



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

March 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

Moving into a new home is both exciting and frustrating. On the one hand, it invites you to dream about the possibilities, to consider your space carefully, and to think about what you really want and need. On the other hand, it is frustrating, because unless you’re starting from scratch or have unlimited time or resources, chances are there is old furniture that will not fit and a long list of things to find or buy or fix.

It’s a lesson in learning how to make do and take the long view. It’s a lesson in patience. It’s a lesson in learning to live with things **not** the way you want them. It’s a lesson in learning to do what you can, when you can, and bit by bit save, work, rearrange, clear out, and give away. It’s a lesson in learning to envision something and be patient for weeks, months, and even years until that vision either changes or can become a reality. It’s a lesson in acceptance and grace not only of the house but of one’s self.

I don’t know what it is about me, but once I have decided something (which can take a while), then I have a hard time waiting. I want it done, fixed, organized, perfected. Learning to live in the midst of messiness, accepting the mess, while doing the best I can to improve it, is challenging to me. You could try to blame this tendency on my generation, the generation that wants results immediately, that has access to everything at their fingertips through the internet, a generation that is not accustomed to waiting for things because of free two day shipping with Amazon Prime, (praise the Lord!) but I bet I would be like this regardless.

This struggle reminds me of the journey of Lent – the journey of transformation in us. I can see the person I want to become. I can see the image of

Christ lived out in me. But I am confronted with my reality, which often can be quite different from that vision. Lent is about a lot of things. Recognizing our failures and mistakes, even in our feeble attempts to better ourselves, is a large part of it. Learning self-acceptance and grace is another part. Learning that this takes a long time and being patient with this process is yet another piece.

Recently this struggle has come to a head in my dining room, which is in a state of upheaval. You see, we discovered on move-in day, that my dresser didn’t fit in our bedroom except by blocking the closet. That just wasn’t going to cut it. For a while I had been captivated by the idea of finding new life for older things and liked the look of painted furniture. So, I found and bought a new-to-me dresser at Second Chance in Baltimore. If you haven’t been there, it’s a very neat store. Their mission is providing people, materials and the environment with a second chance. They deconstruct buildings and salvage and sell usable materials. They also employ and train those who typically face obstacles in obtaining jobs. Truly they live out their mission: retrain, reclaim, renew. The dresser’s color was hideous, but its structure was beautiful, and since I planned to repaint it anyway, it was perfect. And so we bought it. Back in June.

Try as it might, that little dresser I bought cannot paint, remake, or transform itself. I am the one that saw it and saw its potential. I saw what it could be with a little sanding, a little paint, a little wax, a little care and love. And although the dresser will participate in this transformation, I am really the one who will do the work and make that happen.

The same goes for us in the midst of Lent. We are in the process of being transformed by God’s grace and God’s love. We are being remolded into the image of Jesus. But it takes a lot of time, a lot of

love, a lot of mistakes, a lot of failures and lessons, a lot of acceptance, a lot of self-awareness and honesty. And although we participate in this process, it is ultimately God's vision, God's work, God's love, God's care, that will make us into new creations, new creatures. We are called to be patient, to receive grace, and to be open and willing to God's creative and loving hand at work.

You might be wondering why I'm pondering this now, 9 months after we moved into our home, 9 months after I bought the new dresser. Any guesses as to what happened? Well, life got busy, and painting the furniture went to the bottom of the list. Yes, when Lent started just a few short weeks ago, that hideous dresser was still sitting in the garage, taunting me every time I passed it. But since I avoid the messiness of our garage at all costs (our cars are parked in the driveway), I avoided its condemning glance and its attempts to blame and shame. Somehow I have adjusted to not being able to open my closet door and praise to God, still have been able to get dressed every day for the last nine months!

Which brings me back to my dining room. I realized that this dresser was never going to get done unless I made us severely uncomfortable. So last weekend, I moved all the dining furniture to the side, put that dresser in the middle of the room over some drop cloths, and got out the chalk paint. By Easter, I have the unshakeable hope that the dresser will be finished and fully functional, moved into our room, and showing off all its glory!

This also speaks to the reality of our lives. Our transformation happens not according to our timetables and our schedules, but our transformation happens in God's good time. At times it may even be uncomfortable or painful. This Lent, our sermon series is called, "Reclaim, Renew, Resurrect," and it's about how God is working to transform us more into who God wants us to be. Call it what you will – salvage, reclaim, renew, repurpose, upcycle, it's all about God's work in us. So won't you come and join this unfinished, creation as we are sanded, repainted, and remade together by God's love?

~Yours in Christ, Pastor Michelle

United Methodist Women



March 4th, 2:00 p.m. – This is the last meeting UMW will hold in the afternoon. Remember, it is always the first Wednesday of the month. On April 1st (No Fooling), May 6th, and June 3rd (Picnic), we will meet at our regular time of 5:30 p.m., for a brown bag dinner of your choice – dessert and drinks are furnished. Come join us for fellowship and enjoy the camaraderie. All women of EUMC are United Methodist Women.

~Ann Rawls, President of UMW



A Community Conversation Open to the Public – Everyone Invited

On Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m., EUMC will host a gathering of citizens and representatives of the Annapolis Police Department to discuss the relationship between community and police. Please plan to be here, and spread the word to your neighbors and friends. The public is encouraged to attend. This is part of a series of meetings taking place in the greater Annapolis area.



Covered Dish Luncheon March 8th – 11:45 am

Hosted by Finance & Stewardship Team
Main dish and beverages will be provided. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Invite your family & friends – everyone is welcome!!

Group Activity for Kids



Please join us for our first EUMC Kids Group activity for bowling at Annapolis Bowl on Saturday, March 7 from 3-5 pm. We hope this will be a fun time for the kids, and allow the adults a little socializing, too. We will be able to bowl at a reduced rate. This activity is fun for kids of all ages, and they have adaptive devices for the little ones too. RSVP is not required, but would be appreciated so we know if we need to get extra lanes. Please call Amanda Owen at 410-320-4966 or email amandamclark@comcast.net.

Please also email Amanda if you would like to be added to the e-mail list for future activities. Springtime activities will hopefully involve some outdoor playtime, but we are always looking for fun and inexpensive ideas for the kids.

~ Amanda Owen

► Missions News ◀

Missions Meeting: Tuesday March 3 at 7:00 p.m. If you have any interest in EUMC's mission projects, please plan to attend.

Food Pantry: The new distribution time for food pantry is 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. This adjustment was made because most of our recipients are at the door waiting and are gone by 2:00. Distribution day is the third Wednesday of every month. If you can assist with this ministry please come – help is always needed. This once-a-month distribution of food is provided by the Anne Arundel County Food Pantry. It includes food purchased through your contributions for Easter and Christmas dedications and your donations to the glass fish bowl located in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Annual Mission Trip: It is not too early to be thinking of the fall 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. On the other hand, if you have carpentry or handyman skills, well....we won't turn you away! Think about it, and please ask us about this trip.



~ Jackie Cunningham, Missions Team

Easter Dedications

Forms will be available in the church hall on Sunday, March 15th and 22nd to purchase Easter lilies and/or contribute to our food pantry. Either option will allow you to honor or memorialize friends and loved ones in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Lilies can be purchased for \$10 – they beautify our sanctuary and you get to take these lovely flowers home with you. Food pantry donations are accepted in any amount; your contributions purchase non-perishable items for our monthly food pantry.



Our lilies come from **Brumar Gardens**, 1009 Bay Ridge Road. Brumar has always provided us with beautiful poinsettias and lilies, and they are the folks who donate the best ever corn for our annual Peach Festival!

~ Jill Peddicord, Worship Team

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Lent and Easter Journey with EUMC

Wednesdays during Lent

Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1
10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Study
Worship with Holy Communion 12 p.m.
Luncheon Following

Palm Sunday

Mar. 29
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Easter Cantata

Holy Thursday

Apr. 2
Covered Dish Dinner 6 p.m.
Worship Service 7:30 p.m.
“Remembering....” by the United Methodist Men

Easter Sunday

Apr. 5
Sunrise Service at Thomas Point 6:00 a.m.
(Sun rises 6:34 a.m.)
Easter Worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt Following Service

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Dear Church Family,

Thanks for all your cards, prayers, and thoughts following the sudden loss of my son, Bill. Knowing you were there for us was a big help. My church family means a lot to me. May God bless all of you.

Barbara Nutwell and Family

Vacation Bible School

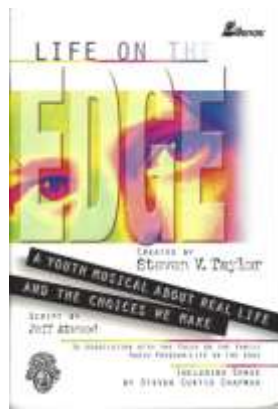


EUMC is looking for one or two people to lead this summer's Vacation Bible School. Please see Pastor Michelle if you are interested in coordinating this project. Programs are provided and we promise you lots of helpers.



Soul Searchers

This year's Soul Searcher performance is slowly coming together as the kids practice with Scott & Nicole Hughes every Sunday. "Life on the Edge" is a favorite from 2010. They'll perform it at EUMC, their home church, on June 14th. By then we will have long forgotten this icy winter!



Please keep Scott & Nicole, their helpers and crew, and all the beautiful young Soul Searchers in your prayers as they dedicate their Sunday afternoons to this worthwhile ministry.

EUMC Church Library

Did you know that we have one? The library is located in the chapel – two bookshelves. There is a broad range of resources from children's books to adult books; fiction to books on the Holy Land; many versions of the Bible, and Bible study books. If you want a book of devotions for your daily use, you will find quite a few in the library. Please drop by and take a look; better yet, take a book...or two. No sign out necessary. Return the book when and if you can; if you decide it's a book you would like to have for your own, that's okay too. You will see more about the library, and we hope that it will be of value for our members and friends. If you have any questions, please call the office and speak to Wendy.

~ Wendy Edstrom

Spring GreenScape



Spring really is just around the corner and that means another GreenScape-Annapolis has been planned. Each year the City of Annapolis supports and encourages organizations like our church to plant and maintain gardens. They provide mulch, bulbs, and other plantings. Volunteers all over the city clean up and plant gardens. EUMC will participate. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 25, 9 am to 12 noon on the church grounds. There will be lots of mulch to spread and bulbs to plant. We need all kinds of help so put it on your calendar now.

~Paulette Schwallenberg



Did You Know?

Used electronics – computers, TVs, phones, etc. – can be recycled at Best Buy. If you will pull your car up to their door, they will even unload them for you. Electronic items should not be left at the church. We can't use them and we can't sell them at the yard sale.

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 Virginia Gill Sue Hadaway
Mar 19	Eric Smaridge
Mar 26	Barbara Nutwell
Mar 29	Thomas Owen
Mar 31	Sue Nasatka Jennifer Smith

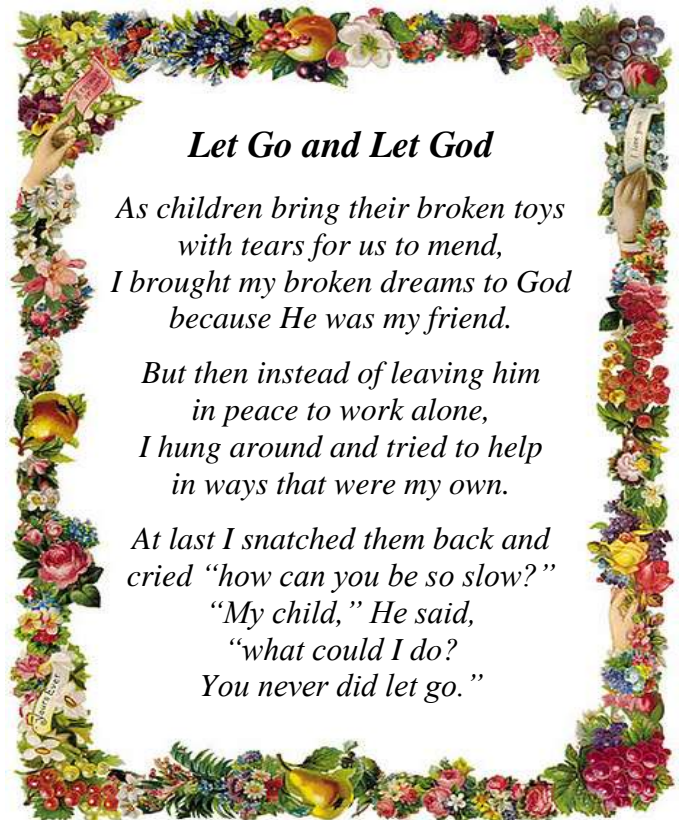
In Case of Closing

It is rare to cancel services but this winter has been exceptional. In the case of severe weather conditions call the office 410-263-5490 and listen to the outgoing message, or check our website www.eastportumc.org for announcements. We will also send out an email and announce it on Facebook.

March Anniversaries



Mar 8	Tom & Michelle Outerbridge
Mar 12	Sonny & Shirley Owen
Mar 16	Ernie & Pud Schultz
Mar 21	Jim & Judy Bradford



Let Go and Let God

*As children bring their broken toys
with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God
because He was my friend.*

*But then instead of leaving him
in peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
in ways that were my own.*

*At last I snatched them back and
cried "how can you be so slow?"
"My child," He said,
"what could I do?
You never did let go."*

The Spire is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410-263-5490
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Chapel 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	2 Bells 7pm	3 Homework & Reading 4pm Finance 6:30pm Missions 7pm	4 Study 10:45am Service & Lunch 12pm Methodist Women 2pm Kids Art 4pm	5 Homework & Reading 4pm No Choir	6	7 Turn clocks forward tonight! 
8 Chapel 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am COVERED DISH LUNCHEON	9 Bells 7pm	10 Homework & Reading 4pm Public Safety Meeting 6pm	11 Study 10:45am Service & Lunch 12pm Kids Art 4pm	12 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	13	14 District UMW 10am  Game Night 5:30pm
15 Chapel 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	16 Bells 7pm	17  Homework & Reading 4pm Trustees 6:15 Admin Council 7:30pm	18 Study 10:45am Service & Lunch 12pm Food Pantry 1-3pm Kids Art 4pm	19 Gracious Greetings 1:30 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	20 First Day of Spring 	21
22 Discussion 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	23 Bells 7pm UMM Prayer & Pizza 7pm	24 Homework & Reading 4pm	25 Study 10:45am Service & Lunch 12pm Kids Art 4pm	26 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY Chapel 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	30 Bells 7pm	31 Homework & Reading 4pm				