

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

August 2011



Pastor Daniel Mejia

“Those who believe that self-interest should be brought under the discipline of a higher law could then be termed “the children of light.” This is no mere arbitrary device: for evil is always the assertion of some self-interest without regard to the whole, whether the whole be conceived as the immediate community, or the total community of mankind, or the total order of the world. ... Our democratic civilization has been built, not by children of darkness but by foolish children of light.”
Reinhold Niebuhr

These are the thoughts of Reinhold Niebuhr the early 20th Century American theologian who is best known for challenging Christians to get involved in the realities of modern politics and diplomacy. Niebuhr’s assertion concerning the lack of political involvement by Christians is not new. Niebuhr’s words echo the cries and admonitions of the Old Testament prophets who constantly reminded the people of Israel to

fight against the injustices permitted by their kings and even religious leaders. Whether you consider yourself political or not, or whether you are presently involved in campaigning for your favorite political candidate, blue, red or green, Niebuhr’s call goes beyond party lines. Niebuhr identifies us, the Christians, as “the children of light” who need to set aside political preferences and personal opinions and become “foolish” in seeking to bring the light of Christ to our world and society.

In “The Parable of the Shrewd Manager,” Luke 16, Jesus too confronts and challenges our assumption about the way we need to act in our fight against the darkness of evil. The parable tells the story of a manager who was fired without explanation. With not much left to do, he plans and plots ways to take advantage of his situation by making “under the table” deals with his master’s clients in order to earn their favor. His shrewd creativity surprised even his master. “... His master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.” (Luke 16:8) No, Jesus is not encouraging and complementing cheating. Jesus is encouraging and complementing the manager’s “never giving up” attitude when facing adversity. The manager’s actions showed a determination that the children of light seem to lack.

Do we have that attitude when facing adversity? Do we have that attitude when facing evil? Do we have that attitude when facing no? Have you given up in your plans to serve God because you don’t have everything you think you “need” to do it “right?” Are you quitting your plans to help others because people didn’t respond the way you expected? Don’t give up, be creative, be persistent, be shrewd.

One last thought about Reinhold Niebuhr. Do you remember the “Serenity Prayer?” Well, he was the author. Our job as “the children of light,” to do what is right, begins and ends with God. When you face adversity or darkness, remember his prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next.

Amen

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia



175th Anniversary Weekend

September 17 - 18, 2011

By Charlie Deegan

Get your tickets for our Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction now! On Saturday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m., we shall gather at the Knights of Columbus Hall to dine on beef and chicken prepared by Cherry Hill Manor Caterers. Besides dinner, there will be great entertainment and some special surprises. Knowing money is tight, the Anniversary Committee set the ticket price at \$35 per person. This will cover the cost of the dinner and related expenses. Seating is limited, so buy your tickets early. They are available at the table in the Narthex Sunday mornings, or you can call me at 301-937-7070.

To raise additional funds to renovate the kitchen, the evening also will include a silent auction. A silent auction doesn't have an auctioneer describing each item and soliciting bids. Instead, all of the items are displayed on tables. Next to each item is a bid sheet. To bid on an item, each person writes his/her name down on the bid sheet, together with the amount of the bid. If another bidder is willing to pay a higher amount, he or she writes his/

her name and bid below the previous bid. The first bidder may raise his/her bid by writing his/her name below the 2nd bidder, and so on. There is no limit to how many people can bid on a particular item or how many times one person may bid on an item. The bidding can get just as heated as at a "regular" auction if an item is especially popular, but it is done "silently," in writing. All bidding ends at a specified time, and whoever is the highest bidder at that point is awarded the item. Auction items will include gift cards to local restaurants and free or discounted services by local businessmen. Participation in the silent auction is voluntary.

Join Charlie Deegan and Bill Raulin on the committee that solicits auction items! The silent auction will benefit both the businesses and our church, because the businesses get relatively inexpensive advertising guaranteed to reach current and potential customers, and Emmanuel gets funds to improve our kitchen facilities. Help make it a huge success! If you are willing to lend a hand, give me a call at 301-937-7070 or email me at CharlesDeegan@aol.com

The following day, Sunday, September 18, we will commemorate 175 years of Methodism in Beltsville at our worship service. There will be just **one service** that day, at **10:30 a.m.** Bishop John R. Schol will deliver the message. You won't want to miss what promises to be a very special service, so note the time change on your calendar now.

Chicken Barbecue and Yard Sale Results

The 175th Anniversary Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the chicken barbecue & yard sale a huge success. We were able to raise \$600.00 to help with the kitchen remodel. Thank you all of our volunteers:

Mike Hatton, Patrick Elliott, Greg Stiggers, Ciro Mejia, Daniel Mejia, Ben Sloan, Marcus Singh-Baird, Merton Singh-Baird, George and Ernie Kilbourne, Jane Greys, Linda Hiner, Evelyn Adkins, Bobbie Deegan, Kemi Oluwafwemi, Bob and Charline Frederick, Renee Hill, Jeanette Black, Julie Pavelka and Chris Butcher.

A Special Thank You to Marcus and Merton who went above and beyond with their help. The 175th committee will be donating \$25 to each of them to help pay for their mission trip.



Library / Media Center Upgrade Making Progress

The approved upgrade of Emmanuel UMC's library and media center is progressing. In the past month, Internet service has been extended to the center, some computers have been installed, and the library's book collection has been examined and triaged.

In June, fiber-optic Internet service was installed in the center and was also extended to the church office, replacing the office's previous Internet service. Members of the Media Center Upgrade Steering Committee have set up 4 computers in the center and have acquired 4 more computers that may be installed. Computers are being acquired using grant funds and donations.

In July, members of the Committee from a variety of church ministries began examining the library's book collection to determine which items should be kept for use by the church and its various ministries and which items could be repurposed to other groups and organizations. The Committee has retained all Bibles, reference books, children's books and Bible story books, videocassette tapes, hymnals, textbooks, historic books, and books younger than 20 years old.

The remaining books have been set aside in boxes. If you or your ministry would like to examine any of the remaining books, you may do so through the end of August. Please contact Patrick Elliott, Todd Reitzel, or Rick Bergmann to arrange to view them on Sunday

during the education period between services. All remaining books that are not claimed by church members will be donated to an outside organization that would benefit from them.



A number of church history records remain in the library / media center, and all will be retained toward possible relocation elsewhere in the church, to make room for the new media resources.

Shelving will be removed from the center in coming weeks, and volunteers will repaint the room before reinstallation of some of the shelving and reorganization of the above categories of books that will be kept. Furniture to hold the computers will be acquired and installed thereafter.

The Committee has been working with the Trustees to develop a security and room-access plan. A new door lock has been installed and keys distributed to some ministries that have planned to use the media center. If your ministry would like to use the center, contact the Committee at IT@emmanuelumcbeltsville.net and Visit the project website at <http://goo.gl/k5L9v> for further updates on the project.

Alex's Trip Across Country

By Jim and Barbara Butcher

Our granddaughter is riding with 32 other young adults from Providence, RI to Half Moon Bay, CA. The group (Bike and Build) is promoting affordable housing and is participating in building at stops along the route.

Barbara's brother visited with Alex on July 9 in Hannibal, MO., just after her group crossed the Mississippi River. She recently had a fall on a wet road, but suffered only minor scrapes. Her Uncle Matt and Granddad visited with her earlier when she traveled from PA to MD.

She is enjoying herself and seeing the country from up close and personal. We want to again thank those who contributed to her trip.

Some anecdotes from the web site: They rode in a 4th of July parade in a small Indiana town that has a big parade each year.

One of the leaders received a speeding ticket for going 30 in a 20 mph area in another small Indiana town. The policeman had to make a new entry on the ticket for a bike.



Alex Butcher Biking Across Country

Ben Sloan's Message



Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan

I am nearing the halfway point in this summer's internship. At Wesley we have the option of doing our internships full-time over the summer or part-time throughout the year. There are benefits and drawbacks to both ways, but the summer internship has been a good fit for me.

I am looking to go into pastoral ministry, and working full-time at

Emmanuel has given me the chance to see a wide range of the ministries of this church in action.

Going along with the pastoral visitation team on Wednesdays has been a real blessing for me. Some Wednesdays we have brought along the bread and grape juice that were blessed in communion on the previous Sunday. I believe that it means a lot to the people we visit to receive communion as a sign of the connection between all believers. It has been meaningful to me to see how reverently they receive communion, and to hear their stories. In my experience most churches do not have a visitation team like Emmanuel's. I have been thinking hard about how to encourage this sort of ministry in the future congregations I am a part of.

Recently Emmanuel's English for Speakers of Other Languages classes concluded for the summer. For the last three weeks I taught one of the classes. This was a new experience for me, but I enjoyed the challenge of planning lessons that would encourage everyone to feel

comfortable enough to join in the conversations. Since it ended I have begun teaching a Sunday school class on faith and visual art. Though I studied visual art in college, this is my first opportunity to teach art. I look forward seeing how the rest of the class goes.

“Going along with the pastoral visitation team on Wednesdays has been a real blessing for me.”

The upcoming youth mission trip to Christiansburg, VA and vacation bible school also promise to be exciting learning opportunities.

I am grateful to the many people within Emmanuel that have welcomed me and are teaching me about the community here. The experiences I describe above only represent a portion of the opportunities I've been given here, and I am excited to see what other unexpected lessons may yet present themselves.

Homeless Ministry Project

By Julie Pavelka

The homeless ministry is requesting donations of school supplies (i.e., pencils, pens, erasers, glue, scissors, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, 3 ring binders, marble composition notebooks and folders).

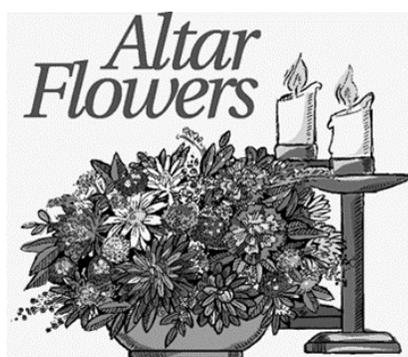
A box with a sign on it will be in the hallway for donations. We will be collecting until the end of August to distribute on the 4th Saturday in August alongside our monthly food distribution. The homeless committee will be purchasing about 40 to 50 backpacks and would like to fill them with school supplies.



August Birthdays



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Chris Butcher,
Preston Elliott | 12 Albert Guynn |
| 3 Ciro Mejia | 13 Aidan Cruz |
| 4 Jeanette Vannoy | 17 Doris Wray |
| 7 Brennan McGlynn,
Hannah Butcher | 18 Grant Midkiff |
| 8 Michael Belshay, Jr.,
Mary Lou Galloway,
Adam Levine | 21 Kelsey Storck |
| 9 Carmen Amaya Bara
hona, Gregory Stiggers,
Jessie Marcus | 22 Lynne Miller |
| 10 Elmo Webb,
Lynette Wray | 23 Andrea Onukwubiri |
| | 24 Carol Clatterbuck |
| | 25 Christopher Pavelka |
| | 26 Katie Kaufmann,
Alice Mabry,
Pastor Mejia |
| | 28 Javalin Baird |
| | 29 Helen Akers |
| | 31 Justin Huneycutt |



- August 7 – Elliott's
 August 14 – Janet Doesch
 August 21 – Lynne Miller
 August 28 – Bev Huneycutt

August Anniversaries

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



Room Use Forms

Why do you need to fill out a Room Use Form when you need to use a room?

There is a lot of demand for room use in the church and when you notify the office that you need a space to meet, the secretary can check the calendar to see if it is available.

If your request is on the calendar, the room can be put on the heating or air conditioning schedule.

The form for room use is also available for downloading on the Church web site. (emmanuelumc is the password.)

Say Cheese!

The photographer from Olan Mills will be here in September to take our pictures for the 175th Anniversary Edition of the photo directory. Photography dates are:

Friday, September 16
2:00 p.m. – 9:20 p.m.
Saturday, September 17
9:30 a.m. – 5:10 p.m.
Monday, September 26
2:00 p.m. – 9:20 p.m.
Tuesday, September 27
2:00 p.m. – 9:20 p.m.

Photos will be taken on the 2nd floor of the Education Building. After your photo session, you will go across the hall to view the photos and select the one you want to appear in the directory.

There is NO COST to have you or your family photographed, and each family photographed will get:

- A free copy of the photo directory. (We will get a limited number of extra directories, so families not photographed may purchase one for \$5.00).
- A free 8 x 10 copy of the photo you choose to go in the



directory.

- Photo packages will be available at a reasonable cost, but **only if you want one**. No one is obligated for any purchase. I will be there each day of shooting. If you feel pressured to buy, tell me!!
- Anyone 60 years old or older and anyone with a military I.D. will receive 10% off on their purchases.

The photo dates are open to anyone. You do not have to be worshipping at Emmanuel. So invite your friends and relations to have their photo taken, also. They will receive a free photo of their choosing, and their photo will not be included in the photo directory unless they want it to be.

If you have digital photos you would like to have considered for the activity pages, please email them to me at BobbieDeegan@aol.com.

Former members who have left the area: Would you like to be included in the commemorative directory? Because this is a special anniversary for Emmanuel, Olan Mills has agreed to allow us an “Out of the Area, But Still in Our Hearts” page. This would allow those “coming home” to be part of our celebration even though they may have a different home congregation now. If you plan to attend the anniversary dinner on September 17 and would like to be photographed by Olan Mills, please give me a call at 301-937-7070. You will get your free photo, a free directory, and the satisfaction of earning another \$2.00 donation from Olan Mills to help us upgrade the kitchen!

Christian Education

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

Summer is nearing its end, and as autumn approaches, in Emmanuel UMC’s education program we are making plans for the beginning of the school year.

The beginning of a new year is an opportunity for new spiritual knowledge and growth. Our Christian education program has great volunteer leaders and great student participants, but despite all those wonderful individuals, the best thing about EUMC Christian education is doing it in fellowship with one another.

“... the best thing about EUMC Christian education is doing it in fellowship with one another.”

The Christian education program here is *your* program. What do you seek from it? In August, the Sunday education team will be planning for autumn classes, and we welcome your thoughts for classes and curricula.

My phone number is 301.595.8963, my email is toddreitzel@verizon.net, and I look forward to hearing from you.

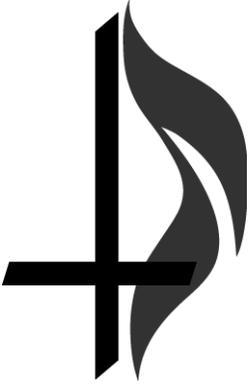
Blessings,
Todd Reitzel

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>National Night Out</i>	3 <i>Church Council</i> 7:00 p.m.	4	5 <i>Movie Under the Stars</i> "Superman II"	6
7 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>One Room Schoolhouse and Adult Bible Study</i> <i>Homeless Ministry</i>	8 <i>Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</i> 7:00 p.m.	9 <i>Prayer Fellowship</i> 10:00 a.m.	10	11	12 <i>Movie Under the Stars</i> "Spiderman"	13 <i>Men's Breakfast</i> 8:30 a.m.
14 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>One Room Schoolhouse and Adult Bible Study</i> <i>2nd Sunday Lunch</i>	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Community Place Café</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Movie Under the Stars</i> "The Fantastic Four"	20
21 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>One Room Schoolhouse and Adult Bible Study</i>	22 <i>Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</i> 7:00 p.m.	23 <i>Prayer Fellowship</i> 10:00 a.m.	24	25 <i>Chancel Choir</i> 7:00 p.m.	26	27 <i>Food Distribution</i> 10:00 a.m.
28 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>One Room Schoolhouse and Adult Bible Study</i> 12:15 <i>UMW Exec. Meeting</i>	29	30 <i>ESOL Registration</i>	31			

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