

# The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

July 2012



Pastor Daniel Mejia

“Helping, fixing, and serving represent three different ways of seeing life. When you help, you see life as weak. When you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole. Fixing and helping may be the work of the ego, and service the work of the soul.”

- Rachel Naomi Remen

Let me introduce you to the lovely Elizabeth Oldenburg. She is the one in the picture seated in the middle surrounded by the visitation team of Ann Anderson, Doris Wray, Pastor Ben, and myself. As far as we know, she is our oldest Emmanuel church



member. She is 104 years young. She currently lives at Holy Cross Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Burtonsville, Md. I was introduced to Elizabeth by the visitation team within a month of becoming Emmanuel’s pastor six years ago at her tender age of 98.

Our visits to Elizabeth are many times unpredictable but always a joyful occasion. In my six years of visiting Elizabeth I have learned one thing: once you get her talking, the stories will just keep coming. From time to time she will share with us how much she enjoyed singing and being part of Emmanuel’s choir. She also tells us that she is proud to be a Methodist, even when she lives in a Catholic nursing home. And in our last visit she told us about how much she enjoys getting her beautiful silver hair washed. Needless to say, visiting Elizabeth reminds me how fortunate I am to be part of Emmanuel church where we have a committed, dedicated, and loving visitation team who deeply cares for our church members. Elizabeth is not the only homebound or shut in church member who gets faithfully visited every Wednesday by our church.

The visitation team, depending on the week, visits no less than 5 members and up to 12 every Wednesday from 10 am to 3 pm. At this time the visitation team is led by Doris Wray and Ann Anderson. But in the past six years, Elizabeth Mougey, Hazel Newell, Javalin Baird and the late Dan Holman have also been part of this ministry. Their hard work and service to Christ reminds me why

Emmanuel continues to be a strong and alive faith community after 175 years. The work and faithfulness to Christ by the visitation team, along with the many other ministries at Emmanuel, allow me to dream and see a hopeful present and an exciting future where our church grows and thrives in its service to others, in its compassion to the needy, and in the transformation of many more lives in Beltsville by God’s grace.

After receiving communion and just as we were on our way out, Elizabeth Oldenburg, stopped Doris Wray and Ann Anderson to tell them, “This is the best morning of my life.” But what I heard in my head and felt in my heart was that Elizabeth had given all of us the best morning of our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

## NOTICE

Members of the Church were recently sent a questionnaire regarding their membership.

This is a gentle reminder to please complete the questionnaire and return it to the church office.

## Angels Among Us

By Elsie Cline

Have you ever met an angel? You do know they are among us don't you? The following are some recent encounters.

As you know, Emmanuel UMC has partnered with Behnke's nurseries to grow fresh produce for the food distribution center located at the church. Not only has space been provided for a community garden, Behnke's has also supplied the seeds, water, hard goods, etc.

In addition, the Lord has truly blessed this partnership with many angels in the form of Behnke Employees and at least one of its vendors. The "Flour Girls" (not to be confused with flowers) are a group of employees who are involved in a "budding" business venture, making and selling cupcakes. They offer these delicious concoctions for sale at Behnke weekend events. These angels in disguise have offered to donate a percentage of their profit to the center and have done so many times over. So the next time you attend a weekend event at Behnke's, stop by their table and buy a cupcake (or two). You will not only be in for a great treat, but you will also be supporting the food distribution center.

Family members from Miller's Farms sell fresh produce at Behnke's every Saturday. They have offered to donate all the produce that has not sold at the end of the day to the center. More angels to help keep the food distribution center supplied so others may eat.

Finally, there are the faithful angels here at Emmanuel UMC who help with the distribution of food and clothing as well as toil in the garden at Behnke's. As you can see, we are surrounded by angels.

The community garden is truly a blessing. However, it is in need of more hands to ensure a bountiful harvest. So be an angel. Contact Julie Pavelka or Theresa Timity at [foodbank@emmanuelumcbeltsville.net](mailto:foodbank@emmanuelumcbeltsville.net) to help with this mission to feed the hungry.

## Helium Tanks Considered Hazardous Waste

Prince Georges County considers helium tanks to be hazardous waste.

The tanks are not to be placed in regular trash.

They should be taken to the Brown Station Road landfill to be discarded.

Please remove any tanks that are used for functions at the church.

*The Trustees*

## Church Council

Ann Rowland, Chair

Church Council meetings are ordinarily on the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are attended mostly by ministry and committee leaders, but are open to the entire congregation. Soon the committee on Lay Leadership will discern whom they will nominate to serve on various church committees as leaders or committee members for 2013. If you are asked to serve it's because someone recognizes your special gift for service in a particular area.

We all have gifts entrusted to us by God; our abilities, our resources and our time. "*We have different gifts according to the grace given us.*" Romans 12: 6 NIV. Remember the parable of the talents (Matthew 25: 14-30) where a rich man gives each of his servants various amounts of talents (money) before leaving on a trip? Two of the servants doubled the value of their talents while the third servant buried his talent having nothing to show upon his master's return but the original amount the master gave him. The master cast him out, but found favor with the servants whose talents were used and multiplied.

Whether asked to serve on a committee or not, we have endless opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love by sharing our Spiritual Gifts with others.

## Egg Cartons for Homeless Ministry

The homeless ministry is collecting empty egg cartons. There is a box in the narthex where you may deposit them.

Thanks,

*Julie Pavelka*





*Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan*

I recently traveled to Israel/Palestine with around 20 of my classmates from seminary. I learned a lot from the trip, and in the coming months I hope to share some of these stories and lessons.

One of the many churches we visited was the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This church stands over the location traditionally held to be the place where Jesus was born. They even have a star that marks what is believed to be the exact spot, and people line up to say a brief prayer there or touch the star. The building is maintained by the Greek Orthodox Church and we made the mistake of going on a Greek Orthodox holy day. The line didn't seem to move at all and soon we began to notice why. Occasionally, a Greek Orthodox Priest would lead a group to the front of the line (presumably Greek Orthodox congregations). Other groups took that as a cue and began to try to cut without the permission of a priest. Our group linked arms to hold our place, but it still took us over an hour and a half to get through the main room to the next, smaller waiting room (pictured). I know many of us were frustrated at all the cutting, but we joked to pass the time.



*The smaller waiting room*

As we entered the smaller waiting room, suddenly a monk screamed out "SHUT UP, SHUT UP," and something in another language that our professor thought was "you devils." Apparently (and somewhat ironically) this new room was intended as a space of silent preparation. However, we hadn't seen any signs to tell us this and the tour guides ahead of us had continued to talk to their groups just as they had in the previous room. Two people in our group, caught completely off-guard by the sudden outburst, smiled to relieve the tension, but that was last straw for the monk. He again erupted in anger, gesturing to a nearby policeman to escort the two out of the line. At this point, several of the rest of us had had enough, and we left the line also. Between the cutting in line and this angry monk, the church no longer felt holy. I didn't really care to see their star on the floor even if it was the place where Jesus was born.

As we left the church, I began to cool off though. I started to reflect on what had happened. Even though I

don't think the monk handled his anger well, I can somewhat appreciate how frustrating it would be to serve at a holy place you value so deeply while day in and day out tourists disrespect it with our flash photography and loud voices. I can see how his anger may have come out of a deep appreciation for the place of Jesus' birth. Similarly, all of the groups that I considered disrespectful for cutting in line were nonetheless compelled by a desire to be near the holy. These realizations in turn caused me to reflect on a story from the Gospel of John.

In John 5 we're told the story of a man who had been bed-ridden for thirty-eight years. Jesus encounters the man and asks him if he wants to be healed. The man responds that he has tried to go to the pools of Bethesda where others have been said to be healed, but whenever he goes people cut in front of him and he is unable to make it to the water. Jesus doesn't insist that he go to the holy site for his healing. Jesus tells the man to get up and walk. Healing for this man was not found in the pools of Bethesda with their long lines and pushy people. Healing was found in the living person of Jesus.

I value all that I heard and saw in the Holy Land, but experiences like the one we had at the Church of the Nativity reminded me that human nature remains the same across time and across space. Being in the place where Jesus was born didn't make the line cutters, the angry monk, or me automatically any more holy or better as people. It's only through experiencing the love of Jesus that we are truly changed, and I'm thankful that that love is available to all be it in Bethlehem or Beltsville.

## Faithful Readers

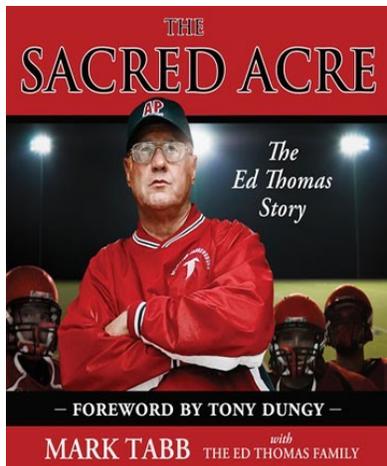
Lots of discussion in June of “Heaven Is For Real” by Todd Burpo, with varied descriptions of what heaven is like for each person, and how the book portrayed the boy’s view of heaven.

Told simply, the book allowed the reader to focus on more thought provoking images, yet brought up more questions of what heaven is really going to be like ... the group liked the book and agreed it generated much to think about.

We next meet in October after the summer break to read, “**The Sacred Acre—The Ed Thomas Story**” by Mark Tabb.

“God willing, we will play our first home game here on this field this season.”

Ed Thomas stepped out in faith with this stunning prediction in the somber day after a massive F-5 tornado devastated his hometown of Parkersburg, Iowa. They needed something to hope for, and their beloved high school football coach offered just that. One hundred days later, the home team scored a victory on the field they called, “The Sacred Acre.” However, just as the town was beginning to rebuild, another unbelievable tragedy struck. Ed Thomas was gunned down by a former student as he was coaching a group of athletes. What happened next, in this incredible true story provides a lesson in grace and forgiveness that the people of Parkersburg and the entire nation won’t soon forget.



## VBS 2012: Top Ten Reasons to Join the Fun

If you are reading this and haven’t yet registered for the 2012 Vacation Bible School, I hope you know what you will be missing. In fact, if you read on, I know you will know because following are the Top Ten Reasons to Register for VBS 2012 at Emmanuel UMC:

10. Emmanuel VBS is for all ages.
9. Two words every Methodist wants to hear: Dinner Included!
8. Bryant Davis is teaching: His classes are standing-room only. Okay, sitting-room only.
7. Two words you may not know: Pueblo Viejo! (Come find out.)
6. We offer two adult classes: A traditional one and an English-Spanish one.
5. Emmanuel VBS includes teens! We value our teens and want them to register to join the fun.
4. Emmanuel VBS offers a nursery for kids younger than 4 and classes for kids 4 and older.
3. Emmanuel VBS has great promotional videos. If you haven’t seen them, check them out at [www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net](http://www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net). But attending Emmanuel VBS is even better!
2. Only \$10 buys you 5 evenings of dinner, learning, and fun.
1. Emmanuel VBS will be better with you attending!

## Emmanuel Goes to Emory Grove

On Wednesday, July 18th, members of the Emmanuel Chancel Choir, the Abundant Life Singers, will be the special music at the Emory Grove Hymn Sing. Meet in the Emmanuel parking lot at 5 pm and bring a dish to share. We will carpool to Emory Grove and have a potluck in the historic Emory Grove Hotel. At 7:30 pm, we will attend the Hymn Sing and return to Beltsville by about 10-10:30 pm. The Hymn Sing is an hour of singing hymns picked by the congregation with a break for special music. Come with us to support the Emmanuel Abundant Life Singers. Then, on Sunday, July 29th, join us for Emmanuel Family Day at Emory Grove. Meet at Emory Grove about 4 pm for a tour of the Grove and then join us in games, including horseshoes, ping pong and possibly a softball game. There is a playground for younger children. We will have a cook-out at 6 pm before the Worship Service at 7:30 pm. Pastors Daniel and Ben will provide the Worship in the Emory Grove Tabernacle. Plan to join us for the fun day in the historic Methodist Camp Meeting Ground.

Emory Grove has held Worship services every summer since 1868 in an open-air Tabernacle. Hundreds of people come each summer to join visiting churches in worship on Sunday evenings. Emory Grove started as a Camp Meeting Ground with canvas tents and three hotels for lodging. Over the years, two of the hotels have succumbed to the elements and the tents were replaced with 46 cottages. Today, the cottages are owned by members of the Emory Grove Association and the hotel is no longer used for lodging. Receptions, potlucks, dinners, and meetings are held in the hotel during the summer months. And, the cottage at 112 Waugh Ave is owned by the Mellott family, who spend most summer weekends there.

Kathy Mellott's grandparents introduced her to Emory Grove when they purchased a cottage in the 1960's. She and her family have come to Emory Grove every summer since. Going through the stone gates is like going back in time. The temperature is reported to be 10° cooler than any place else in the Baltimore area due to the tree cover. The streets and walkways are named for Methodist Bishops.

Emory Grove is located in Glyndon, MD, just outside of Reisterstown. To get there from Beltsville, take I-95 North to I-695 toward Towson. Take I-795 (exit 19) and continue until the road ends at a stoplight and it becomes Butler Road. Go through another light and continue over the old train bridge into Glyndon. Watch for the historic marker on the left and turn left onto Waugh Ave. Take the right fork in the road. Go through the stone gates into Emory Grove. Driving time from Beltsville is approximately one hour.

The hotel will be on the left. Plan to park on the right side as you enter. We will gather at the hotel. There is handicapped parking and handicapped access to the Hotel, the Tabernacle and to the Tabernacle stage.

For questions or more information, contact Kathy or Pat Mellott at 301-937-7538 or 301-706-4122.



Historic Emory Grove Hotel, located in Glyndon, Md.

**EMMANUEL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BELTSVILLE, MD**

# Family Movie night

On The Lawn **FREE**

**Fridays July 6-Aug: 10**  
**Movies begin at Sundown**  
**11416 Cedar Lane Beltsville, MD 20705**  
**[www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net](http://www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net)**

**July 6– The Little Mermaid (G)**  
**July 13– The Muppets (PG)**  
**July 20– Labyrinth (PG)**  
**July 27– Who Framed Roger Rabbit (PG)**  
**Aug. 3– How To Train Your Dragon (PG)**  
**Aug. 10– Toy Story 3 (G)**

# Worship and the Arts

An introduction to Art, Worship, Theology, and how they work together

No artistic or musical experience needed

Projects from the class will be used for Sunday worship

Taught by Pastor Ben with Special Guests

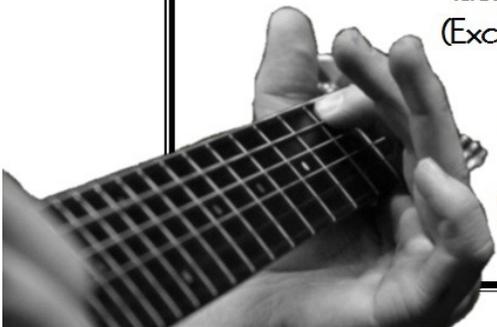
Tuesdays June 26th – August 14th  
(Except July 10th because of VBS)

6-6:30pm BYOD

(Bring your own dinner)

6:30-7:30pm Free Class

Meet in the Fellowship Hall



## From Your Finance Committee

By Charlie Deegan, Chairman

The Finance Committee is excited to inform you that this year's giving is up compared to last year. We thank everyone for your faithfulness. This has allowed Emmanuel to continue its ministries while being responsible stewards of our finances. Overall, Emmanuel church is strong.

A recent discussion on congregational giving reminded Finance Committee members that many families donate goods and services to Emmanuel. For example, after we purchased the new parsonage, Gary Heath donated his services as an electrician to get it ready for the pastor. Members have donated materials for church events, such as the spaghetti sauce for a church dinner, as well. Such gifts are a big help in controlling church expenses, and over a year's time may represent a significant contribution by a churchgoer. In the past, we haven't had a way to recognize these "in kind" contributions so they could be included on the donor's income tax returns. I am happy to say that we are putting a procedure in place so that donors will be able to get tax credit for their contributions of goods and services, as well as cash.

Reminder - when you go out of town, please remember to mail your check to the office or place it in the offering plate before you leave. Your generous contribution helps us to do the work of Christ in our community all year long. I am always available to discuss your concerns or suggestions. If you don't run into me at church, you can reach me by email ([CharlesDeegan@aol.com](mailto:CharlesDeegan@aol.com)) or by phone (301-937-7070). More to come next month!



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jason Pavelka
- 2 Bob Hiner, Whitney Ademiluyi, Abraham Scotland
- 5 Mildred Bladen, Frances Cruz, Donald Galloway
- 7 Wanda Scotland, Tobi Haufe
- 8 Margaret Ward
- 9 Kevin Andrews, Teresa Dorsey
- 10 Andrew Onukwubiri
- 11 Gail Belshay
- 12 Leslie Giron
- 15 Charles Leatherman
- 17 Lorna Marselas
- 19 Trudy Headley
- 21 Nancy Green
- 22 Marcus Baird, Steven Cunningham
- 23 Crispin Wray
- 24 Dustin Storck
- 25 John Kaufmann
- 28 Kemi Oluwafemi, Temitope Oluwafemi
- 29 Sara Hunter
- 30 Lenora Painter, Kristin Fadely
- 31 Katie Crott, Paul Cruz, Mary Anne Heath,  
Amy Jo Harding, Edward Mellott



### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Beverly & George Urick
- 6 Donna Horton & Todd Reitzel
- 7 Wanda & Abraham Scotland
- 8 Kimberly & Brian Beach
- 12 Kathy & Pat Mellott
- 18 Lezlee & Jeff Kramer
- 25 JoAnne & Donal Blakley
- 28 Elizabeth & Edward Mougey

### Altar Flowers



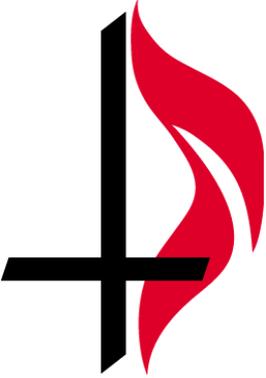
- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| July 1    |                 |
| July 8    | Trudy Headley   |
| July 15   |                 |
| July 22   | Theresa Timity  |
| July 29   | Irene Forsbacka |
| August 3  | Elliott's       |
| August 12 |                 |
| August 19 | Janet Doetsch   |
| August 26 |                 |

# JULY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9 &amp; 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Worship &amp; the Arts class led by Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan in the fellowship hall 6-6:30 pm bring your own dinner 6:30-7:30 free class</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Family Movie Night starts at sundown "The Little Mermaid" (G)</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 &amp; 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>Second Sunday Lunch</p> <p>Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Vacation Bible School 6 pm daily from 9 to 13 July</p>				<p>14</p>
	<p>7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</p>	<p>10 am Prayer Fellowship</p>			<p>Family Movie Night starts at sundown "The Muppets" (PG)</p>	
<p>15</p> <p>9 &amp; 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Worship &amp; the Arts class led by Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan in the fellowship hall 6-6:30 pm bring your own dinner 6:30-7:30 free class</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Emory Grove Hymn Sing</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11 am Community Place Café</p> <p>Family Movie Night starts at sundown "The Labryinth" (PG)</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 &amp; 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>Homeless Ministry</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10 am Prayer Fellowship Worship &amp; the Arts class led by Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan in the fellowship hall 6-6:30 pm bring your own dinner 6:30-7:30 free class</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 pm Food Preparation</p> <p>Family Movie Night starts at sundown "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" (PG)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10 am Food Distribution</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 &amp; 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Worship &amp; the Arts class led by Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan in the fellowship hall 6-6:30 pm bring your own dinner 6:30-7:30 free class</p>				

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