

The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

February 2013



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

Dear Church,

It seems to me that this year is coming on too fast. Didn't we just celebrate Epiphany? But in two weeks we will be getting into the Lenten season again with Ash Wednesday on February 13th. As usual we will have Ash Wednesday services at noon and in the evening. I encourage you to take part in this annual tradition of marking the beginning of this season of preparation for Easter. For the full schedule of the season, please refer to the calendar somewhere else in this issue of the Spire. And, please mark your calendars and join me and your leaders on this journey of deepening our discipleship today through the spiritual practices of fasting, prayer, study, and giving.

On another very important note, after six years of serving as chair of Administrative Council, Jean Strucko has passed on the baton of leadership to Bill Riggs. Sherrie Little has passed on the responsibilities of being editor of the Spire to Eunice Corse. To Jean and Sherrie, thank you so much for your faithfulness and dedication to God through your service in the church. To Bill and Eunice, our gratitude for your willingness to take on these vital ministries in our life together. To all those who are continuing to serve in leadership positions and to those who are actively serving as members of the different ministry teams, thank you. To team members who are just starting their terms, welcome to the challenging world of servant leadership.

As always, there is need for more dedicated workers in God's vineyard. Recently we've asked for

someone to step out and step up to serve as Admin Council secretary now that Eunice has another responsibility. The next Council meeting is in March. I pray that before then, one of you will have it in his/her heart to take on this ministry.

Again, thank you all for continuing to support the church with your selfless sharing of your spiritual gifts, talents, abilities, resources and for keeping us in your prayers. May we all have a blessed and deeply enriching journey this Lent as we look forward to Easter.

~ Pastor MaAn



Trustees' Column

A recent proposal was presented to the Board of Trustees to see if there is interest in creating a memorial garden for cremated remains. This type of memorial is typically referred to as a columbarium, which is similar to a mausoleum, but instead of spaces for caskets, a columbarium has niches for urns which contain cremated remains, sometimes called "cremains." Each niche can be personalized by family members and friends, and often include photographs, trinkets and mementos to commemorate the life of the deceased.

If you have any interest in this type of memorial, please notify Mike Wurst at mwurst@vt.edu or 301-461-4581, by the February 28th, 2012. The Trustees will then evaluate the overall interest and determine if this is a project that should move to the proposal stage. If not enough interest exists, this topic would then be re-evaluated based on congregational input in the future. ~ Mike Wurst

LENT–EASTER 2013

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service in the Chapel

February 13
12:00 and 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Lenten–Easter study

February 13 thru March 20
10:15 a.m. & 6:45 p.m.

Services in the Chapel

12:00 p.m.
Followed by light lunch

PALM SUNDAY

10:00 AM

HOLY WEEK

Contemplative Services

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
12:15 p.m.

Holy Thursday

Shared Meal 6:00 p.m.
Last Supper Remembrance 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Service 12:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday

Day of Personal Prayer and Reflection

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise service @ Thomas Point Park 6:30 a.m.
Worship with Communion @ EUMC 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time & Easter Egg Hunt follows



Lent-Easter Study

What does it mean to be a Christian today? In this time of change and conflict within the church, what is most central to an authentic Christianity and Christian life? These questions will be the focus of a six-week Advent Study to be held Wednesdays from February 13 to March 20 in the chapel. Day and evening classes are planned: from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. followed by a short worship service with

communion and table fellowship, and, if there is sufficient interest, from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. The study will be based on Marcus Borg's thought-provoking book, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. Borg is distinguished professor of religion and culture at Oregon State University and the author of several best-selling books about Jesus. Prepare for lots of interesting discussion! **You must sign up by February 3 on the board in the fellowship hall so books can be ordered and distributed for reading before the first session.** The cost of the book is \$12 but scholarships are available. ~ *Mike Keller*



Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras, literally "Fat Tuesday," has grown in popularity in recent years as a raucous, sometimes hedonistic event. But its roots lie in the Christian calendar, as the "last hurrah" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. That's why the enormous party in New Orleans, for example, ends abruptly at midnight on Tuesday, with battalions of street sweepers pushing the crowds out of the French Quarter towards home.

What is less known about Mardi Gras is its relation to the Christmas season, through the ordinary-time interlude known in many Catholic (read: universal to include all Christians who observe the Lenten season) cultures as Carnival.... *Carnival* comes from the Latin words *carne vale*, meaning "farewell to the flesh." Like many Catholic holidays and seasonal celebrations, it likely has its roots in pre-Christian traditions based on the seasons. Some believe the festival represented the few days added to the lunar calendar to make it coincide with the solar calendar; since these days were outside the calendar, rules and customs were not obeyed. Others see it as a late-winter celebration designed to welcome the coming spring. As early as the

middle of the second century, the Romans observed a Fast of 40 Days, which was preceded by a brief season of feasting, costumes and merrymaking.

The Carnival season kicks off with the Epiphany, also known as Twelfth Night, Three Kings' Day and, in the Eastern churches, Theophany. Epiphany, which falls on January 6, 12 days after Christmas, celebrates the visit of the Wise Men bearing gifts for the infant Jesus. In cultures that celebrate Carnival, Epiphany kicks off a series of parties leading up to Mardi Gras.

Epiphany is also traditionally when celebrants serve King's Cake, a custom that began in France in the 12th century. Legend has it that the cakes were made in a circle to represent the circular routes that the Wise Men took to find Jesus, in order to confuse King Herod and foil his plans of killing the Christ Child. In the early days, a coin or bean was hidden inside the cake, and whoever found the item was said to have good luck in the coming year. In Louisiana, bakers now put a small baby, representing the Christ Child, in the cake; the recipient is then expected to host the next King Cake party.

There are well-known season-long Carnival celebrations in Europe and Latin America, including Nice, France; Cologne, Germany; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The best-known celebration in the U.S. is in New Orleans and the French-Catholic communities of the Gulf Coast. Mardi Gras came to the New World in 1699, when a French explorer arrived at the Mississippi River, about 60 miles south of present day New Orleans. He named the spot *Point du Mardi Gras* because he knew the holiday was being celebrated in his native country that day.

Eventually the French in New Orleans celebrated Mardi Gras with masked balls and parties, until the Spanish government took over in the mid-1700s and banned the celebrations. The ban continued even after the U.S. government acquired the land but the celebrations resumed in 1827. The official colors of Mardi Gras, with their roots in Catholicism, were chosen 10 years later: purple, a symbol of justice; green, representing faith; and gold, to signify power.

Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday" in French. The name comes from the tradition of slaughtering and feasting upon a fattened calf on the last day of Carnival. The day is also known as Shrove Tuesday (from "to shrive," or hear confessions), Pancake Tuesday and *fetter Dienstag*. The custom of making pancakes comes from the need to use up fat, eggs and dairy before the fasting and abstinence of Lent begins. (This article was excerpted from an article with the same title through the generosity of our Catholic sisters and brothers.)



Greetings from United Methodist Women

If it's as cold in February as it is right now in January, I'm glad it's a short month. By this time I hope you have put in your order for a couple of quarts or pints of our delicious soup. It's definitely going to warm you up knowing your purchase will help support our missions to help others.

The gift bags for residents of Timothy House were once again accepted with great joy. People who never open their doors knew who our women were and did open their doors and their hearts and expressed their gratitude. For many, these are their only gifts.

Together with Missions we sent 40 buckets filled with cleaning supplies to disaster victims. We will begin, shortly, to prepare for our annual Spring Tea.

Please come and join us on the first Wednesday of the month. We "brown bag" dinner. Drinks and desserts are provided. We begin our meetings at 5:30 p.m. We have devotions first, then team reports and discussion of old and new business. We like to find new ways and means to help others. Meetings end at 7:00 p.m. We would enjoy seeing some new faces – so please join us. *Yours in the warmth of the love of our God.*

~ Audrey Howard

February Birthdays



Feb 2	Sally Hight, Evan Ugolini
Feb 3	Jessie Clark
Feb 4	Richard Miller
Feb 5	Thomas Smith Cailyn Johnson
Feb 9	Anne Owen
Feb 13	Earl Macey
Feb 14	Jackie Cunningham John Allen Wilcox Luke Wilcox
Feb 15	Harriet Macey Betty Owen
Feb 20	Yaritza Edstrom
Feb 22	Jason Clurman
Feb 23	Jacqueline Ploof
Feb 25	John Stuntz



*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy,
it does not boast, it is not proud.
~ 1 Corinthians 13:4*

February Anniversaries



Feb 11	Guy & Dawn Moyer
Feb 14	Richard & Betty Miller
Feb 16	James & Shirley Keller
Feb 19	Jim & Jean Wilcox
Feb 22	Scott & Nicole Hughes

Covered Dish Luncheons

Sunday, February 10, Luncheon 11:45 am
Hosts: Finance & Stewardship Teams
(*We will honor departing team leaders.*)

Sunday, March 10, Luncheon 11:45 am
Hosts: Staff Parish Relations &
Lay Leadership Teams

Put these dates on your calendar and plan to join us. As you are able, please provide a dish or dessert to share; however, everyone's welcome with or without a dish. Host teams are responsible for main dish, drinks, set-up and clean-up.

The Spire is published monthly by
Eastport United Methodist Church
926 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-263-5490
eastportumc@verizon.net
www.eastportumc.org
Pastor: MaAn Barcelo
Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2013					1	2 
3 •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SundaySchool 10:15am •SoulSearchers 2pm	4 Lay Leadership Team Meeting 5:30pm Bells 7pm	5 Homework- Reading 4pm Missions Meeting 7pm	6 UMW Dinner 5:30pm	7 Homework- Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	8	9 Game Night 5:30pm 
					United Methodist Men's Retreat at West River Center February 8 - 10	
10 •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am •CoveredDish 11:45am •SoulSearchers 2pm	11 Bells 7pm	12 Homework- Reading 4pm	13 ASH WEDNESDAY Services @ 12 noon and 6pm Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm	14 Homework- Reading 4pm Choir 7pm  VALENTINE'S DAY	15	
17 •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SundaySchool 10:15am •SoulSearchers 2pm	18 Bells 7pm	19 Homework- Reading 4pm	20 Food Pantry 1-3pm Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm Worship 12:00 Lunch follows	21 Homework- Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	22	23
24 •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SundaySchool 10:15am •SoulSearchers 2pm	25 Bells 7pm UMM Prayer & Pizza 7pm	26 Homework- Reading 4pm	27 Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm Worship 12:00 Lunch follows	28 Homework- Reading 4pm ECCO 5:30pm Choir 7pm		

Information subject to change - we will do our best to keep you informed.