



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

July 2014

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 Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There is an African idiom that says “A person is a person *through* other persons.” Such a simple statement, and yet it holds such profound wisdom. It is *through* other people that I both came to be and continue to be. It is *through* other people that I have learned (as far as I am) to be compassionate, to be welcoming, and to love and delight in the differences in people and the connections that transcend them. Many of the people *through* whom I became me were part of the church and took their commitment to living their faith seriously.

Hebrews 11, often called the “Hall of Faith,” spends verse after verse retelling the history of the Hebrew people, listing people throughout the Old Testament who lived by faith. It concludes with these verses in chapter 12, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”* (He 12:1-2).

These are some of my favorite verses in the Bible. I love the image of a “cloud of witnesses” surrounding us. The cloud of witnesses listed in Hebrews is part of our cloud of witnesses as well: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, etc. To that list we can also add those the New Testament stories recount to us: Jesus, the disciples, Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the Syrophenician woman, the Roman Centurion, Paul, Lydia, and Timothy, just to name a few.

Even more incredible, however, is that our cloud of witnesses does not stop there. This list of people who lived by faith extends through two thousand more years, with people throughout the ages who continue to reach forward and touch us - the early Christian church, the martyrs persecuted in the Colosseum, the Middle Ages, the mystics, those throughout the Protestant Reformation and Counter Reformation, and especially those who began the Methodist movement.

Our lists continue on, with the names of the people who have touched us personally in our own time and space. For me, those people include many names of family, of friends, of teachers, of pastors, of church members, of students, of immigrants, and even those who I cannot name, but whose smile, whose kind action, whose lives and stories came at such a needed time that they impacted me more than they can know. These people are in my cloud of witnesses. All of them - Old Testament onward.

We all carry people around with us. People through whom we became who we are. The witnesses, the saints, without whom, our lives might be quite different. This July, I invite you to reflect on the people who make up your cloud of witnesses. The people who you became a person *through*. And even, to reflect on the people who make up the cloud of witnesses surrounding Eastport UMC. As your new pastor, I want to learn your history. I want to hear every rich story you all have to share - stories of this church, of what it means to you, of your hopes and dreams, of your challenges and frustrations, and stories from your own lives that help me get to know you. I invite you to share with me!

As we begin ministry together, I want you to know that I am very excited to get to know you all - a new cloud of witnesses, new saints of the Christian

church, people who I am sure will become a wonderful part of my life story.

Today I especially give thanks for those *through whom* I became me, and those *through whom* you all became the church community and the people that you are. Thanks be to God!

In Christ, Pastor Michelle

The Baltimore Washington Conference Policy Manual states that pastors are not to return to a previous appointment. This applies to all pastors, including those who are retiring.
¶2412 – Returning to a Previous Appointment (BWC Policy Manual)

1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to effect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.
2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor.
3. Through transitions in pastoral leadership, local congregations should be educated concerning this policy and asked to support it by prayer and actions.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On July 1st, my service as your Pastor officially comes to an end. By the time you receive this note, Vern and I are already embarking on the first leg of the journey to our new home in Berkeley, CA.

I want to thank you all again for sharing ministry with me over the past nine years. I could not have done it without you and without friends who supported us every step of the way. I could not have done it without Vern. And last but not least, I could not have done it without God's grace.

Vern and I also thank you for the delightful and surprise-filled sendoff you prepared for us June 8th. From the worship service to the fellowship that followed, it was clear to both of us that you all outdid yourselves in making that gathering a great, wonderful celebration that we will always lovingly and fondly remember as we enjoy our bonus years ☺. Thank you. Thank you very much!!!

God bless us all as we continue our separate but parallel journeys toward the fullness of the kingdom God has promised us all.

*Grace, Peace & Love,
The Reverend MaAn H. Barcelo, DMin.*



VBS: Truly a Work of Wonder

This year's VBS workshop turned out some extraordinary work thanks to the effort of many, many people. In previous years I have determined VBS success by looking at the total number of attendants. This year made me realize that was only part of a successful plan. The other half of the equation is how much the kids really "got" the message. Our goal was to help kids build a relationship with God and we did just that.

Here are a few examples of how they showed their understanding of the message. On prayer boxes they were to decorate one child wrote, "I love God," another colored "Trust God" and another began with the Lord's Prayer (on the prayer box) "Our Father who art in heaven." They could have just colored and glued plastic jewels on the prayer

boxes. But, on their own accord, they took it one step further.

This group of kids was such a joy to have in VBS. Their infectious enthusiasm and positive spirit could be felt by all the volunteers. And in return for the few hours volunteers spent with these kids, they benefited tenfold from the kids' joy.

Our total number of participants was still good. We had over 41 kids spend time with us during VBS. We had 18 adult volunteers come to church and help make VBS such a success. Other congregation members donated food, construction hats, glasses, and games. And, still yet others contributed to the Heaven Cent offerings on Sunday.

VBS is a church-wide program. I simply cannot thank everyone enough. Please know that however you gave to our VBS Workshop of Wonders, you created something magical this year. Thank you.

~ Lisa Parrish

Homework and Reading Ministry



The Homework and Reading Ministry concluded its year with a recognition program at which the 25 children who were regular participants received a personalized certificate stating the number of sessions that they had completed. The four kids with the top attendance records were awarded prizes: a trip accompanied by some of the volunteers in the program to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at which each child will have an opportunity to select books totaling up to \$25, followed by a special treat.

Pastor MaAn and Vern were presented with a handmade card by the children in appreciation for their contributions to the Homework and Reading Ministry. The kids also viewed the video tribute which the children of the church had taped for Pastor MaAn and Vern and in which many of them had taken part. This final Homework session for the academic year also featured a performance by a

local magician, who enthralled the kids and the volunteers with amazing tricks, and a "build your own sundae" ice cream social.

The Homework children were encouraged to attend Vacation Bible School, at which they have been major participants in the past couple of years. The Homework and Reading Ministry has two other summer activities planned for the kids. Each Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m., we will offer a "lending library" in which children can "check out" a book from the program's extensive collection. Only one book can be taken home at a time. There also will be two "story time" sessions presented by staff of the Anne Arundel County Public Library on July 31 and August 14 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. The "story time" readings are designed for pre-K and elementary school kids. **All youngsters in the church are invited to take part in the "lending library" and the "story time" sessions.**

Homework and Reading will resume its schedule of twice-weekly classes when the new school year begins in August. We encourage additional members of the congregation to become involved in this ministry. We will continue to meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Volunteers are not expected to be at every session. While kids will be kids, the participants are well-behaved and serious about their studies. And they will warm your heart.



Homework & Reading Volunteers

~ Mike Keller and Joyce Conley

Covered Dish Luncheon – Sunday, July 13th
Please bring a dessert or dish to share. Main dish, beverages, and setup provided by the host teams, Evangelism and Communications.
There will be no covered dish luncheon in August.



Peach Festival

Please see the “peach week” schedule below and be sure you’ve told Bill Malamphy or Jean Strucko where you plan to help. There is much to be done and helpers are needed everywhere.

Can you be a **Corporate Sponsor** for Peach Festival, or do you know someone who can? Forms are in the hall or can be downloaded from the church website, www.eastportumc.org. Contact Mike or Lisa Stevens if you need more information. 443-822-9799.

The jam and jelly work is already done. Myrna Dobbs is still requesting donations of jars for pickled beets. Beet making is scheduled for July 23rd and 26th. Stay tuned for bulletin announcements.

Peach Festival Week 2014 July 27 – August 2nd

| Day | Activity |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Sunday Following worship | Move chapel furniture |
| Monday | Clean kitchen, clear all surfaces |
| Tuesday | 9:30 a.m. Prep of celery & onions for potato salad Peach delivery and sorting Put together boxes Roll silverware |
| Wednesday | 6:30 a.m. Cook potatoes & make salad 6:30 p.m. Bake pie shells |
| Thursday | 12 noon Peel/slice peaches 12 noon Bake cakes (and again 8 a.m. Friday) 6:30 p.m. Bake pies |
| Friday | 7 a.m. Box pies 8 a.m. Bake cakes (continued from Thursday) 9 a.m. Peel/slice peaches Noon – 6 p.m. Pre-sell cakes, pies, beets 5:30 p.m. Set up dining room/Scrub tables |
| Saturday | 6:30 a.m. Set up shucking area 7 a.m. Shuck corn 11:15 a.m. Bake sale opens Noon Seating begins |
| Following Week | Clean up and reorganization of building |



ONE MORE TIME

(by Audrey Howard)



The yard/bake sale is over

The peach trees are quakin'

It's time once again to get busy bakin'

Pound cakes and pies, brownies and muffins

Cupcakes and cookies

Whew! We're all huffin' and puffin'

Bake when you can - put in the freezer

All people can bake, even the "Ole Geezers"

Make what you wish and as much as you can,

For frosted cakes and candy

There's always a fan!

Cards for the Troops

Please remember your help is needed Saturday, July 12 at John Wesley United Methodist Church (2114 Bay Ridge Ave.) as our *Gracious Greetings* card making ministry unites with John Wesley's scrapbook ministry to make patriotic greeting cards for returning troops. Our goal is to make 400 welcome home cards for use by Operation Welcome Home Maryland. Please plan on helping us with this important undertaking. Drop in any time between 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. We'll even be serving snacks and lunch! Please come join the fun, make new friends, and shine a light on our wonderful EUMC spirit! Feel free to call me, 410-267-8483, with any questions and to let me know what time you'll be there!



~ Joyce Conley

P.S. Kits and templates will be provided for folks who think they are not creative!

UMM to Hold Annual Navy Football Outing



The Eastport United Methodist Men will hold their yearly Navy Football Outing on Saturday, September 20, when Navy will tackle Rutgers. Most games in the past have turned out to be thrillers, often with the outcome decided on the last play. If there is sufficient interest, there also will be a tailgating party in the church parking lot prior to the game. Men, women and kids are invited

to this event, which has been a lot of fun. Tickets are \$30 apiece, and payment must be reserved by Monday, July 28. Unlike in previous years, a block of tickets is not being purchased in advance. So reservations are necessary. Contact Jim Wilcox for more details: 410-268-7458.

~ Mike Keller

Gardening Help

After a lot of rain, the Gardens are growing and blooming and so are the weeds. Please, if you have some time to pull some weeds, cut back some plants that are getting too large or pick up trash, it would be greatly appreciated. Every little bit counts and shows in the Eastport community. Remember, we are the jewel of Eastport. If you have any questions call the church office at 410-263-5490 or contact one of the garden team members. Thank you.

~ The Garden Team



Missions News



It is time to commit to going on the fall mission trip to Appalachia Service Project (ASP) in Brenton, WV. We will join Calvary UMC and several other churches to do home repair. Dates are Wednesday,

October 15 to Sunday, October 19. Contact Jackie Cunningham if you are interested in going.

We again will be providing school supplies to students at Annapolis and Bates Middle Schools.

Missions donated \$1500 to a portable shower project to be used during Winter Relief. \$500 was from designated donations. We also donated \$3000 to *Imagine No Malaria*. \$1000 came from Missions budget; \$1000 from designated donations; and the other \$1000 was from Heaven Cent baskets and United Methodist Women. Forty hygiene kits for the homeless were donated by Missions and taken to Annual Conference.

Please consider joining the Mission's Team. Look for meeting dates in the future.

~Jackie Cunningham



The EUMC Yard Sale has come and gone, and wow, what a success it was! Over \$2100 was raised, thanks to your donated treasures and baked goods. Our gratitude goes out to everyone who helped all week long and on that beautiful Saturday, especially the team leaders – Myrna Dobbs, Jacqueline Ploof, and Sally Malamphy.



Dear Friends.....June 20, 2014

Sunday, June 8th, I was fortunate to attend service at Eastport United Methodist Church. There was a celebration of Pentecost and Pastor MaAn's last Sunday to preach. Joy and love permeated the entire church and fellowship hall. Excitement and anticipation were with everyone.

My brother and his wife, Sonny and Shirley Owen, have been members of this church for over forty years and I have attended on numerous occasions. We have all seen this church go through many changes and many challenges. It was very evident to me that this is a very good time in the life of your church. Many people were involved and stepping out to share their love for EUMC and also their pastor. It felt like a very busy church, one where the congregation is involved and participates. EUMC has members who are truly disciples of Christ as they give their spiritual gifts.

Pastor MaAn has brought EUMC into the new age with her leadership and devotion. Her love has been felt throughout the congregation, especially the little children, who will lead the way. I know she leaves the church in a better place than when she arrived. One could tell from the tears that were shed just how much she will be missed. Pastor MaAn has done a great job, but also you, as members of this church, have also done a good job!

Continue to join together as you wish her farewell and welcome the new pastor into your church and your lives. Thanks for giving me a gift that will remain in my heart forever.

God Bless, Joan Windland

The Perpetual Why

By the time you read this, I will be – God willing – safely ‘across the pond’ in Vienna, Austria before heading off to my Bavarian ‘gig’: Head of Opera at Music Theatre Bavaria. My undergraduate classmate and I will be catching up on our lives. Both of us are fortunate enough to be doing what we love, I, working with singers, she, working with instrumentalists coaching chamber music. Our lives are VERY different, but we remain close sister-souls via our music path.

Terry is seriously contemplating leaving her employment in music for practicing healing full-time, for which I understand she has a real gift. She herself is living with a form of leukemia and is a very spiritual person. We have always been able to pick up right where we left off, having been a ‘four hands piano team’ and performers on our Concerto Concert – Poulenc’s two-piano concerto. We didn’t want to compete against each other, so we auditioned as a duo. Making music together creates an inexplicable bond between people, which brings me to the title of this article.

The Perpetual Why is what most artists deal with, often weekly, and sometimes, even daily. “Why am I doing this?” “Why do I continue to do this?” “Is this STILL my vocation, or am I being called/led in a different direction to become more fully who I’m meant to be or to serve God & humanity in another way?” I have always believed, and STILL believe, that music is my vocation; it is not my ‘job’. It is my calling. It is not something I do, but it is who I am. This is the reason I do what I do, despite bumps on the way. I never could have imagined where this vocation would take me.

“Don’t you have too much on your plate?” “Don’t you need someone to carry your luggage on your trips?” None of these ‘perks’ have come without perseverance, hard work and patience, times of having to choose between bread and milk, tears, etc. Despite a lot on my plate, I feel that my life is balanced right now: helping to cultivate & advise aspiring career musicians, leading the music at our worship services at EUMC (where it’s not about judgment, but intention and praising the Lord) and in directing AVAS, a group where people belong simply because they LOVE to sing. It feeds their souls.

A nun friend of mine was very irritated whenever she’d receive a card that said “For You, In the Lord’s Service”. Her response: Well then, just WHO is everyone else serving? I venture to say that all of us at Eastport believe we are serving the Lord. The Perpetual Why should perhaps be a part of EACH of our lives. Determining whether one has a religious vocation is generally termed discernment. But, that term can apply to coming to any conclusion regarding one’s vocation. Is this where God deigns me to be? Am I pursuing the path that He intends?

The Baltimore Catechism, from which most of us raised as Catholics were educated, has as one of its first questions:

Q: Why did God make me?

A: God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next.

Parmahansah Yogananda, the yogi responsible for first bringing yoga to the West, founded the Self-Realization Fellowship. He states

“Self-realization is the knowing in body, mind, and soul, that we are one with the omnipresence of God.”

He believes that the way to permanent peace and happiness is

“to commune daily with God in deep meditation and to carry His love and guidance with you in all your dutiful activities.”

Thomas Merton, in his “Thoughts in Solitude” has a slightly more humble prayer to sum up our attempt in serving the Lord:

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

We all know that choosing to be guided by the Lord and His will in our lives is not easy. It involves tenacity, conviction, faith and reliance on the One who causes us to be and to become all that we are intended to be. May we never cease to ask The Perpetual Why. May we ever trust that God will provide the answer and his Omnipresence if we commune with and rely on Him. Carpe Diem!

~ JoAnn Kulesza



A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

Dad said: "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

Helpful Hint from Shirley Owen

Tick Removal – Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20). The tick will come out on its own and will be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. We had an occasion to try it and it worked perfectly. 😊

July Birthdays

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| July 2 | Dawn Goodnow | |
| July 4 | Richard Hughes | |
| July 5 | Pat Parks, Libby Cain | |
| July 6 | Judy Bradford, Michelle Outerbridge | |
| July 9 | Carrie Vasquez, David L. Owen | |
| July 12 | Kathleen Liedy | |
| July 13 | Annabelle King | |
| July 15 | Danielle Gottwig | |
| July 16 | Nicole Hughes, Shirley Owen Debbie Morgan | |
| July 18 | Harriet Newquist | |
| July 20 | Megan Wurst, Molly Parrish | |
| July 22 | Alexandra South, Kevin Heinz | |
| July 23 | Alaina Ugolini | |
| July 24 | Nathan Vasquez | |
| July 25 | Jim Wilcox | |
| July 29 | Evan Wilcox | |
| July 30 | Jerry South | |

July Anniversaries

| | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| July 5 | Mike & Lisa Stevens |
| July 20 | Jason & Shelly Wilcox |
| July 19 | Russ & Lisa Parrish |
| July 24 | David & Cyndi Councill |
| July 26 | Gene & Lynn Swanner |
| July 28 | Jon & Kim Wilcox |
| July 29 | Mike & Christina Valentine |

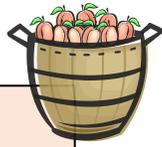
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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|----------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | 1 H&R Lending Library 4pm | 2 | 3 | 4  | 5 |
|  | | | | | | |
| 6 Worship 10am | 7 | 8 H&R Lending Library 4pm | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Cards for Troops – Drop in btw 10:30 & 5:00 – John Wesley UMC |
| 13 Worship 10am Covered Dish Luncheon after worship | 14 | 15 H&R Lending Library 4pm Trustees 6:15 Admin Council 7:30pm | 16 Food Pantry 1-3pm | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship 10am | 21 UMM 7pm | 22 H&R Lending Library 4pm | 23 Lunch Bunch 12:15pm Pickled Beets | 24 | 25 | 26 Pickled Beets |
| 27 Worship 10am | 28 | 29 H&R Lending Library 4pm | 30 | 31 H&R Story Time 4pm | |  |
| <div style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>Peach Week See Schedule Above</p> </div> | | | | | | |