

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

June 2012



Pastor Daniel Mejia

What an amazing first five months of 2012 have been for Emmanuel. As if life and ministries at Emmanuel were not busy enough, God gave us the unexpected gift of a new parsonage that is a major upgrade and blessing to our church. At this point, the bedrooms are taking shape, the kitchen is in order and almost all the books are unpacked. I can say that the new parsonage almost feels like home. Nevertheless, as exciting as it may be to settle into a new home, excitement is what truly defines what this summer will be for our church.

Emmanuel's 2012 summer will be filled again with excitement and many serving opportunities in Beltsville and beyond our community. We begin the summer with the wonderful news that Ben Sloan has decided to return and fulfill his seminary internship with us. Ben will begin a non-paid internship June 11 through August 17 working 40 hours a week learning how to be a pastor with us. It is important to mention that Ben's decision to return to Emmanuel reflects the care and love that Ben has received from all of you. Seminary students are not

assigned to congregations, they get to pick where they want to go from a catalog of hundreds of congregations. We feel privileged that Ben decided to come back to us. We look forward to this summer and the opportunity to serve and walk with Ben in his pastoral journey.

Then, believe it or not, the countdown for Vacation Bible School has already started. This year's Vacation Bible School will take place from July 9-13. Our goal is that our 2012 VBS will be as successful as 2011 when we had 100 attendees between children and adults. Stay tuned for a promotional video and more details in the next Lamplighter.

The day after VBS ends a group of 25 youth and adults will embark on its second consecutive mission trip to Christiansburg, Va. From July 14-20 our youth will serve low income families who cannot afford basic home repairs. Keep us in your prayers for a safe and meaningful mission trip. And finally, at the end of August another Wesley seminary student will begin a two year internship with us. Her name is Nickie Gonzalez Moreno. Nickie is from San Antonio and is beginning her second year at Wesley Theological Seminary. In her research, she found our congregation the ideal site to develop her pastoral calling and skills. Nickie is a gifted student and a great musician and singer. We are very excited to have Nickie among us for two years.

However, as the summer brings exciting news and projects, let us not lose sight that our calling to serve and help others demands risk

and sacrifice. You may have heard the tragic news that on May 3rd a man killed the administrative assistant and the co-pastor at St. Peter's Episcopal church in Ellicott city and then killed himself. Apparently this man had received help by the church's food pantry and had been given a place to live by the church too. In the midst of this unspeakable tragedy, those who knew the women involved believed that they would never let this horrible tragedy stop their efforts to reach out and serve the least and the lost in their community. They both fully understood Jesus' teaching that following him and serving with him would require sacrifice and perhaps the very real crucifixion, and they would never let this incident stop the work of going out and serve those who are in need. Our outreach, our ministries, and our commitment to serve Christ in our community cannot be stopped by fear. Fear takes many shapes and forms. Fear can be rationalized as protection or safety but if we are not careful it will lead us to keep the doors of the church always shut and locked. In the midst of risk and sacrifice, in the midst of need and pain, that is exactly where Jesus wants to find us. I want to end by sharing the words of Princeton professor Cornel West who captures very clearly the essence of our faith. Have a wonderful beginning to your summer.

"We've forgotten that a rich life consists fundamentally of serving others, trying to leave the world a little better than you found it. We need the courage to question the powers that be, the courage to be

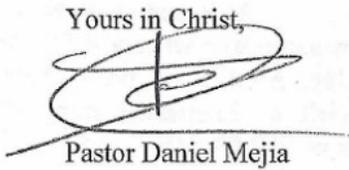
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impatient with evil and patient with people, the courage to fight for social justice. In many instances we will be stepping out on nothing, and just hoping to land on something. But that's the struggle. To live is to wrestle with despair, yet never allow despair to have the last word."

Yours in Christ,

 Pastor Daniel Mejia

Christian Education

Graduation Sunday will be June 3, and the Sunday School year will end on June 10. I hope all students will thank their class teachers and leaders for their volunteer efforts this past year.

Summer Sunday classes will begin June 17. There will be a One-Room Schoolhouse for kids up through 5th grade, a combined teen class for 6th-12th graders, and a combined adult class. Details to be determined. Summer is a great time to start coming to Sunday classes; so don't hesitate to give it a try!

We need volunteers to lead the One-Room Schoolhouse. You can share your particular talent or use the summer curriculum book that we provide. This is a great opportunity to get to know our church's wonderful children. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the church narthex.

Vacation Bible School registration has begun. Please register now so that we have the chance to purchase

adequate supplies for everyone. The VBS theme will be No Friend Like Jesus, and it will run Monday, July 9, through Friday, July 13, in the evenings. There will be kids, teen, and adult classes. Dinner is available 5-6 p.m. and classes and activities are 6-8 p.m. each evening. Don't miss the fun!

Blessings,
 Todd Reitzel

WORDS OF THANKS

A member of the church deserves special mention in regard to work done to prepare the Emack house for habitation. Gary Heath spent most nights, after work, for two weeks, improving out of date electrical plugs and fixtures, updating phone connections, waxing hard wood floors, hanging safety detectors, and the list goes on. Gary had good ideas and better yet was able to implement them. The Trustees thank him for all his labor.



Meet Tabea Muenz on 9 June

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES

High School

Ikenna Onukwubiri
 Kent Island High School

College

Eddie Mellott
 West Virginia Jr. College
 Morgantown, WV – A.A.

Brenda Sigaran
 University of Maryland
 College Park - BS in Business
 Admin, Minor in Accounting

**Sisters in Spirit**

Many thanks from Sisters in Spirit for the donation of toiletries for residents of Crescent Cities Center, Riverdale, Md. They were very appreciative and when we asked about their wish list, they stated male residents in the nursing home could use lounge wear, socks, slippers and underwear, as many come in without a change of clothing.

Please join United Methodist Women, general meeting on June 9, 2012. A potluck luncheon begins at noon, followed by a presentation from Tabea Muenz, Missioner-in-Residence, Wesley Theological Seminary.

From Your Finance Committee

By Charlie Deegan, Chairman

Last month, I alerted everyone that Emmanuel would be facing a cash flow problem in the immediate future due to the unanticipated purchase of a newer parsonage. We bought the house at a great price, but there were several glitches. First, our mortgage lender (Mid-Atlantic Corporate Credit Union, working with Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union) was reluctant to underwrite our mortgage. Financial institutions consider churches 'high risk' because so many of them have defaulted on loans in recent years. Because they were only willing to finance 70% of the purchase price, our down payment had to be 30%. Second, Bank of America received a more attractive offer for the house after they accepted our contract. Presumably in an effort to cause Emmanuel to walk away from the deal, they reneged on their agreement to lower the purchase price by \$6000 in lieu of paying part of the settlement costs. So the cash outlay to purchase the house on Emack Road was greater than we originally envisioned.

On the positive side – the large down payment means we are accruing interest on a smaller mortgage. Also, we have a renter for the old parsonage whose monthly payment is only \$30 less than the size of our mortgage payment. So the mortgage is essentially covered each month. Moreover, the renter is responsible for the utility costs at the old parsonage and our utility costs at the new parsonage should be significantly less.

Fortunately, Emmanuel had enough cash in our accounts to go forward with the purchase in spite of the unforeseen expenses. But it meant that we have had to use funds raised for specific pur-

poses (such as the homeless ministry and ESOL) to cover our expenses until we rebuild our reserves. This is a temporary diversion of designated funds, not a permanent one. The monies will be restored for their original purpose. Some funds (such as the kitchen renovation fund) won't be needed for quite a while, and will be replenished when the old parsonage is sold. Other projects may require periodic expenditures, and those obligations will be met.

The Church Council discussed this situation at its May meeting. Recognizing that money is tight right now and wanting to ensure that we control costs and that our spending reflects our priorities, the Council agreed to implement a process whereby all expenditures totaling \$250 or more must be approved in advance. Having to manage our spending so closely has been unsettling. It certainly is not where we would like the church to be. But sometimes God wants us to step up and "put our money where our mouth is." We want Emmanuel to be a vibrant church with the resources it needs to do God's work. The new parsonage will cost Emmanuel less in maintenance, repairs and operating costs in the short term and gives us room to grow in the long run. Had we waited until we had funds budgeted for a new parsonage, we likely would have had to pay more for a house and it wouldn't have been so conveniently located. Overall, the church is strong. Together, we will get through this rough patch.

You can help the Finance Committee keep Emmanuel running smoothly by remaining faithful in providing your tithes and offerings. When you go out of town, please mail your check to the office or

place it in the offering plate before you leave. If you are able to pay a larger proportion of your pledge in the next few months and a smaller proportion of it in the later months of the year, it would be most appreciated.

If you would like to discuss your concerns or have suggestions for specific actions we might take, please let me know! If you don't run into me at church, you can reach me by email (CharlesDeegan@aol.com) or by phone (301-937-7070).

United Methodist Women Mother Daughter Communion Breakfast

The Emmanuel United Methodist Women would like to thank everybody who helped make the Mother Daughter Communion Breakfast a success.

We give our gratitude to Pastor Mejia for serving communion and grace.

Kudos to the United Methodist Men, the Youth, and Esther Hatton for preparing, serving and cleaning up breakfast!

Thank you to Susanna Wesley Circle for the beautiful decorations.

Hugs to my Sisters in Spirit for all your ideas and support in decorating the narthex.

Thank you to all the participants who brought in seven gowns plus mother of the bride and bridesmaid dresses that were displayed in the narthex.

Thank you for your photos and your memories that brought us joy!

Peace & joy!
Debbie McNitt

Worship Changes

By Pat Allen, Worship Chair

Worship is central to who we are as a congregation. Both the 9:00 am contemporary service and the 11:15 am traditional service are organized to help us focus on our relationship with God beginning with a time of praise and thanksgiving, followed by reflective prayer, singing of hymns, reading of scriptures, listening to the message in the sermon, and then being sent forth to do God's will. The hope is that whichever service you attend, you will be spiritually vitalized through the flow of liturgy and song.

Over the past several years it has become clear from constructive comments made by visitors as well as by members of the congregation that the flow of worship and spiritual thought can be interrupted by announcements, either at the beginning or end of the service. The length of time devoted to announcements frequently causes worship to run overtime, and causes those who attend the 9:00 am service to be late for Sunday school.

After much discussion, both at Church Council meetings and within the Worship Committee the following change will be made: Oral announcements will be eliminated at both 9:00 am and 11:15 am services. Therefore, members are encouraged to plan ahead and if possible send announcements to the church office so they can be placed in the Sunday bulletin and given to Rick Bergmann to place on the screen before and between the services. They should also be placed in the Lamplighter so that those who are not present on that Sunday will be aware of all that is happening.

In Luke's Gospel we read "Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart." (Luke 18:1) Jesus then tells about the widow and the unjust judge. In Matthew 6 Jesus teaches us that Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving are the sacred tripod upon which all Christian faith and work are dependent. In Matthew 17 Jesus reminds the disciples that when confronted with really difficult problems, much prayer and fasting are needed. We understand that "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1), and that God answers all of our prayers in God's time and way. James explains that we do need to be careful about asking correctly in our prayers, but he understands the essential fact that prayer is effective and that it is prayer which changes things.

At Emmanuel United Methodist Church we take prayer very seriously – in our worship, in our teaching, in our personal spiritual growth, and in every aspect of our fellowship together. In addition we have a very active Prayer Fellowship which continues to lift our prayer concerns throughout the week.

In addition to our concern about the length of time taken for announcements, many people have commented on the time taken for presenting our joys and concerns before the pastoral prayer, and that especially our 9:00 am service runs too long and conflicts with the Sunday school time. We know how important our prayers are, and we want to ensure the maximum benefit of our shared prayer concerns and joys. Therefore, the Worship Committee and Church Council

have decided that we want to shift from oral presentations of concerns and joys to providing the information in writing. This will ensure that we get names and concerns right and that we know who requested the prayer and that we do not lose track of any of the names and joys lifted up.

Members are encouraged to send prayer requests to the church office so they can be placed in the Sunday bulletin and given to Rick Bergmann to place on the screen before and between the services. They should also be placed in the Lamplighter so that those who are not present on that Sunday will be able to join in the praying. Instead of oral presentations of joys and concerns, you can drop the names of those in need of prayer, or of the joy to be lifted up in thanksgiving into a "Prayer Basket" that will be at the entrance of the sanctuary. During the service this basket will be taken to the Pastor who will pray collectively for those in need and offer thanksgiving for the joys, and then the basket will be placed on the altar. Following the service, the names will be given to the Prayer Fellowship for further prayer, and if not already on the list for the bulletin, visual list and the Lamplighter, will be added to those lists as appropriate. This will also enable the Prayer Fellowship to have in writing the information they will need for their constant prayers through the week.

The Worship Committee and Church Council feel that this new format will improve and expand our shared prayer life. We realize that it is sometimes difficult to adjust to changes, but we also believe that these changes will improve our worship time and our spiritual growth as individuals and as a congregation. These changes will be in effect beginning the second Sunday in June.



Members of the Faithful Readers Group

Faithful Reader's Group

Our pick before summer break is *Heaven Is For Real* by Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent. It is available in our library system.

When 4-year-old Colton Burpo came out of emergency surgery, he told his family about his trip to heaven and back, describing people, events and heaven with surprising detail. This book will change the way you think of eternity, offering the chance to see and believe like a child.

We will meet **Saturday, June 9th, 2012 in the education building from 10 to 11 a.m.** If you are looking for a good short read before the summer break, this book is it! Contact Carol Clatterbuck or Bryant Davis for questions, or see our church Website. We'll meet back in the fall for more reading and conversation!

Beltsville Day

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Emmanuel booth at Beltsville Day a success. We sold out of fish and had to buy more fries!

There were so many people from Emmanuel who came to help, and many old friends stopped by to say hello.

It was a great day and we raised money for the Retreat on October 19th.

Kathy & Pat Mellott
Family Life
Coordinators





JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 George Kilbourne, Megan Wesley
- 3 Lori Midkiff
- 4 Linda Hiner
- 5 Angela Hatton
- 7 Matthew Sciannella
- 8 Ikenna Onukwubiri, Patrick Mackey
- 9 Katherine Faulkner
- 10 Ann Ladd
- 14 Tia Dorsey, Janet Reed, Nancy Shiplett
- 18 David Baird, Ruth Smith
- 21 Lisa Baker
- 24 Bob Frederick, Ralph Guynn
- 26 Rick Zerbe
- 28 Janet Doetsch
- 29 Olivia Heath, Beverly Urick
- 30 Emma Claye



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Olivia & Gary Heath
- 4 Frances & Paul Cruz
- 5 Janet & Raymond Doetsch
- 6 Candace & Richard Davis
- 14 Tobi & Robert Haufe
- 21 Mary Ann & Michael Vaughan
- 24 Beverly & C.J. Huneycutt
- 25 Mary & Richard Plantholt
- 28 Cindy & Jim Banville,
Jim & Debbie McNitt
- 29 Ester and Michael Hatton

Babysitter

Hi There! My name is Alex Butcher and I am looking for employment as your next babysitter.

I will:

- Be available to sit during the week and on weekends
- Sit kids of all ages
- Sit overnight
- Cook
- Drive and I have an excellent record
- Excellent references available on request

You need to go out, I'm here to help!

To schedule please call my cell at 240-463-0699

Or email me at alex@gingersnap.com

(Also interested in other jobs over the summer)

Altar Flowers



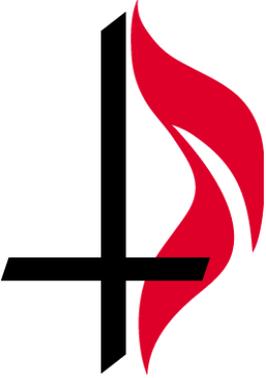
- June 3 Heath
- June 10 Wells
- June 17 Doris Wray
- June 24 Charline Frederick
- July 1 Trudy Headley
- July 8
- July 15
- July 22 Theresa Timity
- July 29

JUNE 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15a.m. Sunday School	4	5 7:30 p.m. ESOL Tutoring	6 6 p.m. Maranatha Choir 7 p.m. Church Council	7	8 5 p.m. Maranatha Choir	9 10 a.m. Faith- ful Readers Book Club 12 noon UMW General Meeting
10 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15a.m. Sunday School 11:15 Maranatha Musical Second Sunday Lunch 1 p.m. Youth Fellowship	11 12:30 p.m. Women's Com- munity Club of Beltsville 7 p.m. Depression/ Bipolar Support Group 7:30 p.m. Trustees	12 10 a.m. Prayer Fellowship 7:30 p.m. ESOL Tutoring	13 7 p.m. Worship Committee	14	15 11 a.m. Community Place Caf�e	16
17 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	18	19 7:30 p.m. ESOL Tutoring	20	21	22 7 p.m. Food preparation	23 10 a.m. Food Distribution
24 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 1 p.m. Youth Fellowship	25 7 p.m. Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	26 10 a.m. Prayer Fellowship 7:30 p.m. ESOL Tutoring	27	28	29	30

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