



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

March 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 fellow participants in the Lord's journey, This March, we continue to make our way toward the cross with the Lord. Once again, with the Spirit's guidance, we will bring to mind and heart the stories which remind us of all that Jesus did which landed him on the cross, historic symbol of imperial Rome's brutality; the form of capital punishment it meted out on anyone who dared to challenge and question its legitimacy as Jesus did, and as others before him did.

These stories we find in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament Gospel according to Mark, Matthew and Luke. That is why over the past few weeks since Ash Wednesday when we started our Lenten journey, I have been urging you to intentionally set aside time to read and reflect on those stories as our way of participating in our Lord's ordeal, for that it certainly was.

At the same time that we remember the historical events that led to Jesus' death on the cross, we are also mindful of his death's theological significance, which is, that Jesus died on the cross to save us from sins we have committed – sins personal and social – and sins of omission as well.

For us to admit our sinfulness takes genuine humility; a humility that results only when we are deeply rooted in our relationship with God through the daily practice of prayer, of "searching the Scriptures," fasting once or twice a week after the example of the early Christians and John Wesley, our denomination's founder.

We are encouraged to engage in these spiritual practices throughout our life's journey as disciples of Jesus but especially so during Lent. It is difficult to walk and be with him especially through Holy Week, but only when we do so will the day of resurrection (Easter Sunday) have real significance to us.

So receive with gratitude the opportunities God is giving us to join with Jesus as he journeys to the darkness of the cross. We have God's assurance that just as Jesus' journey did not end there nor will ours. Jesus will rise from the dead and so will we. Blessed Lent. Looking forward to Easter with you in joyful anticipation,

~Pastor MaAn



Bible Mini-Series

"The Bible" is an epic five-week, 10-hour television mini-series premiering **March 3, 2013** on the **History Channel** from Emmy-Award winning husband and wife team, Mark Burnett and Roma Downey. For two hours each Sunday night, millions of viewers will see the Bible come to life in a way never before seen. The final episode of the series will air on Easter Sunday [March 31] and will feature the death and resurrection of Jesus. To help ensure the accuracy of the miniseries, many Christian scholars served as advisors and hundreds of Christian leaders have given their endorsement.

"In terms of importance, nothing we've *ever* done, not *Touched By An Angel*, not *Survivor*, not *The Voice*, not *The Apprentice*, none of this could possibly compare to 'The Bible'," Burnett says. This

is not a TV show to us.... It is images, sound and sacred text that people will still watch, way after our grandchildren are old people....

The 10-hour, five-part docudrama will span the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, presenting some of its best-known stories, including Noah's Ark, the Exodus, Daniel in the lions' den and the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Former *Touched By An Angel* star Roma Downey, Burnett's wife and fellow executive producer, heads a large international cast in the role of Mother Mary. Keith David, an Emmy winner for voice-over performances, will narrate with a musical score by Oscar-and-Grammy-winning composer Hans Zimmer.

Since the entire Bible can't be covered in 10 hours, the miniseries, which was filmed in Morocco, focuses on a select group of stories and features such compelling figures as Abraham, Moses and David. Some stories had to be compressed for artistic purposes....

~Articled submitted by Earl Macey



Sunday Service on March 17

This year's Lenten/Easter Cantata will be presented on March the 17th, in a joint service with the Chancel choir and Dr. Robert Muckenfuss, organist/choirmaster of First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis AT FIRST PRES on Duke of Gloucester Street. Bob, a colleague of mine at Peabody, and I have known each other since graduate school at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. First Pres has a MARVELOUS organ, upgraded about six years ago, possessing a wide range of colors. Since our piece, REJOICE IN THE LAMB, is a work for choir and organ, requiring an excellent organist, AND since we have begun a tradition of the Interfaith New Year's Eve and Thanksgiving Ecumenical services, I thought it would be an opportune time to join with fellow musicians at another denomination to lift our collective voices in praise.

We will sing this work at BOTH services - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. – at our neighboring church. Pastor MaAn and Reverend William Hathaway will both be presiding at the service.

Free validated parking is available in the Hillman Garage and the Gotts Court Garage on Sunday mornings. The Hillman Garage is directly across Duke of Gloucester Street from the church. The Gotts Court Garage has entrances on Calvert Street and Northwest Street, near West Street and Rowe Boulevard. Street parking may also be attempted. We also suggest carpooling, i.e., meeting at Eastport and going over in fewer vehicles. Our own offering envelopes should be used and will be sorted from those of the church's own membership and brought back to Eastport to be counted and credited to your regular giving.

This is a marvelous opportunity for us to get to know some of our other brothers and sisters in Christ in Annapolis. I know the musical offerings and the worship service will be inspiring. The combined choirs will number some thirty-five members. Please come and make Eastport's presence strong and support our Wesleyan choir! It's all the same God, you know! I look forward to seeing you there on March 17th.

~JoAnn Kulesza, Music Director

Worship News

The Worship Team will meet on March 10th following the covered dish luncheon. We will discuss our two-year-old blended service. Please bring your concerns, compliments and suggestions.

Easter lilies may be ordered beginning March 3rd. The cost is \$10; as an alternative you can give a contribution in any amount to our food pantry. Either way you will be able to place a dedication in the bulletin for Easter.



Look for forms in the fellowship hall. Please do not put dedication requests or checks in the offering plate. *~Jill Peddicord*

Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday, March 10, Luncheon 11:45 a.m.
Hosted by Staff Parish Relations &
Lay Leadership Teams

As you are able, please provide a dish or dessert to share; however, everyone is welcome with or without a dish. Host teams are responsible for main dish, drinks, set-up and clean-up.

District United Methodist Men's Retreat



For its first-ever retreat at West River on February 8-10, the District United Methodist Men were blessed to have the company of Gilbert C. Hanke, the General Secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men nationally. In both small group conversations and in a keynote address, Mr. Hanke laid out the challenges and the opportunities for men as they seek to serve their churches.

Mr. Hanke noted that U.S. churches face diminished participation by men. Thirteen million more women attend worship services on any given Sunday than do men. Of the married women who attend church, a quarter do so without their husbands. But those churches that have bucked the trend have reaped benefits. At those churches at which women comprise 60 percent of the membership, just 22 percent are growing. At those churches at which men constitute 60 percent of the membership, 59 percent are growing. So the answer to increasing the number of people in the pews each Sunday is to bring more folks from unrepresented populations into the church – namely men as well as youth and young adults of both genders. Churches that are unable to do so will not likely survive. Mr. Hanke predicted that 30 percent of all United Methodist Churches will close by 2030. To avoid this fate, churches must enlist men in the critical function of reaching out into their communities and avoiding an overly inward focus.

How can churches go about attracting more men? Mr. Hanke said that the first step is to expand the role of men in our congregations. Historically, men have been the “fix it” folks in churches. While the service of men as trustees is vital, the church needs to understand that men are people of spirit and many want to do more than building-related tasks. Men are looking for places to serve, and we need to widen not narrow these opportunities. Mr. Hanke suggested that men’s ministries in churches take the following actions:

- Take a realistic look at whom the current men’s ministry is reaching in relation to the size of the church. Recognize that there are different activities that appeal to different men. Avoid stereotyping.
- Understand that leadership is a team effort, and the men’s ministry should not depend on a single person. Those who are responsible for the men’s ministry in the church ought to be persons with whom folks like to associate, have strong organizational skills, and display a love for Christ.
- Know that more men come into a relationship with Christ via the “back door” – that is through activities not necessarily directly related to the church. One example: scouting.
- Engage in work that reaches into the community or, as Jim Wilcox often expresses it, go “outside the walls”.
- Ask the pastor for his/her vision for the role of men in the church and act on it.

Three other highlights of the retreat: 1) small group sessions on the topics of Men as Spiritual Leaders in the Church, Men in the Home, Men in the Community, and Men as Prayer Leaders; 2) a moving performance by the Praying Band of Rev. Jerry Colbert; and 3) a powerful sharing, witnessing, praise and testimony session. It is said that men find it easier to “open up” in the presence of just other men, and this retreat demonstrated the truth of that observation. The rustic setting of West River, and the log cabin accommodations and excellent meals contributed much to the weekend. Eastport United Methodist Church was represented by three members: Jim Wilcox, Bob McWilliams, and Mike Keller. The District United Methodist

Men were sufficiently pleased by the overall participation and the quality of program that it will try to make the retreat an annual event. Next year, the goal is to double the number of those attending from the churches in our District. Men, consider joining us in 2014.

~Mike Keller

Looking for Men to Serve as Tutors

The Eastport United Methodist Men received a presentation at its last meeting by Valerie Drozd, the education director of Seeds 4 Success, a local non-profit established to provide disadvantaged Annapolis children with knowledge, services, experiences and relationships that can help them in their development to adulthood.

Valerie spoke about her organization's I Am a Reader Program, in which men serve as tutors. The tutors commit approximately 2.5 hours a week for an academic school year, serving as a "literacy coach" for a first, second or third grade boy who lives in Annapolis public or subsidized housing. One hour of this time is allocated to individual tutoring each week. The tutoring sessions are at least temporarily being held at our church at the invitation of Pastor MaAn. The remaining 1.5 hours of tutoring follows an individualized plan developed by Valerie. The tutor also will have occasional meetings with her to discuss the progress of the pupil. In addition, each tutor is asked to drive the pupil home and to provide a brief update to parents or other relatives at the child's home regarding the literacy focus for the week as well as materials prepared for the child by Valerie.

The Eastport United Methodist Men were impressed by the I Am a Reader program and recommend participation in it to men in the church who would like to make a difference in the life of a local boy. All tutors receive training in advance. Pastor MaAn has asked the United Methodist Men to adopt this program as a ministry. Those interested are encouraged to speak with Pastor MaAn. Application forms for the program are available from her or Mike Keller. For more information about the program, contact Valerie at 410-919-3347.

~Mike Keller



Faith-Building Decision Making – Part I

After being saved by grace by the Holy Spirit, many people have become complacent and have not sought faith-building instruction/education to continue their walk with God. God has so much more in store for us and wants us to move into a closer relationship with Him. And it's only by on-going study of His Word that we become stronger Christians able to withstand the temptations of this world. We need to be able to pray unceasingly to God in every aspect of our lives. Thank Him for being with us every step of the way to becoming champions for God. Not just for major problems in our lives, but for every-day occurrences and decisions we make during the day. Protection while driving, what we say to people, how we say it, even the smallest details,, God wants to be your constant companion to guide you with your decision-making.

~Joan Dove, Evangelism Team



GreenScape 2013

This is a city-wide event that happens every spring. This year GreenScape takes place on April 20th. At the church we will be doing yard work from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. With lots of mulch to spread, bulbs to plant and general trimming and cleanup, there is something for everyone to do. Put it on your calendar and dust off those garden tools. Everyone is welcome – little people especially enjoy this time of helping and digging in the dirt!

~Paulette Schwallenberg



LENT-EASTER 2013

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

CANTATA SUNDAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

March 17, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 10:00 a.m.

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

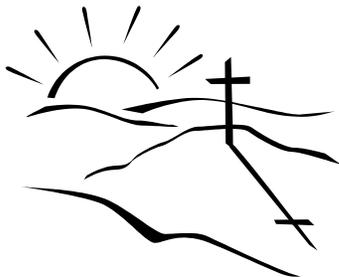
Day of Personal Prayer and Reflection

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



Labyrinth Workshop



On Saturday, May 11, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Bay Ridge Avenue will hold a labyrinth workshop, led by The Rev. David Jones, a trained Veriditas Labyrinth Facilitator. Free and open to the public, the workshop will be a great introduction for those who are new to the labyrinth, as well as an opportunity to go deeper for those who are already familiar with labyrinth walking. Save the date and spread the word.



2013 Mission Trip

It is not too early to think about our mission trip for 2013. Again we are teaming with Calvary United Methodist Church and several other churches to go to Guyan Valley, Appalachian Service Project (same as last year) on Oct 16-20. Hopefully this will give you enough time to make plans to join us. It is a very worthwhile and satisfying project. See Jackie Cunningham for more information

~Jackie Cunningham



LIFE CHANGES

Evan Michael Leary, Jr.

Great grandson of Sally & Greg Colburn

Baptized February 10, 2013

Shirley Peacock

Former member

Died January 3, 2013

Phil Peacock

Former member

Died January 21, 2013

Dottie Mann

Died February 14, 2013

March Birthdays



Mar 1	Christy South
Mar 2	Evelyn Beall
Mar 3	Jean Wilcox
Mar 5	Ernie Schultz, Stephen Jones
Mar 8	Carol Emory
Mar 9	Carol Stevens
Mar 10	Andy Little
Mar 13	Jill Peddicord
Mar 14	Vern Renshaw
Mar 17	Monica Hight
Mar 18	Paulette Schwallenberg, Rebecca Bailey, Virginia Gill Sue Hadaway
Mar 19	Eric Smaridge
Mar 26	Barbara Nutwell
March 27	Catherine Elliott
Mar 28	Arnold Hadaway
Mar 29	Thomas Owen
Mar 31	Jennifer Smith, Sue Nasatka

March Anniversaries



Mar 3	Nadine Clark & Charlie Card
Mar 8	Sue & Arnold Hadaway Michelle & Tom Outerbridge
Mar 12	Shirley & Sonny Owen
Mar 16	Virginia & Ernie Schultz
Mar 21	Judy & Jim Bradford



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2013						
3 •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am •SoulSearchers 2pm	4 Bells 7pm	5 Homework-Reading 4pm	6 Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm UMW Dinner 5:30pm	7 Homework-Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	8	9 Game Night 5:30pm  SET CLOCKS AHEAD !! 
10 •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am •SoulSearchers 2pm	11 Bells 7pm ← Covered Dish Luncheon ← Worship Team Meeting	12 Homework-Reading 4pm	13 Lenten Study 10:15am & 6:45pm Worship 12:00 Lunch follows	14 Homework-Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	15	16
17 CANTATA •SoulSearchers 2pm	18 Bells 7pm ← Worship at First Presbyterian Church Duke of Gloucester Street 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	19 Homework-Reading 4pm	20 •Food Pantry 1-3pm •Lenten Study 10:15-11:45am & 6:45pm •Worship 12:00 Lunch follows	21 Homework-Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY •Conversations 9am-Chapel •Worship 10am •SS 10:15am •SoulSearchers 2pm	25 •Contemplative Service 12:15pm Bells 7pm UMM Prayer & Pizza 7pm	26 Contemplative Service 12:15pm Homework-Reading 4pm	27 Contemplative Service 12:15pm	28 •Homework 4pm Holy Thursday Meal 6pm Living Last Supper* 7pm <i>*Leonardo DaVinci's version</i>	29 Good Friday Worship 12 noon	30
31 •Sunrise at Thomas Pt. 6:30am •EasterWorship 10am •Fellowship & Egg Hunt						