

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

November 2012



Pastor Daniel Mejia

It is old news by now but you may remember back in August the sad news of an elderly Spanish woman who volunteered to restore a beautiful 19th Century fresco of Jesus from her church and in the process defaced the fresco. Elias Garcia Martinez completely botched her attempt to restore the fresco, turning it from a masterpiece to a grotesque painting with no resemblance of Jesus.

“The Ecce Homo--Behold the Man, was a prized Spanish fresco; the pride of the Sanctuary of Mercy Church in Borja, near Zaragoza, where it has delighted parishioners for more than 100 years. The unprofessional alterations were made by Mrs. Garcia Martinez because she had grown upset over the worsening state of the painting.” (NPR) The fresco looks so bad that it has a new name “The Monkey Boy of Borja.”

Fast-forward with me to October, 2 months since the restoration tragedy. We have breaking news:

“In the Sanctuary of Mercy Church in Borja on a recent weekday morning, the place was packed with tourists. They glanced around at the ba-

roque altar, some of the statues. All out of politeness. But soon enough they drifted over to the real draw. Behold, the Monkey. In the entrance to the sanctuary, custodian Jose Maria Aznar, tended the till, charging one euro to get in, and 12 euros for a lottery ticket bearing the image of the defaced fresco. Entry used to be free. Aznar said he's not used to handling so much cash, and messes up people's change all the time. “Usually in mid October we get about 20 visitors a day during the week,” Aznar said. “Now, it's 150. And on the weekends, we're getting up to 1500 visitors. Everyone is really happy with what's going on.” “The money,” Aznar said, is being used to maintain the sanctuary, and to support an old folks home. But the money flow doesn't end there. Borja's hotels have all been booked solid this fall. That's a first. And so are the bars. “If it weren't for the fresco, you yourself wouldn't be here with your microphone,” said Antonio Romano, who owns an eatery just in front of the sanctuary. “Draw your own conclusions.” (NPR)

To be honest, I didn't see this one coming. Yet, at the same time it never ceases to amaze me how our negatives, time after time, can turn into positives. Please, refrain from seeking to restore Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece, “The Mona Lisa,” and hope to see positive results coming out of it. You won't. However, don't refrain from seeking to do good in the world. Lost in the story of Mrs. Garcia Martinez was the fact that she acted out of concern for her church. She was

launched into action because she was not satisfied with the way things were. You can say many things about Mrs. Garcia Martinez but not that she was afraid of making mistakes. Our faith in Christ calls us out of our passivity into action to transform the world. Our faith in Christ calls us out to be courageous and leave behind our fears as we seek to do the Will of God. This whole conversation about restoration reminded me of this prayer by one of our early Church Fathers, Irenaeus.

Enjoy!

It is not you who shapes God, it is God who shapes you.

If then you are the work of God, await the hand of the artist

Who does all things in due season.

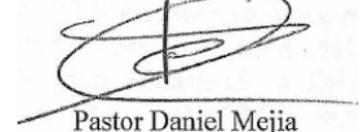
Offer God your heart, soft and tractable,

And keep the form in which the artist has fashioned you.

clay be moist,

Lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of God's fingers.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Daniel Mejia





Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan

Recently I've been reading through Deuteronomy. I've known many people who consider this a dry, uninteresting book of outdated laws. Though I've usually disagreed, this time in particular I've been getting a lot out of my reading. I think much of the difference in the way people view books of the Bible like Deuteronomy and Leviticus has to do with the different ways we approach the laws we find in them.

One of the most common ways to regard laws given in the Bible is to assert that Jesus nullified through grace the law given in the Old Testament. This viewpoint comes out of a Lutheran perspective that is concerned with making it clear that it is by God's grace that we are saved and not by our own works. Never mind the fact that Jesus states, "Do not think that I have come not to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). A perspective that considers the law and the grace of Jesus to be in opposition makes large sections of our scripture irrelevant to our lives.

John Wesley had a very different way of understanding the law. He made

a distinction between the ceremonial law (rules around sacrifice, dietary restrictions, etc...) and the moral law of God. The ceremonial law became void as time and context changed. However, far from getting rid of the moral law, Jesus fleshed it out to its fullest extent. The moral law is the divine order of God. It is the path we follow to become holy; the way we get closer to God. This does not mean that we just need to work harder and then we can follow the law by our own power. Wesley would agree with Luther that it is only by grace, the Holy Spirit working in us, that we are saved. However, Wesley would also emphasize that God's grace enables us to live according to the law.

For me, the most beautiful part of the way that Wesley views the law comes in his description of the connection between the law and the gospel. The law and the gospel are two sides of the same coin. The law is God's will stated as a command. The gospel is God's will stated as a promise. The law can always be restated as the gospel and vice versa. This means that when we read a command in the Old Testament like, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Deut 6:5) we should also read the command as a promise that God will make us into the kind of people that can keep that commandment. God *shall* make us into the sort of people who love God with our whole being. When God commands us not to murder or commit adultery, God is also promising that we will be made into people and a society who no longer murder or commit adultery (even in our thoughts!). We will be freed from sin because this is God's will for us. What a beautiful vision!

So the next time you read the laws of the Old Testament, I encourage you to look for the promises as well as the commands. We should seek to follow God's commandments not because they are arbitrary rules, but because they are the means by which we experience God's love. God does not leave us alone in a broken world. God empowers us to follow the law, and when we choose to do so, God transforms us into happy and whole people. Thanks be to God.

From the E.U.M.C. Youth Ministry, YOLO

By Byron Bobo, Youth Pastor

For the last couple of months the youth ministry has been very active with field trips, an overnight lock-in, Youth Sunday which had the youth perform both services and afterwards Pastor Dan threw a BBQ for them.

By the time you read this we would have had our first Friday Live event, which is an outreach for the youth of the church and the community to come out and have fun. The event will be held in our redesigned youth room and will happen one Friday a month. There will be games, snacks, music and fun. In addition to that we have our youth fellowship meeting twice a month. We look forward to the activities that are coming in November and December. Feel free to come visit us in the youth room on the 2nd floor education bldg.

We look forward to seeing you. God bless you.

Baby Sitter List Proposal

By Sarah Elliott

Greetings,

As the church continues to grow in the number of young kids, parents of these small blessings are in need of trustworthy baby sitters.

I would like your help in compiling a resource for families with small children who may need occasional baby sitters.

If you or someone you know is interested, the specific information needed includes:

- full name
- contact information
- whether you have your own transportation
- whether you are certified (not required)
- whether you are willing to have a background check
- days/hours available (generally
- and the rate you charge.

If you're interested please contact Sarah Elliott at 301-937-1035 or via e-mail at sarah@elliottt.com.

Trustees Report

Good and sad things at Emmanuel, recently:

The church thanks the Women's Club of Beltsville for their gift of a new flag for the Fellowship Hall.

Someone crushed the little blue stool for children which was near the Narthex water fountain.

Missing from near the front door is a large red-handled Allen wrench which made opening the door easier for those with arthritis in their hands

The Trustees

A Moment with Nickie Moreo

By Jim Butcher

A few weeks back, soon after we first learned that a new Wesley Seminary intern was in Emmanuel's future, Pastor Dan asked me to do a short piece on Nickie Moreo for the *Lamplighter*. Well, Nickie and I have been trying to get together on an interview ever since. It hasn't been as easy as one might think. She's a busy young lady, with Seminary work, real Emmanuel work—visiting the sick and ailing, singing with the band, all the good works that Pastor Dan has her up to—and a lot more, I'm sure. Then, I do a pretty good job of acting busy myself. All that considered, Nickie and I have never gotten around to doing what I would call a proper interview.

I did catch up with Nickie briefly on a recent Wednesday afternoon. I'll share here a bit of what I learned. Born in San Antonio, Texas—a favorite adopted hometown of mine—it's been uninterrupted United Methodist all the way for Nickie. In the early years, the Moreno family-- Nickie in-tow--moved frequently among Texas towns, to wherever her United Methodist minister father was appointed anew to yet another United Methodist church. In my hurriedly scribbled notes, I have it that Nickie attended some nine different schools from kindergarten through high school.

Along the way, Nickie was exposed to many levels of Texas culture and economic circumstance. Living in upscale Dallas neighborhoods, Nickie witnessed the privilege of relative wealth and circumstance. Living in the downscale Hispanic neighborhoods of southern Texas, she experienced the desperation of grinding pov-

erty and struggle. Adjusting to abrupt change from well-off Dallas to impoverished, downscale neighborhoods was not always easy, or so I inferred from Nickie's carefully phrased remarks. Yet the family pulled off frequent change with hardly a hitch in stride. Nickie Moreo is a trouper, folks.

What more did I learn of Nickie in an all too brief interview? I learned—observed—that she's a born leader. From early grade-school years, she has been elected to youth council leadership positions. She recalls vividly experiencing the call to ministry during a church retreat alter call. If my notes and memory haven't failed, she was all of in the fifth grade. She has never looked back. Not once. From that moment till today, she pursues her goal to become a minister.

Nickie's father, the minister, is a graduate of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Her mother is an expert of English rhetoric—a career teacher of high school English and doubtlessly an influence reflected in Nickie's flawless English diction. Along the way, Nickie took an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas—Pan American, a part of the University of Texas System located in Edinburg, Texas, only 35 miles or so north of the U.S.- Mexico border.



2013 Emmanuel UMC Lenten Devotional Calendar

The Church Council has decided to try something new for Lent this year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13th and ends at Easter, March 31st, 2013. It is tradition to have a devotional calendar with an inspirational story, poem or original artwork for each of the 40 days of Lent. We are asking the Emmanuel congregation to submit a story, poem and/or original artwork for our own Lenten devotional for 2013.

There are many ways that you can contribute to the calendar. Select your favorite Bible verse and describe what it means to you and your life. Write a simple story of how Jesus has worked in your life. Write a poem that symbolizes your walk with Jesus. Draw a picture of your life in Christ or what living for Christ means to you. The possibilities are almost endless. Feel free to use publications, such as the *Upper Room* or *Guideposts*, as examples. Include a scripture reference with your submission or one will be selected for you.

Our goal is to get most of the congregation and friends of Emmanuel UMC involved in this inspirational activity. The deadline, in order to have the finished product before the beginning of Lent, is **December 31st, 2012**. Submissions can be made by email at kpmellott@verizon.net.



Mark Your Calendar for Angel Tree

Emmanuel's Angel Tree will be on display in November in the Narthex and the angels on the tree will be available for "adoption" until all are chosen. All of the Angels have a family member, usually a parent, who is incarcerated. These family members are involved in other programs offered by Prison Ministries and have asked that their children be remembered at Christmas. The paper angels have a clothing item or a fun item for each child. Wrapped gifts are due back to the tree by Sunday, Dec. 2, and will be distributed on Dec. 8. More information will be available at the tree. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Cavallo at 301-937-7146.

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

By Charlie Deegan, Chairman

On Sept. 24, the Church Council approved a 2013 budget of \$368,526. This amount is only \$2031 above this year's budget. It provides funding for all of Emmanuel's programs and sets aside funds to create a new capital expenditure line item for future major expenditures.

Soon after the budget was passed, Hope Christian Academy notified the trustees that they would be moving to a larger facility in late Nov. The approved budget anticipated receiving \$2900 a month in rent from HCA. Thus, the 2013 budget now has a revenue shortfall of \$34,800. The Finance Committee met to rework the budget given the new circumstances. However, there are no pots of "fat" in the budget to make up the difference; cutting \$35,000 will involve eliminating programs or staff. After extensive discussion, the Finance Committee decided to defer budget cuts until the congregation has an opportunity to submit their pledges. In January, the committee will have a clearer understanding of Emmanuel's financial position, and so will be able to address the budget shortfall more accurately.

In the meantime, the Finance Committee thanks you all for your faithfulness in sharing your tithes and gifts. When the stewardship campaign begins, we ask you all to please submit a pledge, even if you haven't done so in the past. The total amount pledged for 2013 will determine what gets funded.

CENSUS

Thanks to the 179 families who have returned their census form. To all others, it's not too late to send it in! Every reply helps keep our membership current. If anyone needs a new copy, please contact the office.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

In order to beautify the church during the Christmas season, we are again offering the opportunity for you to purchase poinsettias. Please use this form to place your order.

Red _____ White _____ (Deadline is December 3rd)

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED: _____ PRICE: \$8.50 EACH

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

(Place your order in the offering plate, bring or mail to the church by the deadline above. Please make checks payable to Emmanuel U. M. C. and mark it "Christmas Decoration").

*If you ordered more than one color and are leaving one for a shut-in, please let us know what color you are leaving.

Date Received _____



Emmanuel United Methodist Church presents...

December 1st

2012

9am - 11am

-Sausage and Pancakes with toppings

-Special surprises with Breakfast

-Photos with Santa



Proceeds support
Family Life
Ministries

Cost:

\$5/person for breakfast

\$5/photo with Santa



11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

301-937-7114; eumcbeltsville@earthlink.net

www.emmanuelumbeltsville.net

Call or email for reservations. Seating is limited



Breakfast with Santa

The popular event, Breakfast with Santa, will be held on Saturday, December 1st, 2012 from 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is only \$5/person to enjoy pancakes and sausage with Santa Claus. Photos with Santa will be available for \$5 also. Reservations are suggested, but not required. Children of all ages are invited to this special holiday event.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Elisabeth Cavallo
- 2 Chelsea McGlynn, Crystal Webb,
Beverly Huneycutt
- 6 Katie McNealy
- 10 Jim Butler
- 12 Ruth Cottman, Jaime Hiner,
- 13 Christie Ademiluyi
- 14 Loretta Claye, C. J. Huneycutt, Michael Vaughan
- 16 Bobbie Barkley
- 21 Edward Mougey
- 25 Patricia Allen, Sarah Elliott, Claire Wray
- 26 Craig West
- 27 Charlene Frederick, Ginger Butcher
- 28 Olamide Oluwafemi
- 30 Edward White, Jr.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

12 Suzie Kilbourne and Chris Insley

Altar Flowers



- Nov. 4 Danny Webb
- Nov. 11 Beverly Ward
- Nov. 18 McNitt
- Nov. 25 Elliott

- Dec. 2 Ann and Ted Ladd
- Dec. 9 Kemi Oluwafemi
- Dec. 16 Theresa Timity
- Dec. 23
- Dec. 30 Kemi Oluwafemi

NOVEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 pm Chancel Choir	2	3 10 am Apple Festival
4 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Confirmation Class 1 pm Youth Fellowship	5	6 7 pm ESOL Classes 7 pm Youth Learning Fellowship	7 6 pm Maranatha Choir	8 7 pm Chancel Choir	9	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
11 11 - 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Second Sunday Lunch 12:30 pm Confirmation Class 1:30 pm – UMW Executive Meeting	12 12:30 Beltsville Women's Club 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depression/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	13 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL Classes 7 pm Youth Learning Fellowship 7 pm Sisters In Spirit	14 12 noon Dorcas Circle 6 pm Maranatha Choir	15 7 pm Chancel Choir	16	17 Food Preparation
18 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Confirmation Class 1 pm Youth Fellowship 1:30 pm Food Distribution	19 12 Noon – Ellen Hoover Circle	20 7:30 pm Thanksgiving Service at St. John's	21 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle	22  Happy Thanksgiving	23	24
25 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Confirmation Class	26 7 pm Depression/Bipolar Support Group	27 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL Party	28 6 pm Maranatha Choir	29 7 pm Chancel Choir	30	

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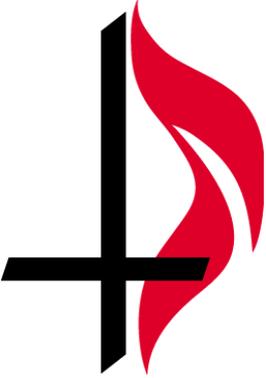
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Address Service Requested

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Beltsville, MD 20705

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