a few minutes to tell the group about the book and how it affected us.

From this we'll gain insight, conversation as a group and a few more books to add to our personal reading lists.

Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.

United Methodist Women

By Ernie Kilbourne

The general meeting of the United Methodist Women will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 at 12 noon. A soup and bread lunch will be provided. There will be 4 different soups made by members of the Executive Board. The Hoover Circle is responsible for setting up and clean up. Come and enjoy and learn. Doris Wray will tell us about "Prayer and Self-Denial."

This annual Observance gives us the opportunity to study and reflect on a theme each year and to have a meal such as others with fewer financial resources might eat.

The money collected from the offering this year will go to equip, educate, and empower women and children with knowledge and skills to improve their lives. Other years the money has gone to build and equip schools, libraries, and clinics. Another year, the money has helped provide nutrition and medical assistance for women and children. There have many other projects that have been funded.

Please Come at Noon on January 26th to enjoy lunch with us and to learn!!!

Parents with Young Children

Exciting new ministry opportunity for Parents with young children! It with excitement that we announce the new Parents with Young Children group at Emmanuel! On January 5, 2013, the Parents with Young Children's group will begin meeting on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. till noon. Our first meeting will be in the church nursery.

The purpose of this new group at Emmanuel is to provide parents with little ones the opportunity to come together in fellowship and nurture the spiritual growth of the parents and children. This group will also provide an opportunity for the kids to develop relationships with each other outside of Sunday mornings.

It is our hope to welcome all parents and their young kids to come and fellowship with us.

What? You're not a parent with young children? That's ok! You can help this ministry get off to a healthy start! We are seeking help monitoring the kids so the parents can have a short devotional study at each meeting. So if you're a tween & teen in need of community service hours or looking experience as a mothers helper/ babysitter; a parent of older kids who would just like to help out; a grandparent who likes spending quality time with little ones; or just someone with a gift for loving little kids we welcome your contributions to this new ministry.

If you are a parent with young children with questions or a possible volunteer please contact Sarah Elliott at 301-937-1035 or by e-mail at sarah@elliott.com.



The scene at Emmanuel on Sunday morning, December 20, 2009

Leadership Day 2013 Washington Region

Leadership Day is a training event for clergy, church leaders, laity and others who want to make an impact in their local congregations and communities. Participants will receive training in several areas that will help each leader gain vital information and deeper insights into their own life, the life of their congregations and the communities in which they serve. It is expected that spiritual leaders will experience God in a new way and will lead transformational ministries.

Date: Jan. 26, 2013
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Location: Liberty Grove United Methodist Church
15255 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Registration Fee: \$35

Space is limited and walk-ins will *not* be accepted. Registration is required. The region will not accept paper, phone calls or walk-in registrations due to space and food considerations. Registrants will need to have their gateway username and password to register. ***Deadline for registration is Jan. 15, 2013.***

Register: <http://www.bwcumc.org/gateway/Event-Registration>

In case of inclement weather, we will follow the Policy of **Howard Community College** for delays or closings. If delayed, the event will start based on the time delay listed on the website. For example, a 1-hour delay will result in event check-in to begin at 9:30 a.m. If the college is closed Leadership Day will be canceled and the ***make-up day will be on Feb. 2, 2013.***

Leadership Day Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Check-in and Fellowship
9:00 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. AM Session
11:30 a.m. Plenary Session: “What does it take to change the channel in your church?”
12:30 p.m. Lunch (included in registration cost)
1:15 p.m. PM Session

Please contact Jane Grays if you have any questions LadyJaneGra@aol.com



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carrie White
- 3 Doug Galloway
- 7 Katherine Cavallo,
- 8 Michael Baker
- 9 Walt Schlegel
- 11 Jane Grays
- 12 Dare Hassan, Sabrina Painter
- 13 Geoffrey Kaufmann
- 14 Hazel Newell
- 19 Kimberly Beach
- 21 Mike Berry
- 22 Kyrston West
- 23 Dorothy Manley
- 25 Bonnie Bland, Todd Reitzel
- 26 Bobbie Deegan
- 28 Rebecca Vaughan
- 30 Darlene Norris
- 31 Rick Bergmann,



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Nancy & Rick Zerbe
- 31 Maxine & Karl Norris

Altar Flowers



The 2013 Altar Flower Chart has been posted.

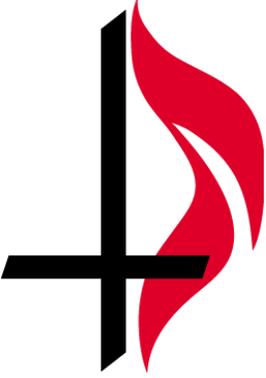
Please fill out a flower request form and leave in the office mailbox.

JANUARY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3 <i>7:00 pm Chancel Choir</i>	4	5 <i>10 am Parents with Young Children Group</i>
6 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</i>	7 <i>7:00pm UMW Exec Meeting @Royal Jade</i>	8 <i>10:00 am Prayer Fellowship</i>	9 <i>6 pm Maranatha Choir</i>	10 <i>7 pm Chancel Choir</i>	11	12 <i>8:30 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Faithful Readers Book Group</i>
13 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Second Sunday Lunch</i>	14 <i>6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting</i>	15 <i>7 pm ESOL Registration</i>	16 <i>10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 noon Dorcas Circle 6 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters In Spirit</i>	17 <i>7 pm Chancel Choir</i>	18 <i>11am Community Place Café</i>	19
20 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</i>	21 <i>12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle</i>	22 <i>10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship</i>	23 <i>6 pm Maranatha Choir</i>	24 <i>7 pm Chancel Choir</i>	25 <i>7 pm Food Prep</i>	26 <i>10 am Food Distribution 12 noon UMW General Meet- ing</i>
27 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</i>	28 <i>7 pm Church Council 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</i>	29 <i>7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship</i>	30 <i>6 pm Maranatha Choir</i>	31 <i>7 pm Chancel Choir</i>		

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