

# The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

January 2011



Pastor Daniel Mejia

## **“Can’t we all just get along?”**

These are the infamous words that Rodney King---the victim of police brutality involving the Los Angeles Police Department on March 3, 1991-- said after the trial in which the police men who attacked him were acquitted of his beating. The acquittal of the policemen resulted in what is known as the “LA Riots of 1992.”

The Apostle Paul in a very different time and in very different circumstances makes the same plea to the church in Ephesus. ***“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up,\* as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God... Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”*** (Ephesians 4:29-32) In 2011, I make the same plea to the Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

2011 needs to be for Emmanuel the year that our focus and energy will be placed on the kindness and love for

each other that will help us to accomplish great things for God together. 2011 will be the year of **“the priesthood of all believers”** and **“teamwork leadership.”**

The most common complaint I hear in the church is “the same people are doing all the work.” This coming year we have 10 new people joining the work of Staff Parish, Trustees, and the Finance committee. And starting in 2012 we will begin a 3 year rotation of all the leadership. This means that if you have been in your position as the chair for more than 3 years we will rotate you off your position but you can be still be part of the committee on a year to year commitment. The same will apply to committee members with more than 3 years.

Church leadership has to be renewed not only in terms of new people and new ideas but also in terms of attitudes. The only way we will accomplish all the work and growth that God expects from us this coming year is with “team players.” Lone Rangers who make decisions alone and then complain about doing all the work alone will not be good enough any more. Church leadership that only complains without offering solutions will not be good enough. This does not mean we cannot disagree. In fact, we want to encourage diversity of opinions at the table; but what we don’t want is toxic and destructive leadership that hurts the work and the people when the committee or the church do not go their way. What the church needs and what Christ demands are “team players” willing to bear each other’s burdens in the work of the church.

This year we have many projects that need to happen: a new shed for the homeless ministry, monthly food distributions for the community, a community computer lab, installing showers to participate in the “warm nights program” to help homeless people during the winter months, expanding the ESOL program, remodeling our kitchen in celebration of the 175 year anniversary, and reaching out to the spiritual needs of our neighbors, etc. My hope is to see at least half of these projects become a reality in 2011.

Transportation, health, finances, loneliness, companionship, and spiritual well-being are the most important needs identified by the older adults in our congregation and community. Although, many of these needs have been specifically addressed by individual members of our Emmanuel UMC, our aging congregation is in need of more support. In 2011 we will work more intentionally to address those needs.

I hope you will enjoy this Lamplighter issue. In it you will find pictures of our 2011 leadership. YES! All of them are very cute. Pray for them and hopefully your picture will be in our January issue next year .

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

# SOME EARLY PHOTOS OF CHURCH LEADERS & STAFF



**Daniel Mejia**  
Pastor



**Michelle Thorne**  
Assistant Pastor



**Jane Grays**  
Lay Leader



**Ann Rowland**  
Chair of Church  
Council &  
Member of  
Community Meals Com-  
mittee



**Bobbie Deegan**  
Recording Secretary



**Beverly Ward**  
Treasurer



**Beth Adle**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Jo Anne Harrison**  
Administrative  
Assistant



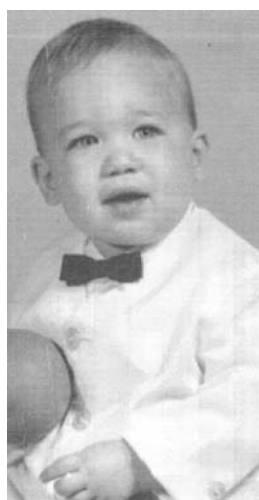
**Roy White**  
Deaf Fellowship &  
Staff-Parish Relations



**Bill Raulin**  
Finance Chairperson



**Rick Bergmann**  
United Methodist Men



**Todd Reitzel**  
Sunday School Su-  
perintendent



**Kathryn Griffin**  
Music Ministries



**Charlie Deegan**  
Finance Committee





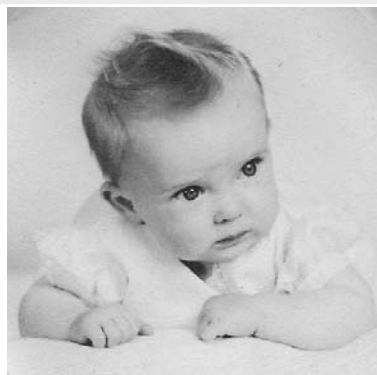
**Mike Hatton**  
Lay member of  
the Annual  
Conference &  
Youth & Young  
Adult Ministries



**Kathy Mellott**  
Family Ministries  
Trustee  
WEB site manager



**Pat Mellott**  
Family Ministries



**Scarlet Robertson**  
Children's Ministries



**Margie Mock**  
Church Historian  
Memorial Committee  
Committee on Lay  
Leadership



**Ernie Kilbourne**  
Prayer Ministry



**Joanne Blakely** Prayer  
Ministry



**Becky Cavallo**  
Angel Tree



**Carol Clatterbuck**  
Food Closet



**Elsie Cline**  
Community Meals  
Committee



**Ann Anderson**  
Prayer Ministry &  
Staff-Parish  
Relations



**Dottie Gilbert**  
Membership Secre-  
tary &  
Asbury Guild  
Representative



**Pat Allen**  
ESOL  
&  
Worship Ministries



**Barbara Butcher**  
Trustee



**Cale Fuller**  
Trustee



**Doris Wray**  
Visitation Ministries

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

By Bill Raulin  
Finance Chairperson

In early December, Council Chairperson Charlie Deegan noted that not very many members had sent in their pledges for 2011. To be blunt, the church needs you and me, not just to pay the bills, but to continue its great work in the Beltsville area started some 175 years ago.

As I have written before, we all will need the church some day, and we expect it to be here for Baptisms, weddings, Sunday school, worship services and so on. I could use 1000 words to write about all the things going on now in the church.

We were doing well financially until we had to repair the furnace and air conditioning system. The bill for those repairs put us in the red.

I just hope we do not have the snow removal problems we had to face last year.

On a lighter note, the early ser-

vice is doing great; the praise band is good and people seem to enjoy this type of service.

The 11:15 a.m. service is growing as well, attracting those who like the choir and the more formal service.

Just think of it, 175 years of Methodism in Beltsville. Be proud to be a member. I hope to see you in worship.

P.S. If you ever have a comment on things I write, good or bad, send them to the church office address on the front of the Lamplighter.

**FOOD CLOSET**

By Carol Clatterbuck

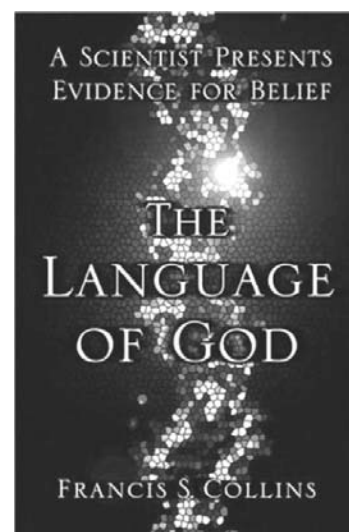
After giving the remaining canned items to local families for the holiday season, our cupboard is bare again. Any donation of a canned item will be greatly appreciated to start off the new year in rebuilding our supplies. For his Eagle Scout project, Adrian Villarroel is fabricating new shelves for our closet to meet the Food Bank's requirements!

**FAITHFUL READERS  
BOOK GROUP**

By Carol Clatterbuck

We'll be starting the year off by reading "The language of God" by Francis Collins (Director of NIH) on Saturday, January 22, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the library in the education building.

Along with our discussion, we will be viewing a YouTube video of Dr. Collins discussing aspects of this book. Questions? Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Carrie White
- 7 Katherine Cavallo
- 8 Michael Baker
- 9 Walt Schlegel
- 11 Jane Grays
- 12 Sabrina Painter
- 14 Hazel Newell
- 19 Kimberly Beach
- 21 Mike Berry
- 23 Dorothy Manley
- 25 Bonnie Bland, Todd Reitzel
- 26 Bobbie Deegan
- 30 Darlene Norris
- 31 Rick Bergmann

**JANUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

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



The flower chart for 2011 is posted in the Narthex. Flowers are \$25 each.

Please fill out a flower announcement form and put in the office mailbox.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Thanks to everyone who participated in and helped with Breakfast with Santa, especially the UMM who bought, prepared and served the food, Sisters In Spirit who ran the Santa Shop and Pat Mellott, Erin Mellott and Robert Galloway who organized, took and printed the Santa photos. A special thanks to IHOP for donating strawberry syrup. And, of course to Santa himself, who was the hit of the day. We raised over \$400 for Family Life Ministries.

## VALENTINE DINNER

February will be here before we know it. Family Life is having a special Valentine Dinner, catered by Enrique at the Knights of Columbus on Cherry Hill Rd on Saturday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. A 3-course formal dinner will be prepared and served for us for only \$60 for two! This is a fundraiser planned at the Church Getaway weekend in Manidokan. We need 80 people to purchase tickets by January 12 or we will have to cancel the event. Babysitting is being worked out by the UMYF. Contact the office for tickets or get them between and after services during January. Have a wonderful evening out and support Family Life Ministries at Emmanuel.

## TRUSTEES

By Barbara Butcher

The Trustees ask that anyone who wishes to use a room, fill out a Room Use Form. This allows the date to be entered on the calendar and the person requesting the room to be notified if it is available. Using the form gives the Trustees a notice to set timers for heat or air conditioning. If a room is requested through the

Charge Conference, dates are noted and placed on the calendar, but no confirmation is given.

## FOR OUR COOKS

By Bobbie Deegan

I've heard from a number of ladies about how excited they are about doing a new cookbook! So while you are making your holiday specialties, don't forget to make me a copy of the recipe. Remember - **YOU DON'T HAVE TO TYPE THEM!** Just make me a photocopy of whatever you have. You can get your recipes to me in several ways:

- Give them to me at church;
- Mail them to me at 4316 Knott Street, Beltsville, MD 20705;
- Leave them for me in the Church Office; E-mail them to me at [BobbieDeegan@aol.com](mailto:BobbieDeegan@aol.com); or call me at 301-937-7070 and I will pick them up from you and make copies!

Many thanks to Ernie Kilbourne for locating and loaning me her copy of UMW's 1981 cookbook, Heavenly Dishes. Deanne Dickson designed its adorable cover. It cost 75 cents "back in the day," and UMW Vice President Darlene Baldwin was the "go-to" person if you wanted a copy. It will be fun to explore its pages and pick out some recipes to include in our new cookbook.

A couple of folks have asked if their friends or "extended family" members can participate. Of course they can! This is open to everybody who would like to be included. You don't have to be a member of Emmanuel; you don't even have to be female! (Hint, hint). Surely you have some special ways of grilling, don't you, guys? The Men's Breakfasts always get rave reviews. Let us

not forget our own Baker Bill, either! If he would be willing to share some of his recipes, we will be delighted to include them.

If possible, please get your recipes to me by the end of January. That will give me sufficient time to get everything typed. Thanks!

This will be a lot of fun, but I need your participation. Thanks!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Todd Reitzel, Superintendant

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

--Ephesians 2:19-22

**Past activities.** Sunday School children raised \$212 for Trick Or Treat For UNICEF this past October; thanks to all who donated! Also, the Halloween Party was a great success, with over 50 kids attending plus many parents, 4 costume contest winners, and numerous cupcake walk winners. Thanks to the Confirmation Class for decorating beforehand, and thanks to the 12 church members who donated food and drink! On December 5, Sunday School's young people made about 40 Christmas cards for area shut-ins. EUMC's Visitation Ministry delivered about 15 of the cards, and Sunday School families delivered the other 25.

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continues on page 6



## SUNDAY SCHOOL continued from page 5

**Ongoing classes.** We continue to have 5 Sunday classes with dedicated teachers and a number of dedicated students. We could use more students of all ages, including adults. We have 2 adult classes, one Bible study class and one topical study class. We are always open to new classes with new topics; if you have an idea, contact me at 301.595.8963 or toddreitzel@verizon.net. Sunday School is here to serve all EUMC members, and learning is better with more people involved.

**New program!** I am pleased to announce a new weekly evening program beginning in January. Simultaneous with Tuesday evening ESL classes, we will offer a 2-hour Youth Learning Fellowship. This program will be held every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 9pm, beginning January 25. The first hour will consist of quiet study, including school homework help and individual reading. The second hour will consist of Christian education in several groups divided by age. Kids from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade are invited to come participate. Both hours' activities will be supervised by adults.

We developed this program in response to the number of children brought by adult ESL students needing child care, but we do not wish to limit it to the children of ESL students. Indeed, we want to offer this opportunity to all young people in the church and in ESL child care. We plan to eventually augment the program by offering the use of computers.

Think and pray about how you might contribute to this new Youth Learning Fellowship program. We

seek donations of magazines, books, and games; label donations "Learning Fellowship" and leave in the church office or church library. We seek young people from ages 4 to 18 to participate; consider encouraging your children to come beginning January 25. Finally, we seek volunteers to help with the quiet study hour, and we seek volunteers to help with the Christian education hour; think about donating 1 hour of your Tuesday evenings to help with this important fellowship. Contact me if you are interested in volunteering.

Blessings,

Todd Reitzel

## CONFERENCE GRANT WILL FUND "MEDIA CENTER"

The Baltimore - Washington Conference has been awarded a two-year grant from the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries to fund seven local Hispanic ministries. Emmanuel has been selected to receive a portion of those funds - \$3500 in Year 1 and another \$3500 in Year 2. The monies are to be used to fund things in our church that would benefit the Hispanic community, in particular, but the whole congregation as well. The only restriction is that grant monies cannot fund salaries.

A work group comprised of persons who have been involved in Hispanic outreach at different levels met to consider how to make best use of the grant funds. Several options were explored, such as renovating the nursery and funding specific programs. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that Emmanuel would best serve our congregation and the entire Beltsville community if the

monies were used to convert the Church library into a media center. Establishing a media center would follow the example set by our local schools and greatly expand Emmanuel's options for providing 21st-century programs and services. Anticipating that this will raise many questions, we've answered some of them below.

### What do you mean by a media center?

The goal is to set up ten desktop computer stations along two walls in the room housing the library. Historical materials housed in the library will be relocated, as will the desk for the Sunday School Superintendent. The library holdings will be purged of obsolete materials and the remainder will be reorganized within the library room.

### Is the grant paying for everything?

This isn't in Emmanuel's 2011 budget.

The grant funds will be joined with funds Emmanuel already has available to purchase 10 desktop computers, printers, and related software, as well as furniture to hold the computer equipment.

### But I like having a church library.

Emmanuel has always had a place where people could borrow materials to nurture their spiritual growth.

No one values books more than I do. Books like A Man Called Peter are timeless testaments of faith. All too often, local lending libraries sell these "oldies but [to us] goodies" to make room for newer titles, so the church library may be the only place they may be found. But do you want to read a five-year-old copy of Daily Guideposts? I'm sure the insights are still meaningful, but I doubt that anyone has an interest in reading last year's edition. These are the types of things

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## MEDIA CENTER

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we would remove. At the same time, we don't have a plan to regularly update the materials in the library, so it is not widely used.

### Why does our church need a "media center"?

The work group spent a lot of time brainstorming this. We didn't want to spend the grant funds on something that would only benefit the Hispanic community. But the more we talked about having a media center, the more places we identified in which a media center with computers might be useful.

### Like what?

The initial use we thought of was for ESOL instruction. Four years ago, Emmanuel responded to the growing immigrant population in our midst by initiating a program to teach English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The "ESOL school year" has two semesters, September through mid-November and January through June. Emmanuel's ESOL program typically has at least 50 registrants a semester from all over the world - Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Brazil, Korea, China, Thailand, and even Guyana, Germany and Italy. Students range from having no knowledge of English at all to those who want to develop their English vocabulary and conversational skills. Volunteers primarily from Emmanuel's congregation teach four classes customized to accommodate the varied skill levels of that semester's students. There are numerous computer programs available that teach languages. These would be a wonderful enhancement for Emmanuel's ESOL program.

### What else?

Recognizing that parents might not be able to participate in the ESOL program unless they have child care, last year Emmanuel added a child care component to the program. At first, most of the children were very young. This past semester, not only did we have a large increase in the number of children accompanying their parent(s) to ESOL, but quite a few of the children were school-aged. In response, additional volunteers joined the ESOL team to help the older children with their homework each week. The media center would give the volunteers an additional tool to use with the children when they do their homework.

### Both adults and kids will use the computers on ESOL nights? It'll never work.

The adults and children would use the computers at different times. Here's how the work group envisions ESOL nights would work: Allow the older children in child care to use the computers from 7 - 8 p.m. to do their homework. Allow the ESOL students to use the computers from 8 - 9 p.m. to supplement their class work. The four classes will be scheduled on a rotational basis (e.g., students in Class I might use the computers on the first Tuesday of the month, Class II on the second Tuesday, etc.). Work to be done on the computers would be determined by the teacher(s) of each class.

### So you want the computers for ESOL. Not just for ESOL!

The computers can be used by the Sunday School classes. Emmanuel has worked hard the last few years to update our services, facilities and activities so they will be more appealing to members of Gen X and Gen Y. But we haven't updated our

instructional programs. Today's young people start using a computer almost as soon as they learn to walk, and we need to reach them that way, through videos, Bible-based computer games, etc. Teachers will be free to use computers as much or as little as they want, but we need to give them that capability.

Emmanuel can begin a Homework Club for Beltsville students who would like to participate. Especially during this economic downturn, some students in the community don't have a computer or internet access at home. Students in the Homework Club can use the computers to do homework assignments and enrichment activities. Volunteers can use the computers in the media center to teach job skills (such as software classes, resume writing and internet-based job searches) to those seeking employment.

Volunteers can use the media center to teach computer skills to those who want to learn so they can communicate with family members via the internet.

### Ten computers aren't going to fit in that room.

It is the work group's hope that removing some of the existing furniture and keeping size in mind when purchasing new furnishings will make this doable. No permanent changes will be made until we are confident that the space is sufficient.

### That room gets used a lot for meetings.

The goal is that the two tables in the center of the room will remain in that room to facilitate the room's continued use for meetings.

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### What about security?

No one will use the media center without someone from the Church leadership being present. No one using the computers in the media center will be able to access the Church's computer files.

### I just don't think we should do it.

No one likes change. It would be comforting if Emmanuel could stay just as it is, our own private refuge from the world. But we have to remember that the church isn't ours, it's God's house. And He doesn't want it to be our refuge; God wants it to be the place where we do His work. Remember Matthew 25:44-45: 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and not help you?' And he will answer, 'I assure you, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.' There are people in our community who need help and we have been given the resources to help them. Let us step out of our comfort zone and use God's house to serve his people!

## 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF METHODISM

The first Methodist congregation formed in Beltsville in June 1836. So June 2011 will be Beltsville Methodism's 175th anniversary. The 175th Anniversary Committee met on December 13 to start planning how we want to commemorate this special year.

Among the events being planned for next year:

An updated church history to cover Emmanuel's staff and pro-

grams during the last 25 years;

A "175th Anniversary" edition of our photo directory, to include a page featuring Emmanuel's current and former pastors and photos of our special events;

A "homecoming" Sunday service in June 2011 to which we invite former parishioners and pastors, church officials such as the bishop, and state and county dignitaries;

A commemorative cookbook featuring "175 years of recipes" from members, former members, friends and family;

Several musical programs featuring music through the years, such as a "Sing-along" (remember Mitch?), a "barbershop quartet" (in other words, four-part-harmonizing), a military band concert (if we can find someone who has a connection with one of the military bands in the area!), and concerts by musical groups such as New Dimensions; and

An ice cream social.

Our goal is to include a variety of activities so there will be something for everyone! To help fund the activities, some commemorative items will be available for sale. We are currently contacting vendors for samples of what they have to offer.

As a more permanent remembrance of our 175th anniversary, the committee suggests starting a Building Fund to redo the church kitchen! The equipment in it is very old (it dates from the 1960's, I believe). Newer models would not only be more energy-efficient but would probably make better use of the space. There are a lot of things Emmanuel could do with an updated kitchen. Possibilities include holding regular church dinners (cooked at the church!), renting the Fellowship Hall out to the community, and feeding the homeless. Improving the kitchen

is something that has been talked about for a long time. The committee would like to lead the way toward making this a reality. To get the fund started, we suggest that those families who are financially able to do so contribute \$175 to the Building Fund in honor of the 175th anniversary. We realize that the economy is still ailing and that not all families would be able to afford such a gift, and any amount someone cared to give would be gratefully received and would help move Emmanuel toward our goal.

The 175th Anniversary Committee will ask the Church Council to approve a Building Fund to upgrade the kitchen at its January meeting. Feel free to share your thoughts and ideas about the kitchen or any other part of the 175th Anniversary celebration with Charlie Deegan at [CharlesDeegan@aol.com](mailto:CharlesDeegan@aol.com) or 301-937-7070 (home).

Our anniversary year has the potential to be very special, not only for the "old-timers" who will be able to reconnect with old friends and reminisce about the "good old days" but for "new-timers" who will have an opportunity to learn about how Emmanuel came to be the congregation it is today. It should also give our children and youth a chance to feel a real connection with those Methodists, both children and adults, who came before them. So share your ideas on what we can do to mark this special occasion! Then choose an activity you'd like to support and pitch in to help!

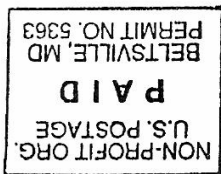
The 175th Anniversary Committee's next meeting will be January 19th. Please join us!



# January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:00 p.m. Maranatha Choir 7:00 p.m. Church Council	<b>6</b> 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
<b>9</b> 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch	<b>10</b> 7:00 p.m. Depression/ Bipolar Support Group 7:30 p.m. Trustees	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00 p.m. Maranatha Choir 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee	<b>13</b> 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	<b>17</b> 12:00 noon Ellen Hoover Circle	<b>18</b> 7:00 p.m. ESOL Registration	<b>19</b> 10:00 a.m. Susanna Wesley Circle 12:00 noon Dorcas Circle 6:00 p.m. Maranatha Choir 7:00 p.m. Sisters In Spirit	<b>20</b> 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 11:00 a.m. Community Place Café	<b>22</b> 10:00 a.m. Faithful Read- ers Book Club
<b>23</b> 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Homeless Ministry	<b>24</b> 7:00 p.m. Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<b>25</b> 7:00 p.m. ESOL Classes	<b>26</b> 6:00 p.m. Maranatha Choir	<b>27</b> 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	<b>31</b>					

Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
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301-937-7114  
Web: [www.emmanuelumbeltsville.net/](http://www.emmanuelumbeltsville.net/)  
Address Service Requested



## *In This Issue*

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