



# The Eastport Spire

## *“Inspire Us to Great Things”*

### *April 2015*

*We share our experiences of God’s Kingdom with all, through our faith, love, fellowship, and service. It is our vision to have everyone actively involved in worship that enriches, ministries that empower, and evangelism that embraces all.*

---

### **Pastor’s Corner**

Rumi: “I called through your door, ‘The mystics are gathering in the street. Come out!’

‘Leave me alone. I’m sick.’

‘I don’t care if you’re dead!’ Jesus is here, and he wants to resurrect somebody!”

*The Essential Rumi*, Coleman Barks (Harper SanFrancisco, 1995), p. 201.

How do *you* know you’re alive? As I ponder that question, I can think of many answers. I know I’m alive when I’m running, when I feel my heart pumping the blood through my veins, when I’m sweating, when I’m straining for breath, when my body is tired and yet my mind pushes me just a bit further. This is when I know I’m alive.

But I also know I’m alive when I’m in a yoga class, when I’m feeling the heat build up within, yet I hold that pose for a little longer, when I feel strong, when I feel complete peace and the ability to fully surrender to the earth at the end of the class.

And I know I’m alive when love wells up within me, finds the barrier of my skin, and then pushes itself out through all my pores. I know I’m alive in the midst of deep pain and tears. I know I’m alive when joy bubbles up within me and can’t help but spill out through dance. I know I’m alive when my heart leaps in response to the smile of a loved one. These are a few ways I know I’m alive and I’m living.

But let’s face it, there are thousands of ways we know we’re alive. In just a few short days, we will celebrate at Easter, that Jesus Christ is alive, that he who was put to death on a cross, somehow, through

the mystery and love of God was resurrected and came to new life. But seeing Jesus as alive and the Spirit of Jesus Christ as living and moving among and around us, isn’t always as easy.

In this Easter season (for the month of April), we will be taking a look at the stories of the disciples after Jesus’ death. We will get a glimpse into the ways that the disciples discover that Jesus is indeed alive again. We will see their sadness, their fear, their amazement, and their joy and excitement in hearing and sharing this news. It’s not always easy for them to understand or see - we have Thomas, who demands proof, there’s Mary Magdalene who first thinks Jesus is the gardener, we have the two disciples who spent 7 miles walking and talking with Jesus and still don’t recognize him, and we see the twelve disciples out fishing, thinking Jesus is a ghost. It takes the disciples practice and faith and hope to be able to see the Resurrected Jesus. But they do indeed discover that Jesus is alive and spend the rest of their lives proclaiming and sharing this good news, most of them becoming martyrs themselves.

The good news for us at Easter, is that Jesus is still just as alive today. But just like the disciples, it takes us practice and faith and hope to be able to see the Resurrected Jesus. To be able to see and name the Spirit of Jesus Christ at work through people, and especially the body of Christ, the group of people called the church.

This new sermon series will be called “Snapshots of Jesus,” and it comes with a challenge to all of you. I know there are some budding young photographers out there and some people who have been taking pictures all their lives. Whether it’s your

professional career, or a hobby, whether you've never used a smartphone or you're an iPhone photo aficionado, I'm challenging you to take a photo every week in April, of a "snapshot of Jesus." You can interpret that however you want, but I want us to practice recognizing the spirit of Jesus Christ moving in our midst. I want us to develop eyes that see beyond what our normal eyes can see. I want us to use our faith and hope to begin to capture and name how Jesus is alive and well among us, and among our community in Eastport.

Each week, images will be included in the powerpoint for the church worship service, but you must email them to Pastor Michelle, [eastportumcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:eastportumcpastor@gmail.com) and Sally Hight [sallyhight@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyhight@yahoo.com) by Thursday morning at 10am! (April 9, April 16, April 23) Feel free to get your creative on!

I love the quote at the beginning of this article by Rumi. It shows of the persistent love of God. It speaks of the greatest desire of Jesus - to bring new life to others. I hope with this series, "Snapshots of Jesus" we may find new life ourselves, as we expand our vision of how Jesus is alive and living in our midst.

Happy Easter!

*Grace & Peace, Pastor Michelle*



**April Covered Dish Dinner  
April 2 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Our April shared meal is on Thursday during Holy Week, hosted by EUMC Choirs. Following dinner we will move into the sanctuary for a worship service featuring the United Methodist Men's drama – "Remembering...."**

**Main dish and beverages will be provided. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. You're encouraged to invite family & friends – everyone is welcome!!**



**HOLY WEEK**

**Wednesday**

April 1

Service with Holy Communion 12:00 p.m.  
A light lunch follows.

**Holy Thursday**

April 2

Covered Dish Dinner 6 p.m.  
Worship Service Follows at 7 p.m.  
"Remembering...." by the United Methodist Men

**Good Friday**

April 3

Suggested Services:  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church 7 p.m.  
Calvary UMC 7:30 p.m.  
St. Matthew UMC, Bowie 7 p.m.  
(St. Matthew is Pastor Daniel Mejia's church)

**Easter Sunday**

April 5

Sunrise Service at Thomas Point 6:15 a.m.  
(Sun rises 6:45 a.m.)  
Easter Worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt Following Service

>< >< ><



Thanks to all who attended our Lenten Study, and those who facilitated as well. We also want to express our gratitude to those who shared reflections at the Lenten services, the faithful who participated, and those good folks who hosted the lunches. And weren't the Choir and Bells awesome on Palm Sunday!! Kudos to all of you!

## ► Conference-Sponsored Workshop ◀

Are you or someone you know dealing with a personal or family crisis? There is a workshop being held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 that we all can benefit from. The Workshop is called: *"When You Feel Overwhelmed: Dealing With A Personal or Family Crisis"*

The workshop will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Emmanuel UMC; 10755 Scaggsville Road, North Laurel, Maryland. All are welcome! There is no formal registration but we ask that you please RSVP by text to (240) 463-7598 or send an e-mail to: [kcharters@mac.com](mailto:kcharters@mac.com). Please include your name, a phone number, and the number of persons attending the work shop. Lunch will be provided for those who respond to this e-mail. The link for more details can be found here: ..\..\Blog Stuff\When You Feel Overwhelmed 2015 0301.docx

### Save the Date

#### Next Group Activity for the Kids



Everybody enjoyed last month's afternoon of bowling – kids and grownups alike! This month's location and activity is still in the planning stage, but we do have a date – **April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** Set that afternoon aside for some relaxation and fun. And stay tuned for details via emails and church bulletins. ~Amanda Owen

#### EUMC Yard Sale Date to be Announced



While you clean up for spring and summer, please keep in mind our annual yard sale. Put aside all those gently used, no longer needed items for EUMC and help us raise seed money for the peach festival, which then raises money for missions and other church programs. Electronics, clothing, shoes, and textbooks don't sell so you can take them to Good Will or electronic recycling. We'd love to have all your other used treasures. Details about this event will be announced soon so stay tuned.



#### Many Hands Needed April 25, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Three hours of your time during this year's GreenScape will help our garden team immensely and give us all much satisfaction every time we pass by the church grounds! General clean-up, weeding, and spreading mulch – rewarding work for all ages! The City of Annapolis is providing the mulch as part of their annual GreenScape program. If you have a rake and gloves, bring them along. The church has garden tools as well. Can we count on your help?

~ Paulette Schwallenberg



#### Vacation Bible School

Parents & Grandparents... Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School for children ages 5-12 will take place June 22-26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30a.m. This year's theme, G-Force, will help kids explore how to put their faith into action through random acts of kindness. Kids will experience God's unstoppable love as they learn how to fuel up and get moving during this action packed week.

Volunteers are needed to help during the sessions from approximately 8 a.m. -12 Noon. In addition, there will be a sign up list for anyone not able to attend but who can provide snacks and/or other materials. It takes a village so please give of your talents and time any way you can. Additional details will follow soon. Please contact Jacqueline Reid Ploof @ [JacqReid@comcast.net](mailto:JacqReid@comcast.net) or call 703.863.1275 for more information.

~Jacqueline Ploof



**Looking for Jars**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Peach Festival**  
**August 1, 2015**

It may be a long way off, but behind the scenes Peach Festival work starts early. You will get lots of notice as things gear up. In the meantime, please check your kitchen shelves and bring us all the used canning jars you have from last year's beets and jams. Just leave them in the kitchen. Please **no** spaghetti, mayonnaise jars or the like. Only canning jars. Thank you!

~Myrna Dobbs

**Annual Mission Trip**

In October we again will be joining with Calvary UMC and a few other



churches to go to the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) in Brenton, WV. No particular skills are needed – we learn on the job. Think about it, and please talk to some of the folks who go or have gone in the past – Jackie, Ann Rawls, Jeff Bauckman, Eric Smaridge, Anne Owen, Paulette Schwallenberg.

~ Jackie Cunningham, Missions Team

symptoms of illnesses such as these can be similar to those of asthma. This is why the signs and symptoms of asthma may not be identified right away. It is also why asthma may go untreated.

Another reason why asthma can be hard to spot among older adults has to do with their lifestyles. Older persons are more likely to have inactive lifestyles. One of the ways in which asthma is recognized among younger persons is by the symptoms of wheezing and breathing problems during and after exercise. But if a patient rarely exercises, the opportunity for asthma to produce these symptoms may rarely arise.

Asthma symptoms among older adults are more likely to take the form of coughing and producing sputum (fluid) from the lungs. Health care providers are more likely to interpret symptoms like these as being due to other illnesses, such as chronic bronchitis (inflammation of the upper airways) or congestive heart failure (in which the heart has trouble pumping enough blood).

Treatment of asthma in older adults can be complicated by the fact that so many older persons take multiple medications for other health problems. Asthma medications can react with these other treatments, causing unpleasant side effects. In addition, other medications may worsen asthma symptoms. In addition, many asthma medications come in the form of an inhaler. Using an inhaler requires a certain degree of coordination and dexterity.

As with any asthma patient, treatment for older adults should be a joint decision between patient and doctor. Communication is the key to making treatment work. Older asthma patients should be sure to ask their doctor about any aspect of their asthma treatment that they do not understand. Keeping the doctor informed about how well treatment is working for them is important. Patients need to tell their doctor if they are having trouble remembering to take their medication or if they are having difficulty using devices such as inhalers. Their doctor is an important resource to help them keep their asthma under control so that their later years are as comfortable and healthy as possible.

~ Courtesy of Dianne Crews  
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**For Your Health.....**



**Asthma among the elderly.....**

Asthma is common among persons over age 65 and can cause serious health problems. In fact, most deaths caused by asthma occur in this age group. The disease accounts for huge health care costs among older adults each year. Yet asthma is often missed or goes untreated among this age group.

A diagnosis of asthma may be missed in an older person because other health problems may mask the disease. In particular, heart disease and emphysema (another respiratory illness that causes breathing problems) are more common in this age group. The

## April Birthdays



April 2	Joe Nasatka Butch Stevens
April 3	Ricardo Vasquez
April 7	Florence Conley Jason Wilcox Jim Bradford
April 12	Jessie Keller
April 13	Esther Gannaway
April 14	Tom Schwallenberg
April 19	Scott Hughes
April 20	Sonny Owen
April 23	Nadine Clark
April 26	Traci DuPlayee Liam Smith
April 27	Jim Finkle
April 29	Evie Swink Guy Goddard
April 30	Mary Jones

### Jacqueline Ploof....

All of us, especially the kids, are extremely grateful to you for graciously stepping up to lead Vacation Bible School this summer!



**Who is willing to lead the UMW Tea, the Yard Sale, or the Peach Festival?**

## April Anniversaries



April 15	Linda & Hillard Harrison
April 6	Dave & Berlyn Wheeler
April 7	Jim & Mary Jane Finkle
April 12	Jerry & Tammy Lesley
April 16	David M. & Lindsey Owen
April 23	Stephen & Kathy Duckett



### Show and Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Methodist, and this is a casserole."

*The Spire* is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410-263-5490

[eastportumc@verizon.net](mailto:eastportumc@verizon.net)

[www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org)

Pastor: Michelle Mejia

Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Study 10:45am  Service & Lunch 12pm  UMW 5:30pm	<b>2</b> Covered Dish 6pm  Holy Thurs. Worship 7pm	<b>3</b> Good Friday (no service at EUMC)	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Sunrise Service Thomas Pt 6:15  Worship 10am  Fellowship & Easter Egg Hunt	<b>6</b> Office closed  NO Bells	<b>7</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Finance Mtg. 6:30pm	<b>8</b> Kids Art 4pm	<b>9</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Discussion 9am  Worship 10am  Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	<b>13</b> Bells 7pm	<b>14</b> Homework & Reading 4pm	<b>15</b> Food Pantry 12-2pm  Kids Art 4pm	<b>16</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Gracious Greetings 1:30pm  Choir 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Discussion 9am  Worship 10am  Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	<b>20</b> Bells 7pm	<b>21</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Trustees 6:15pm  Prayer & Vision 6:30pm	<b>22</b> Lunch Bunch 12:15 @ Sammy's  Kids Art 4pm	<b>23</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  ECCO 5:30pm  Choir 7pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> GreenScape at EUMC 9am to noon  
<b>26</b> Discussion 9am  Worship 10am  Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	<b>27</b> UMM prayer & pizza 7pm  Bells 7pm	<b>28</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  SPRT 7pm	<b>29</b> Kids Art 4pm	<b>30</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm		