

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

March 2010



Pastor Daniel Mejia

“Fab bday wknd w/ my bffs. we had a good time playin games n watchin tv all nite. my rents baked my fave cake. i was sad wen my prty was ovr. Btw, cant wait 4 my bday prty nxt yr.”

Before you try to adjust your reading glasses because you think something is wrong with the paragraph above, let me introduce you to the language of “texting.” If you have a teenager at home, you know exactly what I am talking about. Texting is a culture of its own with many devoted followers, young and old, but mostly young, who enjoy sending short messages to each other. Instead of calling, they simply send a few fragmented sentences or words to get the information they need or want to communicate. However, unless you know and understand the language of “texting” you will be left scratching your head in confusion, for you will not understand the message that “texting” is trying to communicate.

“The UMW invites all its circles to meet in the Fellowship Hall to decide how much help they will provide for this year’s VBS. The

UMM will provide refreshments for their meeting. Don’t forget to also bring your donations for the coat drive. There will be collection boxes in the Narthex and the Chester Stewart Sunday school classroom.”

Before you try to adjust your reading glasses because you think something is wrong with the paragraph above, let me introduce you to the language of “churching.” If you have been a United Methodist for the past 30 years you know what I’m talking about. “Churching” is a culture of its own with many devoted followers, young and old, but mostly older, who use abbreviations and “churchy” language to communicate with each other. However, unless you know and understand the language of “churching” you will be left scratching your head in confusion, for you will not understand the message that churching is trying to communicate.

In no way, shape or form am I picking on the extremely important work and ministry that the United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men do to contribute to the life of our church. However, I want to draw attention to the internal culture and language of our church that unintentionally becomes foreign to the “Non-Methodist.” We need to make our message, words, and actions more accessible to those who are outside of the United Methodist culture. We don’t need to change the essence of the message; but we do need to reflect and reshape the way

we communicate the message of love and salvation that we have received from Christ to a society that for the most part is not familiar with our faith and church culture. The longest standing tradition of the church is “change.” Every generation since the Resurrection has faced the challenge of communicating clearly the greatest story ever told to other generations. The Season of Lent has been throughout the ages a time of introspective reflection, a time of assessing our spiritual growth or lack thereof. I want to challenge you this Lent to make the deliberate effort to make room for the Holy Spirit in your life and allow God’s presence to make you aware of the ways in which you and I without realizing it get in the way of God’s great story. People in Beltsville are in desperate need of knowing that God loves and cares for them, and we are the ones chosen to communicate that message. It is time for us to speak and act in a way that people will understand and see what the love of God truly means.

By the way, here is what the text message meant to say: ***“I had a wonderful birthday weekend with my best friends. They all came and we had a good time. My parents baked my favorite cake. We played games and watched TV all night. But I was sad when my party was over. I can’t wait for my birthday party next year.”***

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

By Mike Hatton and George Urick, Co-chairmen, Worship Committee

Snow! Snow! Snow! It is beautiful and is a blessing! It's one that helps to clear the air. It waters our precious earth and helps to support life for man and all of God's creatures.

As you know, some of Emmanuel United Methodist Church's programs had to be cancelled in early February due to the real effects on all of us from large accumulations of snow and ice from the "Blizzard of 2010." The Worship Planning Retreat to be held on Saturday, February 6th, did not occur because of the snowstorm. Committee members expect that a new time will be decided upon, but probably not until after Easter according to Rev. Mejia, as all Saturdays are mostly booked during the Lenten season.

As the Advent wreath and devotional guide in December proved to be so popular, meaningful, and spiritually uplifting, some thought has been given to the use of something similar during Lent. So, Rev. Mejia and his helpers prepared another blessing for all of us to be revealed between services on Sunday, the 21st of February. Excitement was in the air! Hope you were there!

Please refer to your church bulletin or most recent church calendar to be found in the Lamplighter about the season's activities. Briefly, some program high-

lights during Lent are as follows:

- Feb. 17th - 7:30 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service (EUMC hosting Queen's Chapel)
- Mar. 28th - 11:15 a.m. - Cantata, Palm Sunday
- April 1st - 7:00 p.m. - Maunday Thursday/Seder tasting - afterwards
- April 2nd - 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday, Tenebrae Service
- April 4th - 6:30 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service at St. John's Episcopal - breakfast to follow
- April 4th - 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. - Easter Worship Services

We are all invited to come, be a party to, and to participate in our personal journey of faith. Let's invite our family, neighbors and friends to worship with us during this Holy Season.

Please advance your comments, ideas and concerns to us. We do care. You are appreciated.

Sunday School

By Todd Reitzel, Superintendent

"Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

Beginning on February 28, a new adult Sunday education class will offer native speakers of English and Spanish the chance to learn some of the other language in a bilingual environment, plus the chance to also learn more about Jesus' life and message. The class will be offered in con-

junction with Pastor Mejia's sermon series "Highway to Zion: The Tour."

Like the sermon series, "Highway to Zion: The Bilingual Class" will focus on Jesus' travels to cities and towns such as Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jericho, Bethany, and Jerusalem. The class will also offer opportunities for English and Spanish speakers ways to learn some of the other language in fellowship with one another.

Assistant pastor Michelle Thorne will lead the class and will be assisted by other church members. The class will be held on the second floor of the Education Building.

Jane Grays will continue her adult study class on 1 Corinthians through Galatians, and Todd Reitzel will continue his class Following Jesus: Steps to a More Passionate Faith. These classes always welcome new participants.

Highway to Zion: The Bilingual Class will begin on Sunday, February 28, during the education period between worship services: 10:15a.m.-11:00a.m. The sermon series begins the previous Sunday. Come build your knowledge of the Bible and your knowledge of another language together with fellow church members and neighbors!



College Scholarships

By Jane Grays, Lay Leader

General Information

Scholarships are for undergraduate student's enrolled fulltime in an accredited college or university in the United States

Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church in the Baltimore Washington Conference

Applicants must submit: completed applications; completed student and pastor's statements, and their most recent official transcript.

Incomplete applications and omitted attachments will not be considered.

Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 15**...applications will not be accepted past the deadline.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need and merit. Awards range from \$450.00--\$1,000.00. Please be aware that the number of applications far exceeds the available funds, so not all eligible students receive aid. Please share this information students, family, and friends. Visit www.bwcumc.org and follow the prompt for Scholarship information and applications.

THANKS

Thank you to the Pavelka family for preparing and serving the food for the Pancake Dinner Theater.

Special thanks to Rick Bergmann and the cast of the Christian Comedy for performing with little rehearsal due to the snow. Altogether it was a great kick off for the season of Lent.

As the Rodney Atkins song says, "But the good news is there's angels everywhere out on the street, holding out a hand to pull you back up on your feet... You're on your knees, you might as well be praying, guess what I'm saying is: If you're going through Hell, keep on going, don't slow down, if you're scared don't show it. You might get out before the Devil even knows you're there."

Please join us for a birthday celebration

**CHARLOTTE ECCARD TURNS 90
ON 9TH MARCH 2010!**

We look forward to celebrating with you
on Sunday, March 7th
at two o'clock in the afternoon

Cards and photos are welcome for a memory book.
No gifts, please.

Fellowship Hall
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705

RSVP by March 1st
Kathy Mellott 301-937-7538
Please turn over for directions.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3. Ray Midkiff,
4. Bill Robertson
6. Mary Nicholson
7. Janet Carter
9. Charlotte Eccard
11. Bryant Davis
12. Adel Wortman,
Kemi Oluwafemi
14. John Bouma
17. Brendan McNealy
18. Nancy Cavallo,
Stacy Graham,
Colin McGlynn
21. Morgan Graham,
Marian Henninger
22. Erin Mellott,
Sue Young
24. Jennifer Kresge,
Margie Mock
28. Dennis McGlynn
31. Stephanie Ladd

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Leatherman family, I would like to thank Pastor Dan and everyone at Emmanuel for all of their prayers, cards, and messages in the loss of my mother on December 30. Mother has been ill since April 2006 and we shall miss her very much, but we know that she is much better off. Thank you again. Sue, Charley, Jessica, Maggie, and Christopher.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

9. Isaac & Kemi Oluwafemi
22. Nancy & Samuel Shiplett

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

- March 7 – Mellott
 March 14 – Wells
 March 21 – Graham
 March 28 – Hassan
 April 4
 April 11 – Deegan
 April 18 – Lois Rodriguez
 April 25 -

**Finance**

By Bill Raulin
 Finance Chairperson

Several people requested that I list all checks dated in 2009 so they will show on the final report for the year. Unfortunately, I can't. The last Sunday of the year fell on 27 December, and nothing can be listed after that. But all is not lost. Your bank will give you

a copy of all your checks, and if they were dated in 2009 you can claim deductions based on them. This is the same for all donations to the church. For example, let's say you wrote a check to a special fund, such as Haitian relief. It may not show up on the day sheet, but if you know the amount you donated to such a special fund, write it down and I will be glad to sign it as Finance chair. Special note: If you donated in cash to the Haitian relief fund, and a lot of us did, bring me the record of the amount you donated and I will sign it.

Every year at this time, some members believe they did not get full credit for their donations to the church. If you use envelopes, we go by the number on the envelope.

If you write a check for something like altar flowers and this is not noted on the check, I will have no way of knowing and it goes into the general fund.

Above all, please do not write a check for two items. Instead, write two checks for proper credit. This is not only for the church, but keep a copy of your checks for all donations. You'll be surprised how it adds up. Let's say you donate a bag full of clothes and shoes along with a guitar etc. Make a list. Here's the rub; you can't get credit for all items at new prices. Instead, add the value of the articles at new prices, then deduct 50% and from that figure deduct 10% for each year old it is. The bottom line is what the IRS will accept.

Dear EUMC,

About a month ago I contracted the flu and spent an entire week running a fever and confined to my bed or the couch. This experience made me so grateful for my body's ability to heal and the gift of health and movement. As I was getting better we happened to get a huge amount of snow and so as a way of celebrating I went for a walk in the snow at dusk. The old-fashioned street lamps of the neighborhood near me had just turned on, the sky was a breathtaking blue as it was beginning to darken, and the fresh white snow had beautifully blanketed the earth. Although it was chilly, I just couldn't get enough! I reveled in taking deep breaths of frosty air and just felt complete joy in being able to move and walk and be outside!

The words of a theologian I have been reading recently for class seem to fit my recent experience. As Juergen Moltmann wrote, "In every serious illness we fight for our lives. In every healing we experience something of the resurrection. We feel new-born, and as if life had been given back to us." Although my illness was not life-threatening, I experienced a taste of this new-born resurrection life afterwards. I have found that some of the simplest experiences can convey the most profound meanings. I thank God for this taste of the resurrection and imagine that it is a small glimpse into the life of the world to come. As we enter Lent and prepare to observe and celebrate



Michelle Thorne

the death and resurrection of Jesus this year, let us thank God for the moments of resurrection and new life in our lives and that have been, are, and are yet to come!

Joy!

Michelle

PS: I want to thank you again for your support of my trip to Israel-Palestine. Because many of you have been asking to hear about it and see pictures, here are a few upcoming events to put on your calendar in which I hope to share about this experience:

***March 7th** – I will be preaching.

***March 14th** – I will be doing a presentation at Second Sunday Lunch about my experience Israel-Palestine.

***Feb. 28th – April 4th** – I will be helping with a 6 week Sunday

School class that is based on the preaching series Highway to Zion for Lent. It will be bilingual with opportunities to learn some Spanish/English words and is for everyone! I hope to include some pictures and thoughts about the cities that we are traveling through from all that I just saw and experienced on my trip!

ROCK 2010 Update

Thank you for supporting the youth and adults who went to ROCK 2010 by your prayers and gifts! We had a wonderful time in Ocean City, Maryland and I just wanted to share some of the thoughts of the youth upon returning in their own words. Some are named and some prefer to remain anonymous:

"I think ROCK 2010 was amazing and spirit-lifting. I felt like I was closer to God. I enjoyed this experience and want to go back."

"I really liked the girl's speaker Jenna Lucado!" Joelle Onukwibiri

"It was cool. I had fun at the ROCK."

"It was a spiritually uplifting moment I will never forget."



Faithful Readers Book Club

Consensus was that our last book, "The Shack" was a great read!

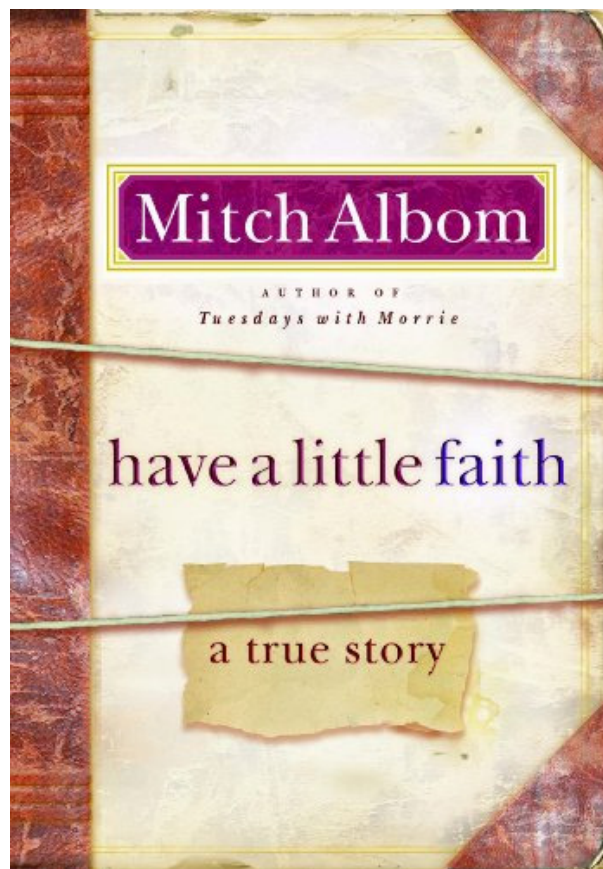
Our next meeting is Saturday, March 27th, 2010.

We meet 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the education building. "Have a Little Faith", by Mitch Albom.

Come with your own topic for discussion and we'll have light refreshments.

If you love to read and share ideas, please come join us and bring a friend!

Questions? Contact Bryant Davis
(brant.davis@montgomerycollege.edu) or Carol Clatterbuck (clcresearch@earthlink.net)

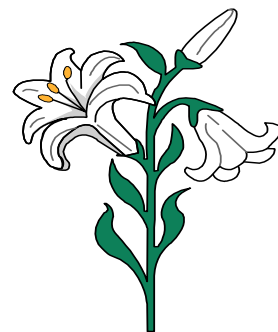


EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

PLEASE CIRCLE COLOR YOU ARE ORDERING

Lily (5-7 blooms).....\$11.00
Daffodils (5-6 blooms).....\$11.00 (yellow)
Hyacinths (3 blooms).....\$11.00 (white, pink, blue)
Tulips (5-6 blooms).....\$11.00 (red, pink, yellow)

(DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS SUNDAY, March 28)



Please order _____ of _____ given by _____
number name flower phone number

IN MEMORY OF _____

Please order _____ of _____ given by _____
number name flower phone number

IN HONOR OF _____

Total amount of order _____ Check enclosed _____ Date Received _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EUMC – EASTER FLOWERS

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

By Jane Grays, United Methodist Women, Education & Interpretation

For many years, United Methodist Women (UMW) throughout the Baltimore-Washington Conference has sponsored area projects that make life better for women, children and youth.

Montgomery Avenue Women's Center, 112 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-762-2288, is highlighted this issue!

The Montgomery Ave Women’s Center (MAWC) is a non-profit organization that provides supportive services to more than 250 women each year faced with the challenge of being homeless. The people who operate the MAWC are committed to providing every individual woman with the personal support she needs in order to acknowledge her self-worth and dignity. It is a place where each woman is cared for and treated with a high level of respect.

The MAWC seeks to provide the basic human needs of food, shelter and clothing, in addition to friendly companionship and support. Beyond the basic needs, MAWC provides case management, substance abuse counseling, life skills training, and services of a psychiatrist. Programs are designed to help women become self-sufficient and include daily course work, group sessions, counseling, and life skills courses.

How Can You Help?

- Volunteer to help at the shelter.
- Help with newsletter and mailings.
- Be an advocate – tell other about the Center and homeless women.
- Invite a speaker to come to your church.
- Attend the fund raising events
- Develop your own fundraiser for the Center.
- Donate any the following: food, paper products, hygiene items, cleaning and laundry products, office supplies, and clothing.

Food Closet Status

Our food closet is in tip top shape and ready for more items. We are low in beans, pasta and potatoes now. Thank you to all our church members who bring canned goods to the basket by the front door in the Narthex. Each month there are families who appreciate knowing they can receive food, if needed.



Troop 1033 Helps Us

Boy Scout Troop 1033 Scoutmaster, Gary Bauman, back row left, and members of the troop cleared snow from the sidewalks and doorways of the church following the 20 inch snowfall of December 20, 2009.

They did it again after our most recent blizzard.

The troop has a tradition of performing community service, and their actions make a big difference. Thank You!



Girl Scouts Made Scarves for the Homeless

Girl Scout Cadettes from troops 2751 and 4129 helped make 50 scarves for the homeless on the beautiful Saturday morning of January 10th, 2010.

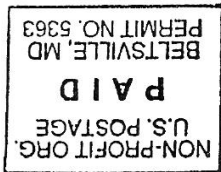
The scarves were cut from different patterns of fleece ranging from stripes to polka dots. The gorgeous fabrics were very warm and comfortable. When the girls cut the fleece, one held the fabric down while the other used scissors to make a straight cut resulting with a long strip used to make into a scarf. Later they fringed the ends after they cut all the scarves.

It was a fun activity and they were helping the community at the same time. The activity was for the D.C. Homeless Ministry and was sponsored by the Emmanuel Methodist Church. The Girl Scouts hope that their donation will contribute to all who need warmth in this cold time of year. Thank you troops 2751 and 4129!

March 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 7:00 p.m. ESOL Classes | 3 6:00 p.m. Maranatha Choir 6:00 p.m. Communication Committee 7:00 p.m. Church Council | 4 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir | 5 7:00 p.m. Teen Club | 6 12 Noon UMW General Meeting |
| 7 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 12:30 p.m. UMW Exec Meeting | 8 12:30 p.m. Beltsville Women's Club 7:00 p.m. Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 p.m. Trustees | 9 7:00 p.m. ESOL Classes | 10 6:00 p.m. Maranatha Choir 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee | 11 10:00 a.m. Prayer Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir | 12 | 13 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast |
| 14 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 2nd Sunday Lunch | 15 12:00 noon Ellen Hoover Circle | 16 7:00 p.m. ESOL Classes | 17 10:00 a.m. Susanna Wesley Circle Noon Dorcas Circle 6:00 p.m. Marantha Choir 7:00 p.m. Sisters In Spirit | 18 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir | 19 11:00 a.m. Community Place Café | 20 10:00 a.m. RUMMAGE SALE |
| 21 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School | 22 7:00 p.m. Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group | 23 7:00 p.m. ESOL Classes | 24 6:00 p.m. Maranatha Choir 7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership Meeting | 25 10:00 a.m. Prayer Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir | 26 | 27 10:00 a.m. Faithful Readers Book Club |
| 28 Palm Sunday 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School Cantata at 11:15 service | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7114
Web: www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net
Address Service Requested



RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday March 20th
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Clothing, Household Goods, Jewelry, Books & Baked Goods.

Breakfast sandwiches and hot drinks available starting at 9:15 a.m.
Hot-off-the grill hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch.