

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

October 2012



Pastor Daniel Mejia

It seems to me that every time there is a TV show, movie or book that explores the possibility of a world destroyed by a natural disaster of apocalyptic proportions only the attractive, the young, and the mostly white/Caucasian people survive.

Now, if that is the case, I am in deep trouble since I'm not attractive, young, or white. Obviously, TV shows, movies, and books reflect in their storylines and characters the personality, context, and ethnicity of its creators. Our creations reflect who we are. However, in a country where the Caucasian population is decreasing while simultaneously non-Caucasian populations are growing, I wonder how long will it take before our stories reflect more faithfully the way our nation looks? On September 7th of this year DC Comics added to their long list of superheroes their first Muslim-American Green Lantern. "He is a Muslim from Dearborn, Michigan who leaves behind street racing to join an intergalactic police force. Simon Baz, the muscular protagonist in his early 20s with the Arabic word for courage, "al-shuja'a," tat-

toed on his arm is the latest example of superhero diversity in the comic book world. His debut comes after Marvel Comics presented a half-black, half-Latino Spider-Man last year." (The Washington Post)

Personally, I am a superhero fan. I cannot imagine my childhood without the Superman movies or Superman pajamas I loved wearing. I cannot imagine my childhood without Spiderman, Batman, The Hulk, and Captain America cartoons and movies. I still get super excited when a superhero movie comes out. But as I see their movies and listen closely to their stories I find myself more and more asking a simple question, "Where are the Latino people in their story? I guess we don't exist in Batman's world." Far from this being just a loud complaint about the lack of racial diversity in Hollywood, I want to take my question one step further. I want to use my reflection to ask ourselves simple questions: "When we look at our church who is not part of our story? When we look at our church who is not part of our ministries? When we look at our church who is not part of our budget? When we look at our church who is not part of our decisions? Who is not part of our story? Who doesn't exist in our story?"

It would be an understatement to say that Jesus constantly asks us to look for those who are ignored in our story. When we look at the entire Biblical narrative we can see from the beginning the painful struggle between siblings, families,

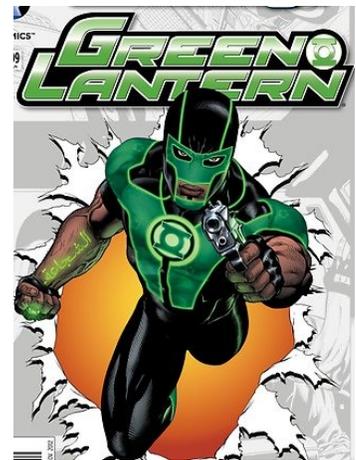
disciples, and nations to exclude the other from their stories and from the love of God. As a parent who invariably has to correct the selfishness of his/her children, God intervenes and breaks our limited vision and understanding of the other hoping that we will share God's fullness and grace. Our job as people of faith is opposite of Hollywood, we go and search for those who have been left out and invite them to be part of God's love story for all of us. Our job is to open the script of God's love story and make room for the overlooked in our families and churches.

I want to conclude with the words of the Apostle Paul to the church in Galatia. "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Daniel Mejia



Simon Baz, Muslim-American Green Lantern



Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan

This semester at Wesley Seminary my classes are more narrowly focused than any of my previous semesters. Among other things I'll be taking "United Methodist History and Doctrine", "The Theology of John Wesley", and "United Methodist Polity." All three of these classes focus on the Wesleyan tradition and the life and works of its founder, John Wesley. For me, this semester is an opportunity to immerse myself in the thoughts and world view of a great man of God and it is an opportunity to claim more fully my United Methodist heritage. As far as possible, I want to invite you with me on this journey. Over the next few months I'll be writing about Wesley, the Methodist Movement, and why it matters for us today.

This semester I'm also starting something else that I'm very excited about. Last week I joined a group of four other young men to start an accountability group. Over the past year, my spiritual disciplines have lacked vigor. Whenever I find myself in this place of spotty practice, I notice a real, negative difference in my life and relationships with other people. Rather than just feeling guilty about not read-

ing my Bible or praying enough though, I thought it made sense to build supportive relationships that would directly encourage me to be the kind of person I want to be. Our accountability group will be a space for us to pray, study the scriptures together, and reflect on life. I bring this up because accountability is a very Wesleyan practice.

Throughout history people have undulated between peaks and troughs of religiosity. Prior to the Wesleyan movement in England, the English people were in a trough. Bloody fighting over religious belief, corruption, and a general disconnect between religion and daily life caused people to become jaded about Christianity. Wesley and others found an answer to this problem in the Pietist movement in Germany. Almost a century before Wesley, Philip Jacob Spener argued that to restore the church (from a similar situation to England in Wesley's time) small groups of lay people should join together to study scripture and discover how it spoke to their lives. Spener and others felt that for

Christianity to have any effect in people's lives, they needed to know how to practice it day to day. Wesley embraced this observation and created "Bands." Bands were small groups of people who met together to seek to live a more God-centered life. These bands had a powerful and positive impact on English society.

I believe that what Spener and Wesley found to be true in their time and situations is true now as well. The Holy Spirit moves through our brothers and sisters in Christ, and by entering into trusting relationships of accountability with them we can allow the voice of God in others to speak to us today. It is easier to "run the race" as a team. Have you been wanting to deepen your commitment to God? Have you been struggling with something alone? I invite you to consider seeking out a small group of individuals that can strive with you. It can be a truly life changing experience.



United Methodist Women Host Missionary

Missionary Sue Porter will be coming to our church to join us for a Potluck luncheon on October 17th at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Sue has just returned to the United States after completing her work in Ganta, Liberia. She will bring us up-to-date on her future plans.

Please plan to join the UMW for lunch and to welcome Sue home. Everyone is welcome!

Thank you,
Emmy Lear
Chairman, Susannah Wesley Circle

The circle meetings are small groups of ladies planned so they can to get to know each other better. There is a real sense of community by the members who have been in the circle awhile and ladies who have joined recently.

The general meetings start with a potluck lunch on a Saturday afternoon. Then there is a speaker or a film on an interesting topic and time for discussion. We wrap up with a business meeting.

I am very enthusiastic about the United Methodist Women. I hope you will be too.

Ernie Kilbourne

By attending the conference, one can expect to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the Charge Conference proceedings and catch a small glimpse of how the local church functions within the greater organizational structure of the United Methodist Church.



An International Day at Emmanuel

By Bobbie Deegan

Beltsville is fortunate to be home for residents from many lands. Our congregation is similarly enriched. It includes persons originally from the Philippines, Honduras, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Scotland and China, among others, and the Mejias hail from Mexico! In conjunction with World Communion Sunday on October 7th, the community has been invited to help Emmanuel celebrate Beltsville's cultural diversity with two special events.

Portions of each worship service on October 7th will feature congregants speaking their native language, the scriptures will be read in English by some of our ESOL students, and the choir is preparing special music. After the second service, a potluck luncheon will feature foods from other countries. Whether you have a favorite dish from your native land or just enjoy cooking ethnic foods, you're invited to bring a dish to share. We hope to feature at least 20 dishes representing 10 countries. Please join us on October 7th to celebrate Beltsville's cultural diversity.

United Methodist Women

Our UMW currently consists of four circles and a general membership of ladies who are unable to attend a circle for various reasons. Each circle meets once a month. In addition, there is a monthly general meeting that everyone attend. The four circles are:

The Susanna Wesley Circle meets the third Wednesday at 10 a.m. The Chairperson is Emmy Lear 301-937-7314. The missionary is Sussana Porter

The Dorcas Circle meets the third Wednesday at noon. The Chairperson is Eleanor Butler, 301-937- 7314. The missionaries are Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena.

The Ellen Hoover Circle meets the third Monday at noon at the church. The Chairperson is Barbara Butcher, 301-937-3719. The missionary is Dr. Ellen Hoover.

The Sisters in Spirit Circle meets the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. The Chair Person is Jane Grays 301-937-6392.

Charge Conference

By: Ann Rowland
Church Council Chair

All church members are invited to attend the Charge Conference here at Emmanuel on Saturday, October 6th at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The District Superintendent or her designee will be the presiding officer where our church government will be at work at its most basic level, the local church.

Many reports, forms and documents have been prepared by the Pastor, staff and leaders of the church in preparation for this conference. The Charge Conference, among many other responsibilities, receives numerous committee reports including Staff Parish Relations, Trustees and Finance. Presented for approval are the church goals and objectives, nominations for church officers and leaders and the recommendation and renewal of our Lay Speaker. This provides you only with a thumbnail sketch of some of the proceedings, but there is so much more that is acted upon at the Charge Conference.

Trunk or Treat

Our annual Halloween Trunk or Treat will be on Wednesday, October 31st. For the safety of the children, cars should be parked by 6:30 p.m. and not moved until 7:30 p.m. Children should begin arriving by 6:30 p.m. Bring lots of candy to give out as children go from car to car. Glo-sticks and reflective bags will be given out to all the children. Plan to be there, either with your car to give out candy or with your children (ages through 6 grade) to get candy. It's a fun time for all. See the flyer for more information.

If you can help set up before or clean up after, please contact Kathy Mellott at 301-937-7538 or kpmellott@verizon.net

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705 301-937-7114



Parking Lot Trunk or Treat

- Cars must be parked between 6pm & 6:30pm
- Kids (through 6th grade) go car to car instead of house to house
- For safety reasons, cars must not be moved while kids are Trunk or Treating
- Awards will be given for best decorated cars
- Bring lots of candy to give out

www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net

Halloween Night, October 31st from 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Church-wide Retreat is in October

Plan to join us for our annual Retreat/Getaway Weekend at Manidokan. Family Life pays half of the cost for the weekend, including a room its own bathroom, 5 meals and fellowship with other members of Emmanuel. Registration forms and the schedule of activities are in the Narthex and in the September Lamplighter. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Mellott at 301-937-7538 or kpmellott@verizon.net. Final registration is due to Manidokan by October 5th.



Blessing of the Animals

By Bobbie Deegan

Emmanuel will be going to the dogs on October 14th - and to cats, birds, and perhaps a ferret or two! Because on Sunday, October 14th at 4 p.m. we will host our 2nd Annual Blessing of the Animals. The community is being invited (through the Beltsville News!) to join Rev. Mejia and our congregation on the lawn

next to the Cross. All pets are welcome, but must be on a leash, in a cage or otherwise restrained. Last year we had LOTS of dogs – cat lovers, unite! Come one, come all to what promises to be a barkin' good time!

Meals & Wheels of College Park Requests Help

Meals and Wheels of College Park is in need of help in preparing, delivering, and administering the 35 year old program that operates out of the College Park United Methodist Church, 9601 Rhode Island Avenue. They provide three meals a day five days each week to 45 to 60 clients in College Park, Greenbelt, Berwyn & part of Beltsville who are unable for various reasons to prepare meals for themselves. Drivers may receive reimbursement for gasoline. Volunteer activities are typically in the morning and duties may include minimal administrative functions. These clients need your help. The rewards are immeasurable. If you can help, please telephone the Meals on Wheels folks at 301-474-1002 Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

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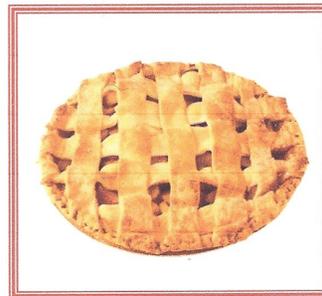


Apple Festival

Saturday, November 3
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For Sale:
Handmade Crafts,
Toys, Books,
Attic Treasures,
Fresh Georgia
Pecans and
Lunch

Homemade Baked Goods
Will Be For Sale, As Well
As Our Fabulous
Handmade Apple Pies



Craft Tables Are Available To
Rent, Please Call 301-937-7114
For More Details

Proceeds Benefit Women and Children Through
Approved UMW Mission Programs

United Methodist Women Apple Festival & Craft Show

Mark your calendar for our annual Apple Festival & Craft Show scheduled for Saturday, November 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for Christmas shopping, bargain hunting, lunch and APPLE PIE! We sell books, Jewelry, attic treasures, housewares, decorations and more!

Volunteers are needed to donate items, help set up, help make pies, cashier and pack items, put up and remove signs, donate items to the **bake sale**, help with lunch and clean-up.

Bring a friend! This is a great way for youth to earn service hours. We unfortunately have a “no early shopping” policy. Call Debbie McNitt for more information at 301-937-4291.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rose Johnson, Abraham Scotland
- 2 John Cavallo
- 4 Erica Belshay
- 5 Shirl Akers
- 7 Peggy Wells
- 10 Cecelia Bouma
- 13 Lauren Fadely, Alexandra Butcher,
Michael Hatton
- 14 Brian Beach
- 15 Magdalena Elliott, Elizabeth Elliott,
Edrie Powell
- 16 Samantha Painter
- 18 Madison Cruz, Leticia Mejia,
Charles Vannoy
- 19 Susan Leatherman, Kathy Mellott,
Betty Osborn
- 20 Betty Midkiff
- 21 Brian Crotti
- 22 Kell Jones, Mary Plantholt
- 23 Shawn West
- 24 Patricia Embrey, Janet Jones, Ruth Vaye
- 25 Mabel Claye
- 29 Donna Horton, Cameron Beach
- 31 Ronald Midkiff, May Stewart



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

- 6 Eleanor & Jim Butler

Altar Flowers



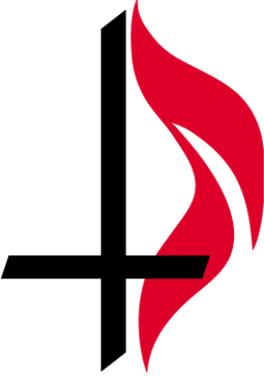
- Oct. 7 Nancy Thrush
- Oct. 14 Elliott's
- Oct. 21 Hatton
- Oct. 28 -

OCTOBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 p.m. ESOL Classes 7 p.m. Youth Learning Fellowship	3 6 p.m. Maranatha Choir	4 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	5	6 10 a.m. Faithful Readers Book Club 2 p.m. Charge Conference
7 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. New Members Class International Pot-luck Lunch 12:30 p.m. UMW Exec. Mtg. 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 1 p.m. Youth Fellowship	8 12:30 p.m. Beltsville Women's Club 6 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting 7 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting	9 10 a.m. Prayer Fellowship 7 p.m. ESOL Classes 7 p.m. Youth Learning Fellowship	10 6 p.m. Maranatha Choir	11 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	12	13 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
14 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. New Members Class 2nd Sunday Lunch	15 12 noon Ellen Hoover Circle	16 7 p.m. ESOL Classes 7 p.m. Youth Learning Fellowship	17 12 noon UMW Lunch with Susanna Porter 6 p.m. Maranatha Choir 7 p.m. Sisters in Spirit	18 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	19 11 a.m. Community Place Café 7 p.m. Youth Friday Night Social Family Life Retreat	20
21 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. New Members Class 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	22 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support Group	23 10 a.m. Prayer Fellowship 7 p.m. ESOL Classes 7 p.m. Youth Learning Fellowship	24 6 p.m. Maranatha Choir	25 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	26 7 p.m. Food Preparation	27 10 a.m. Food Distribution
28 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. News Members Class 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 4 to 6 p.m. Halloween Party on the 2nd floor of the Education Building		MONDAY 29 7 p.m. Staff Parish Committee Meeting	TUESDAY 30 7 p.m. ESOL Classes 7 p.m. Youth Fellowship	WEDNESDAY 31 Parking Lot Trick or Treat		

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