

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

August 2010



Pastor Daniel Mejia

I recently attended, courtesy of Charlie Deegan, The Beltsville Business Breakfast held at the “**Cross Creek Country Club.**” This beautiful setting had all sorts of golf memorabilia surrounding the breakfast attendees. But the golf piece that stood out for me was a large, poster size picture of Tiger Woods that sat right behind the speaker’s podium. While I had a chance to hear about all the wonderful financial benefits I could receive if I were to join the Prince George’s Federal Credit Union, Tiger’s poster-size picture stood there, inviting me, daring me to reflect over his colossal fall from grace. Most of us know that if this breakfast had taken place before November 2009, when Tiger’s sexual indiscretions surfaced, his picture would have been just that, one more picture celebrating his larger than life accomplishments. But not any more!

Tiger’s well-documented sexual indiscretions and adultery are old news by now. For the most part, the media and Tiger’s commercial

sponsors have moved on; but we know that his life will always be marked by this scandal. Tiger has publicly apologized to his wife, children, family, friends, and, indirectly, to us. (Who knew I was worthy of receiving an apology from Tiger; I don’t even play golf). He acknowledged that he lost his moral compass and remorsefully promised to become the good person his parents raised him to be. Tiger will lean on the support of his family, true friends, therapy, and his Buddhist faith to atone for his mistakes and become whole again. Good for him. I hope he finds the inner peace that he lacks, and with the passing of time his wife and children will be able to forgive him and heal. And I know it’s been nine months; I should be over it by now. But I still can’t see Tiger Woods the same way.

My guess is that I can’t get over it because Tiger’s unfortunate debacle reminds me of the **CRITICAL**, not optional, importance of surrounding myself with family, friends, and a faith community who won’t be afraid to hold me accountable every time I want to bend the rules to satisfy my destructive desires. I realize that as much as I want to be right all the time, that is hardly the case. Tiger’s tale reminds me that no matter who I am or how much money I make or how much success I attain, I will never be above the moral and spiritual universe that God has created for all of us.

We are all clear that public figures in the form of politicians, clergy, teachers, and entertainers will fail and disappoint us. If not, it will be a matter of time before pictures, videos, text messages or recorded phone calls--you can ask actor Mel Gibson -- will surface on the Internet revealing embarrassing details about their personal or professional lives. Let their experiences serve us as a cautionary tale that we too can become blinded by our selfishness; we too can make our family innocent bystanders of our indiscretions and lack of good judgment; we too can be placed on the fragile pedestal of adulation and success just to see it crumble before our eyes by our lies. The antidote to our selfishness is Christ who should set the boundaries and dictate your thoughts, words, and actions.

Parents, family, educators, friends, and even therapy are all important elements that can provide us with stability, support, and accountability. But, let your faith in Christ be at the center of who you are and who you want to be. Let Christ be at the center of the moral universe that you strive to live in everyday, not Tiger Woods.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

FINANCE

By Bill Raulin
Finance Chairperson

As you may know, attendance is down in the summer and therefore collections are also down.

I wish to thank all of you who send your donations by mail. God bless you. This has kept the wolf from the door so far this summer.

This reminds me that I need to do the same. For years I have been lax and made it up in the fall, not understanding that the bills come in summer just as in winter.

I have been asked how the donations made during communion are used. Some may think they go into the general fund, but instead they go into a special fund that Reverend Daniel uses to help people in need. Just another way Emmanuel is at work in our community.

Thanks again for keeping up the good work.



During communion, collection plates are available near the altar for voluntary contributions to help the needy.

EMERGE

(Mental Health Ministry)
By: Ann Rowland

The Maryland Psychiatric Research Center (MPRC) is conducting a research study of persons (and or their family members) diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or bipolar disorder.



The Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, is located in Catonsville on the grounds of Spring Grove Hospital.

At any one time, 51 million people worldwide suffer from schizophrenia, and 132 million people worldwide suffer from bipolar disorder.

You can help! If you are between the ages of 15 and 65 years old, you and your family members may be eligible to participate in this research study aiming to identify genes that are related to the cause of these illnesses. To participate call MPRC at 410-402-6823. You will be compensated for your time.

Transportation can be provided if needed.

FOOD CLOSET

By Carol Clatterbuck



Our food closet consistently provides assistance to individuals and families. Know that your contributions of canned goods are making a difference!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

By Kathy Mellott

Emmanuel will have a table at National Night Out again this year on Tuesday, August 3rd. If you can help set up, please be at the Beltsville Library at 4:00 p.m. If you can be at the table for a while, please let Pat Allen or Kathy Mellott know.

The night begins at 5:00 p.m. and lasts 3 hours. There are food and exhibits from all over Beltsville and Prince George's County. We will be giving out fans and balloons. Wear your Emmanuel t-shirts and join us on August 3rd.



CPC IS ...

Community Place Cafe - a place where people who are homeless or suffering financial straits are able to partake of a nutritional meal 4 days of every week. EUMC participates in this program ONE day a month (12 times in ONE year). The meal consists of chili served over rice, tossed salad, canned peaches, a piece of cake, and lemonade.

At the present time ONE person does the shopping and ONE person does the cooking. Many volunteers help in other areas; i.e., baking cakes, serving the meal on the third Friday of every month, etc.

There is a great need for additional help with the shopping and the cooking. These duties have been performed during the day by retirees. However, this format is not set in stone!

Stores accommodate shoppers and stoves work in the evening as well as during the day. The ONLY exception would be cooking the rice on Friday morning (leftover rice tastes yuck)! For more information with regard to these duties, see the cook, Ann Rowland, or the shopper/baker, Elsie Cline.

This is ONE of those opportunities that come ONCE every so often to serve the Lord. Do the math - if 12 people volunteer to shop/cook/bake a cake, it equates to performing this task ONCE a

year; if 6 people, ONLY 2 times a year.

Hugs to all who have been helping with this ministry. Special thanks to all who have volunteered to be on the "cake list," and especially to the 3 or 4 people who faithfully bake a cake every month. However, the "cake list" is shrinking. Prayerfully consider adding your name to this elite "list."



Please search your heart and check your schedule - become a ONCER!! You will be unique (much like the word)! More importantly, it will enable us to continue this ministry. (Acts 20:35)

God Bless,

Elsie Cline

STORAGE AT EMMANUEL

When the church was built, future storage needs were underestimated. Over the years we acquired items that needed to be kept and used again. When you see a tree with mittens or names of children needing gifts, it was stored for a year in the church.

Things went along and we managed. Closets became crowded and items were sometimes difficult to locate. Eventually a little used classroom became a main storage space.

A shed was purchased for mainly outdoor items. The boy scout troop that we sponsor also needed more space so that about 1/5 of the shed was partitioned off for them. Their space is the size of a small closet. Note the trailer parked nearby to hold more scout equipment.

Lately, as we have increased our outreach programs, storage needs have also increased. Plans are underway to set up another shed to relieve some of the storage pressure.

The Trustees



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Chris Butcher
- 3 Ciro Mejia
- 4 Jeanette Vannoy,
- 7 Brennan McGlynn,
Hannah Butcher
- 8 Michael Belshay, Jr.,
Mary Lou Galloway,
Adam Levine,
- 9 Gregory Stiggers,
Jessie Marcus
- 10 Elmo Webb,
Lynette Wray
- 12 Albert Guynn
- 16 Doris Wray
- 18 Grant Midkiff
- 21 Kelsey Storck
- 22 Lynne Miller
- 23 Andrea Onukwubiri
- 25 Christopher Pavelka
- 26 Luc Jean,
Alice Mabry,
Pastor Mejia
- 29 Helen Akers
- 31 Justin Huneycutt

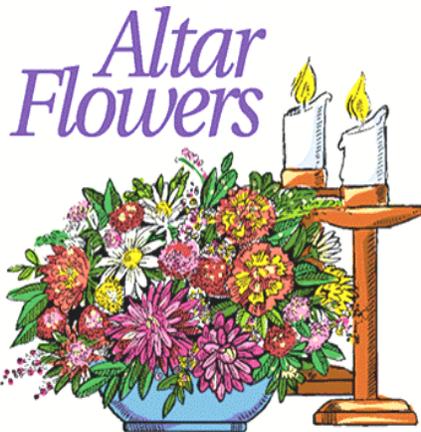
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



- 10 Helen & Shirley Akers
Patricia & Ralph Guynn
- 15 Betty & Grant Midkiff
- 31 Rebecca & John Cavallo

CHURCH GETAWAY WEEKEND

Mark your calendars for October 1st – 3rd to join us at Manidokan for a weekend of fellowship, games, and worship. We need a minimum of 40 people. Family Life pays approximately half of the registration fee which includes two nights lodging and five meals. Registration begins in August.



- August 1 Wells
- August 8 Charline Frederick
- August 15 Janet Doetsch
- August 22 Carol Clatterbuck
- August 29 Terry Holman

THANKS

Thank you to all who came to Emory Grove on Wednesday, July 14th, to support our Chancel Choir. 15 members of Emmanuel were there. We enjoyed a wonderful potluck and then the Hymn Sing to pick old-time hymns. It was a great evening thanks to Kathryn Griffin and the “Abundant Life Singers.”

Kathy Mellott



Emmanuel United Methodist Church
Rev. Daniel Mejia

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

By: Jane Grays,
United Methodist Women
(UMW)
Education & Interpretation (E&I)

YWCA Domestic Violence Counseling and Safe House, 1517 Ritchie Highway, Suite 101, Arnold, MD 21012. (410-626-7800) www.annapolisywca.org is a project of UMW, Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC)

The *YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel Counties* is the oldest and largest organization serving women and families in Anne Arundel County. The *YWCA* provides a multitude of prevention, education, and intervention programs for women, children, couples, and families. For more than 80 years, the *YWCA* has responded to the needs of the community and acted as a leader by: developing innovative and pioneering programs and services; promoting women's achievements in healthy, purposeful, and productive lives; and advancing individual and family economic self-sufficiency.

Programs include career counseling and career technology, education services, individual and family counseling, computer training, parenting education, mentoring and after school programs for at-risk children, emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, civil legal representation for victims of domestic violence, and sexual assault and

crisis services.

How You Can Help:

- Make available in your church information about the YMCA Domestic Violence Counseling and Safe House Program.
- Invite a speaker to your Cluster or Local Unit meeting
- Collect and donate items needed by the Center (call for current list).

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

By Mike Hatton and George Urick, Co-chairmen

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Worship Committee was not held on the 14th of July 2010, as several members were planning to attend the Emory Grove Tabernacle-in-the-Woods Wednesday night hymn-sing and picnic supper being held in Glyndon, Maryland.

Worship Co-chair, Mike Hatton, sent an e-mail notice to all members, officially canceling the meeting.

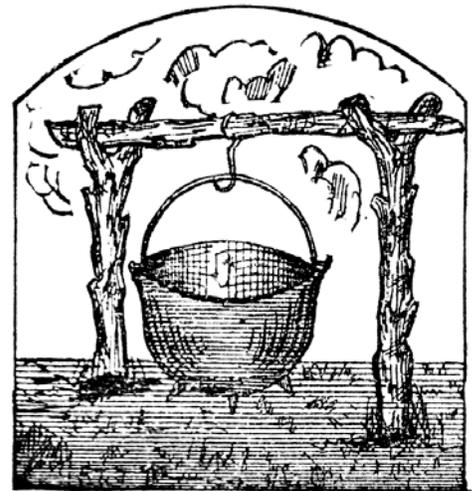


Rev. Mejia and committee members will try again on another night. We appreciate all helpful ideas, concerns and your prayers.

HOMELESS MINISTRY REPORT

By Sarah Elliott

Have you ever read the story of Stone Soup? This is one of my favorite children stories, possibly because it relates to all of our lives as Christians in ministry. In this fable, strangers come to a town carrying nothing but a large pot and asking for food. Unfortunately, the people facing challenges of their own do not feel they have anything to give. So the strangers go to the town square, and finding a nice flat stone they begin the process of making stone soup.



As the strangers boil a smooth stone in the large pot, the people become curious and each slowly volunteers a small addition to the soup (carrots, potatoes, a little meat, EST.). Slowly the soup simmers and with the small but important contributions of the people the soup grows to feed not only the strangers, but also the whole town.

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The reward of working together feeds not only those who know they needed the help of others, but the very people they sought the help from.

This is also how I perceive the blessings of the Homeless Ministry. Through God's inspiration, many have come together with the donation of time, food, clothing, hygiene supplies, and/or finances, to build a great soup of service for our brethren in need. As life changes, the roles we each take in ministry adapt. It is through the continual self reflection and giving for God that the Homeless Ministry (and all ministries) are able to continuously serve God's purpose.

Just as the strangers arrived with a very odd object, many of us carry a resource that has great value when used appropriately; perhaps it's having 40 minutes to help make meals, or maybe you are skilled at organization or perceiving the needs of those you encounter. Each of our gifts are unique but equally important in the service to Christ. At the recent Homeless Ministry meeting we discussed our need of individuals to help balance the diversity of tasks that make the ministry possible, including individuals helping to coordinate volunteers, shopping for supplies, and finding additional van drivers. Perhaps one of these roles, or something else just as important, is something you can contribute to God's

Stone Soup which is the Homeless Ministry?

In the coming month the Homeless Ministry will be serving on August 1st and August 22nd and we are seeking your help. Please prayerfully search your heart and let us know what ingredient to the soup you can bring.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sky and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. —Luke 21:33

We take things for granted. Like the earth, for instance. We live our daily lives counting on the ground we walk on to be there for us. At 5:00 a.m. on July 16, we awoke to feel the ground shaking beneath us. The largest earthquake in our area since the U.S. Geological Survey began keeping records in 1974 occurred: 3.6 on the Richter scale. So much for counting on solid earth. Things here on earth really are fleeting, aren't they?

What on earth is next? We don't know. What we do know is what we can always count on. God's Word to us is steadfast. Are you ready to count on it? Do you know *everything* His Word has to offer? I don't. But what I do know is that we have a long tradition of Christian education that provides us with the opportunity to learn in fellowship. That's why Emmanuel UMC has an education program with dedicated volunteers to help organize and guide our studies. And despite our

wonderful volunteers, the best thing about Christian education is doing it in the fellowship of groups.

What are you interested in from Christian education at EUMC? In August, the Sunday education team will be planning for autumn classes, and we welcome your thoughts. A few of you told us your thoughts in a survey earlier this year. If you didn't, then please tell me now. Or if you did take the survey and have further thoughts or just want to talk, let me hear from you. My phone number is 301-595-8963 and my email is toddreitzel@verizon.net. Don't take His Word for granted. Let's discover it together.

Blessings,

Todd Reitzel

A BLAST FROM THE PAST



Who are these ladies? (Answer on page 9.)

SUMMER MISSION WEEK



Michelle Thorne

Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers for our week of mission service! We had a fantastic time together. Overall we had 9 youth and 2 adults participate all week and served at five different mission sites in the area including: Riderwood, Miller Farm, Interfaith Clothing Center, Emmanuel UMC, and Community Place Café.

We began our week meditating on the story of the 10 lepers, the introduction to our theme for the week: **Thanksgiving in July**. We discovered that we had much to be grateful for each and every day. As we had the opportunity to go into the community and serve with grateful hearts we found ourselves blessed and humbled by the hospitality we received. The diversity of the sites that we visited throughout the week gave us a well-balanced perspective of the needs of those in our community.

One of the things that we learned was that serving others begins with small, simple, and intentional acts of love. Although it may not seem glamorous to most, we shared the love of Christ each day through activities such as: wheeling residents at Riderwood outside and dancing with them, gleaning cucumbers for soup kitchens, folding linens and organizing a clothing center, washing windows, weeding, and cooking and serving meals for the homeless and hungry.

Overall it was a meaningful, successful week for all of us who participated and one that we will remember for a long time. We look forward to more opportunities to serve in the near future!

In Christ,

Michelle Thorne

Here are some of the thoughts of our students:

I just want to thank the church for allowing me to come this week and serve other people. I want to thank the people who prayed for our safety. I had an amazing time. Every day was a great surprise. I want to do this again next year. I loved every minute of it. ~Jabraughn Hill

My favorite service project was feeding the homeless and hungry. I liked this one more than the others, but I still liked them. I liked this project the most because we were able to help people in need and brighten their day. ~Maddy Cruz

This week has been a great experience for me. I enjoyed meeting all these new people and just being able to help so many people. I have done so many things most 13 year old girls wouldn't dream of, and having helped others willingly is a great thing to be able to say that I accomplished this summer. I am looking forward to being able to participate in this activity next year. Daniel has been a blessing to me in his own fun way. Michelle has taught me new games and lesson that I will take to my own youth group and I think everyone got something out of this week. At least I know I did. ~Marissa Rhodes

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This week has been fun and different, but also a lot of hard work. I enjoyed helping people that I had no idea who they were. ~Regina Melito

I'm thankful for being able to help other people that are less fortunate, and for all the great people here. ~Carolyn Bowering

I am thankful for being able to help people throughout this week. I found doing a dance class with Riderwood, gleaning so people can have food to eat, folding linens, sorting clothes for people that can't afford them, cleaning up Emmanuel UMC, preparing food for and working in the soup kitchen all very accomplishing. ~Rebecca Vaughan

This week has been a lot of hard work but it was so much fun. I have loved being part of this group and I thank Michelle and Daniel for taking us to all these places and giving up their time. ~David Rhodes

I'm thankful that I had a chance to spend time with 9 very cool kids and Michelle doing mission work. I'm excited about what we will do next year! ~Daniel Mejia

Thanks to all the youth and volunteers who participated!!!

Marcus Baird, Rebecca Vaughan, Jabraughn Hill, Madison Cruz, Carolyn Bowering, Monica Hatton, Regina Melito, David Rhodes, Marissa Rhodes, Ann Rowland, Jo Ann Blakely, Barbara Butcher, Victoria Witherspoon, Daniel Mejia, and Michelle Thorne.



August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:15 Sunday School</p> <p>Homeless Ministry</p>	2	<p>3 5:00 p.m. National Night Out</p>	<p>4 7:00 p.m. Church Council</p>	5	<p>6 Movie "Diary of a Wimpy Kid"</p>	7
<p>8 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:15 Sunday School</p> <p>No 2nd Sunday Lunch</p>	<p>9 7:00 P.M. Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</p>	10	<p>11 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee</p>	<p>12 10:00 a.m. Prayer Fellowship</p>	<p>13 Movie "The Tale of Despereaux"</p>	<p>14 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>15 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:15 Sunday School</p>	16	17	18	19	<p>20 11:00 a.m. Community Place Café</p>	21
<p>22 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:15 Sunday School</p> <p>Homeless Ministry</p>	<p>23 7:00 P.M. Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</p>	24	25	<p>26 10:00 a.m. Prayer Fellowship</p>	27	<p>28 11:45 a.m. UMW Executive Meeting</p>
<p>29 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:15 Sunday School</p>	30	31	<p><i>Blast from the Past answer:</i></p> <p>Helen Akers (left) and Sara Updegraff</p>			

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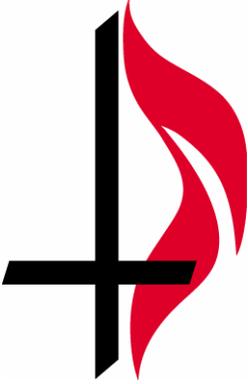
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Summer Mission Week



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