



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

July 2018

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.

On June 28, 2018, tragedy struck Annapolis. We mourn with those who lost loved ones and pray for the healing of all affected in our beloved city.

From the Pastor

Pastor Michelle referenced the following prayer in her June 27th message to EUMC. Attributed to Oscar Romero, it was first presented by Cardinal Dearden in 1979 and quoted by Pope Francis in 2015. It is an excerpt from a homily written by Fr. Ken Untener.

“It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

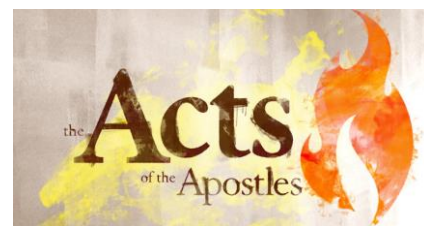
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.”

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Summer Bible Study

The Book of Acts

With the Summer upon us, it’s the season of cinema blockbusters, and Hollywood has put out the usual collection of sequels. Many people consider The Book of Acts to be Luke’s sequel to his first blockbuster hit *The Gospel According to Luke*. Luke ended his Gospel account with a Hollywood ending to beat all endings: As people looked on, Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed them, and was lifted up to heaven! Roll credits! Wow!

And sure enough, Acts picks right up where Luke left off, and Jesus declared that His followers would be His witnesses. The plot twist to draw you in is that Jesus said they'd be His witness not just in Jerusalem, which is what they probably figured they'd be doing, but into Samaria (a very undesirable place for a Jew) and even to the ends of the earth. And wouldn't you know it, that's exactly what the rest of Acts is about.

Join us Tuesday evenings at 7pm starting July 17th as we study and discuss the Acts of the Apostles. Sure, you've heard the stories before about the planting of churches and the struggles and successes of the Apostles. But, have you taken the time to think about the fact that the Holy Spirit was behind all that? Have you made the connection to the struggles and successes the church is having today? Maybe we should be thinking about how the Holy Spirit is *STILL* working to guide Jesus' witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Bring your Bible, and if you're an overachiever, read the first couple chapters. But, even if you don't get a chance to read, come and be a part of it. Expect a little bit of lecture and a lot of time for discussion and questions. See you there!

~ Bill Schneider



VACATION TIME



Annual Conference Report

“One Beneath the Cross” was the theme of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference (BWC) of the United Methodist Church May 30-June 1. But the more than 1,200 lay and clergy members in attendance spent much of their time on the divisive issue of the church's position on homosexuality.

At a lengthy Clergy Session on the first day of the Conference, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling issued a “ruling of law” reflecting the Book of Discipline that two individuals whom the Board of Ordained Ministry had approved were not eligible for ordination and commissioning because they are “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” and were each married to a person of the same gender. At the following morning's session, members were briefed that the denomination will hold a specially-called session of the General Conference in February 2019 to address the issue of homosexuality, including same-gender marriage, the ordination of gays and lesbians, and language in the Book of Discipline that calls homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching”. The Council of Bishops will present to the delegates of this special session a One Church Plan that, if approved, would allow each church and annual conference to decide how they will deal with these matters. The members to the BWC voted 310 to 233 to endorse the One Church Plan.

As part of the holy conferencing, members approved a \$18.7 million budget. For the seventh year, apportionment spending in the BWC will remain flat between \$14.1 and \$14.3 million. Approximately 10.5 percent of the budget will be directed to missions and ministries – beyond the amount provided by local congregations. In addition, members adopted a new BWC mission statement: “to inspire and equip local faith communities to develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. The work of the BWC was done in a setting of worship with many inspirational messages, presentations, and teachings. Bishop Easterling preached on the need

for unity and love – “a love that embraces those on the opposite political, economic and theological side”. At the Laity Session, Barb Lemmel, director of Tending the Fire, spoke about “courageous leadership in anxious times”; Rev. Rick Vance of the General Commission on United Methodist Men shared resources about domestic violence, saying that “men need to speak out so that our churches and homes are safe places”. Rev. Shively Smith of Wesley Theological Seminary led a Bible study on Ephesians 4: 1-6, encouraging those attending to “imagine what connections and oneness look like”.

Members also heard a report on the work of 376 BWC churches on the Call to Action for Racial Justice. Connectional Ministries honored several people for their work in the areas of Leader Development, Young People’s Ministry, Abundant Health, Advocacy in Action, and New Faith Expressions. The BWC received thanks for its 20 years of paying 100 percent of its apportionments, for its gifts to the Black College Fund, and for its support of Africa University in Zimbabwe which has made it possible for 7,000 students to graduate from this United Methodist School.

~ Mike Keller, EUMC Lay Member
to BWC Annual Conference

Peach Festival

August 4 – 12 to 5 p.m.

Peach Festival is just around the corner.

Committee chairs have been busy securing their volunteers. If you want to be part of fun, fill out the peach-colored volunteer form and place it in the basket on the table at Peach Festival Central in Fellowship Hall. There is a job for every EUMC member and friend.



Schedule of activities during Peach Week is on the board in Fellowship Hall.

This year we will feature Vendors Row. If you have a craft or product you would like to sell, you can pick up your application on that same table.

Don't forget the bake table. Start now – please bake and freeze. Our customers (us included) can't wait to buy your homemade goodies.

If you are willing to serve a table in the dining room, please get in touch with Jean Strucko.

Wednesday July 25 is pickled beet making, 9:30 a.m. Come and help.

Next Peach Festival meeting is Tuesday July 24 at 6:30 p.m.

I can't wait to work with you to make this the most successful Peach Festival ever!

~ Jackie Cunningham

Peach Festival Corporate Sponsors

If you own, work for, or know a local business that would like to partner with EUMC as a sponsor for our 43rd Annual Peach Festival, pick up a corporate sponsor packet in Fellowship Hall (they are in the rack by the kitchen door) or download a packet from the church website (www.eastportumc.org) and approach them for sponsorship. Remember, all sponsor donations are tax-deductible and this is a great way to build a continued relationship with our local business community! Questions/comments, contact Mike or Lisa Stevens – 443-822-9799, mwaynes8@hotmail.com or lisayonka@hotmail.com. All corporate sponsor donations are due by July 23rd.



Couldn't Have Done it Without You!

Thank you to Tom Schwallenberg, Barbara Nutwell, Myrna Dobbs, Jackie Cunningham, and Sandy Anderson for helping to make 136 jars of Spiced Peach Jam.

~ Paulette Schwallenberg



July Birthdays

July 2 Dawn Goodnow
July 4 Richard Hughes
July 5 Pat Parks
July 6 Judy Bradford
July 9 Carrie Vasquez
David L. Owen
July 12 Kathleen Liedy
July 13 Annabelle King
Jackson Kopp
July 15 Catrina Smith
July 18 Eli Mejia
Harriet Newquist
July 16 Nicole Hughes
Shirley Owen
Debbie Morgan
July 20 Megan Wurst
Molly Parrish
July 22 Alexandra South
July 24 Nathan Vasquez
July 25 James Wilcox
July 26 Joyce Chesney
July 29 Evan Wilcox
Tyler South
July 30 Jerry South



Make Cards for the Troops

Saturday, July 14, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
John Wesley United Methodist Church
2114 Bay Ridge Avenue

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We welcome all who can join us for this annual event. It is our goal to donate at least 1500 cards for this worthy cause. Operation Welcome Home Maryland greets thousands of military service members coming into BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport by giving them cards and snack bags.

All are encouraged to stop by – if only for an hour or two to help prepare these small tokens of appreciation for our military service members. We offer a delicious BBQ lunch to all who attend.

~ *Rev. Jerry Colbert*
John Wesley United Methodist Church

July Anniversaries

July 5 Mike & Lisa Stevens
July 10 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 Mei-Jen Hong-Hillary
Michael & Christina Valentine

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Discussion 9am Worship 10am Annapolis Vigil @ Calvary UMC 7pm	2	3 Peach Jelly 9am	4  Happy 4th of July!	5	6	7
8 Discussion 9am Worship 10am	9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #d4edda; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Time for all volunteers to sign up for Peach Week and Peach Festival! </div>			13  Summertime	14
15 Discussion 9am Worship 10am	16	17 Trustees 6:15pm Bible Study 7pm Admin Council 7:15pm	18 Food Pantry 12-2pm	19	20 	21
22 Discussion 9am Worship 10am Prayer Team	23	24 Peach Festival Meeting 6:30pm  Bible Study 7pm	25 Pickled beets 9:30am Lunch Bunch 12:15pm SPRC 7pm	26	27	28
29 Discussion 9am Worship 10am	30	31 Bible Study 7pm	1	2	3	4 43 rd Annual Peach Festival 
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #fff3cd; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Peach Week - All Hands Needed!! See schedule in Fellowship Hall </div>						