



# The Eastport Spire

## *“Inspire Us to Great Things”*

### *May 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.*

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#### **Pastor’s Corner**

***Love is creative. It does not flow along the easy paths, spending itself in the attractive. It cuts new channels, goes where it is needed.***

*~ Evelyn Underhill*

Dear Church

I don’t consider myself a men’s college basketball person. I’m more of a Nationals baseball fan and World Cup Soccer aficionado. Yet, if you are at all a fan of sports, it is almost impossible to subtract yourself from March Madness – the NCAA National Championship tournament. I won’t bore you with the all-consuming details on how to choose the perfect team bracket or which teams seem to always get a little help from the referees. I don’t actually know those things anyway. All you need to know is that this year Duke University – a United Methodist school – won. That’s it. Nevertheless, there was something that Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said during his post-game interview that caught my attention. Coach Krzyzewski said, *“This one is the best moment of my coaching career. ...In today’s world you have to adapt to what’s happening. If the opportunity arises for a youngster to leave early from school, whether he’s an athlete or she’s an athlete or not, it’s their opportunity to pursue it. So I think we’re living in the dark ages when we say that it should only be done one way.”* In other words, there is a new reality in Men’s College Basketball.

In other words, star college athletes are so good that they only play one college season. Long gone are the days when they would stay and play four years. The economic appeal of the National Basketball Association is so strong that it can’t be denied. The millions of dollars in contracts and sponsorships overwhelm any possibility of playing

more than one year and risk a serious injury with nothing to show for it. This simply means that college basketball powerhouses like Duke, Kentucky, and North Carolina who enjoyed longer tenures by their players have had to adjust. This new reality couldn’t be more clearly seen than in Coach Krzyzewski’s career. He won his first championship 24 years ago when players often stayed four years. So far, three of the key players from this year’s championship have already declared for the NBA.

To me the key word in this conversation is “adapt.” Adapt to the new times, adapt to the new circumstances, adapt to the new reality not just to win a championship but to keep growing and learning. Adapt so that you and I can remain teachable, humble, and open to God’s Spirit. I’m constantly reminded of what a pastor friend of mine told me once, “We live in this daily tension where we follow a God that never changes but who is constantly asking us to change and adapt to a new life.”

This is the May article, which means that summer is around the corner. This is for many a time to slow down, go on vacation, and relax. So please, if you get that opportunity go on vacation, replenish, relax. And as you are soaking up the sun protected by sunscreen, with your favorite book by your side, and a refreshing drink of your choice, I want to invite you to ponder a simple question, “Am I willing to adapt my life to God’s new reality?” I also invite you to think about this question in terms of our church. “Are we willing to adapt our church (meaning our own selves and the ways we do things) to the realities of our culture and community?” And perhaps, even more importantly, “What are the areas and ways God is calling us to adapt, to grow, to change, to be led by the Holy

Spirit into the new or perhaps even, the unfamiliar or uncomfortable?" Our collective answers to that question hold the key that will open or keep closed the door to the new opportunities, challenges, and people God is placing before us. My prayer is that all of us are ready to adapt so that little by little you and I decrease and Jesus can increase. (John 3:30) Let's stay open together to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst!

~ Grace & Peace, Pastor Michelle



### An Easter Sunday Joy

I'm certain that everyone agrees that this year's church Easter Egg Hunt was another wonderful event for young and old alike! As I stood watching the kids' excitement and heard their joyous squeals, I was reminded of the loving interactions Jesus had with children and his message "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I have always been moved by the fact that this passage concludes with Jesus blessing the children, not for what they did – but simply because they were children.

And I felt *His* blessing at Eastport on Easter when I looked around and counted 40 children in our midst and I thank the parents and grandparents who love children and bring their children to worship. But I am especially thankful for our 16 neighborhood children who accepted our invitation to come to worship on Easter morning and participate in the egg hunt. This was a big step for many of the kids because they questioned what to expect and what people might say to them. I am very thankful that the kids were met with so many smiling EUMC faces! My continued prayer is that we, the people of Eastport United Methodist Church, continue to follow the example of a loving Jesus and seek out opportunities to show our love and support for all our neighbors – young and old alike - and that we continue to be a congregation of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

~ Joyce Conley, Homework & Reading Ministry

### May Covered Dish Luncheon May 17 – 11:45 a.m.

Hosted by  
Church School and Scholarship Teams  
Main dish and beverages will be provided. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. You're encouraged to invite family & friends – everyone is welcome!!



### GreenScape Volunteers

GreenScape 2015 – April 25th was a huge success thanks to our many volunteers who worked tirelessly. Thank you to Steve & Pat Parks, Eric Smaridge, Joyce Conley, Sam Coates, June & Butch Stevens, Myrna & Marty Dobbs, Valerie & Neil Bergsman, Paulette & Tom Schwallenberg, Jackie & Brian Cunningham, Lisa, Russ & Molly Parrish, Jean & Dick Strucko, Jim & Mary Jane Finkle, and our Pastor Michelle. Without your help there would still be 50 bags of mulch in a stack and the church grounds would look very tired. We did a lot but still there is more to be done before the hot summer. We will try and plan another cool day to finish and maintain what we have. Take a walk and look at the gardens; sit awhile and enjoy your space.

~The Garden Team

Good deeds are not done by  
walking into a church.  
They're done by walking  
outside and helping others.



(Photo Prototype by Vicki Clary)

## **Columbarium at EUMC**

During this time of post-Easter and celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus, we have been challenged to visualize the living Christ in our midst. At Eastport United Methodist Church, we continue to serve Jesus in all that we do. It is a comfort to know that Jesus has prepared a place in Heaven for all who believe in Him, and it is also a comfort to know that our church home will soon provide a final resting place for those who would choose cremation at life's end on earth.

Plans are underway for a columbarium to be installed as part of our prayer garden in the front of our church. In recent years, cremation is becoming a preferred option, and more and more churches are providing a columbarium as a meaningful way to honor and respect the remains of those who have passed on. What better place than in the shadows of the church to place these remains. It is there where we are baptized. It is there where we give our life to Christ. What better witness than to have our remains placed in this same sacred place?

In May 2014, a survey was sent to every church family regarding the possibility of placing a columbarium at EUMC, 80% indicated a favorable response to place a columbarium on our church property. The EUMC Board of Trustees voted to approve the potential project. Soon thereafter, a committee of thirteen church members was formed to assess the possibilities and formulate a plan to install a columbarium at EUMC. Several members visited churches in the area such as First Presbyterian Church and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Annapolis, St. Paul's Anglican Church in Crownsville, and others throughout the county, to see recently installed columbaria. The committee has been meeting officially and regularly, since September 2014, to select a design and location for the columbarium, select a contractor, and formulate

regulations to govern the operation and use of the columbarium.

The columbarium will be constructed of solid granite, double sided, with twenty four niches on each side, and will be placed at the head of the prayer garden in line with, and under the stained glass window in the front of the church. The columbarium will include a total of forty eight niches, each 12 inches square, providing space for two human remains. The granite face plate on each niche will be engraved with names and dates of birth and death for those inurned. The sides of the columbarium will provide memorial spaces for names and dates of birth and death for church members buried elsewhere. The area will be landscaped with ornamental trees and benches will be placed on both sides to provide a place of prayer and reflection for all those who visit the columbarium. Niche purchase will be limited to church members and their immediate family members, as well as clergy who have served this church.

The columbarium will be self-sufficient, and will not require support from regular church funds. It will not be built until construction monies are realized through purchase of niches and memorial donations. Niches will be selected and assigned in order of purchase. A preconstruction discount is currently being offered for a niche price of \$1800, which includes inurnment of up to two human remains. Following completion of the columbarium, niches will be priced at \$2000. This is considerably less than the price of a cemetery lot, or niche in a public cemetery. A memorial listing on the side wall will be \$300.

It is wonderful that EUMC will now be able to offer our own columbarium as an option for you. This will provide a dignified way to honor and respect the remains of our members who choose to designate EUMC as their final resting place. Pick up an application soon from the church office.

### **Columbarium Committee Members:**

Edgar Bowen, Eunice Corse, Jackie Cunningham, Holly Green Fica, Margie Hughes, Richard Hughes, Mike Keller, Charlotte Kerns, Dawn Moyer, Joe Nasatka, Bill Riggs, Virginia Schultz, and Tom Schwallenberg.

## Vacation Bible School

**Kids, Parents & Grandparents: Mark your calendars for June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.!**



Eastport United Methodist Church will be transformed into the G-Force Adventure Park for this year's Vacation Bible School. Our high energy program will rev up the desire to explore random acts of kindness while participating in a variety of action packed activities. We'll have interactive games, new crafts, a science zone, super fun recreational activities and of course, tasty snacks!

Adults, please consider volunteering your time during this amazing week. There will also be a sign up list for anyone not able to attend but who can provide snacks and/or other materials. It takes a village so please help! Additional details will follow soon. Please contact Jacqueline Reid Ploof @ [JacqReid@comcast.net](mailto:JacqReid@comcast.net) or call 703.863.1275 for more information. ~Jacqueline Ploof

**The Church Yard Sale is Saturday, June 6, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to noon.** We will need a lot of hands to help set up at 7:00 a.m.



Please, no TVs, computers, or any other electronics. They do not sell. Last year we had to take a car full of TVs and computers out to Best Buy – that just takes up our time when we have so much to do. We do take books, but no text books. CDs sell, but VCR tapes do not. Please no shoes or clothing of any kind.

Price stickers will be available at the church bulletin board in the hall and with the yard sale committee every Sunday.

You can leave your items at the church beginning Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>, and then Monday thru Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please do not bring items on Friday, since that is the day we set up and organize the room. Lots of help is needed for this event.  
~Myrna Dobbs, Sally Malamphy, Eunice Corse  
**p.s. Yes, there will be a bake sale!**



## EUMC in the City's Memorial Day Parade

You're all invited to join those fun lovin' EUMC folks who will participate in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Annapolis on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Participants need to be at the starting point no later than 9:30 a.m. Parade begins at 10 a.m. We're especially in need of convertibles and pick-up trucks to carry folks not up to walking the entire parade route. We'll be carrying our banner that reads, "Eastport United Methodist Church – Honoring our fallen heroes, veterans and troops." EUMC walkers will be distributing small American flags to folks along the parade route. Please see Joyce Conley for details, and let her know you'll be joining us. It's lots of fun!



## 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Peach Festival News

We're happy to report that Jean Strucko and Jackie Cunningham will co-chair our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Peach Festival. The date is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Put it on your calendar now. There is much to talk about to get this event rolling, so we're asking anyone and everyone interested in the peach festival to attend a meeting on **Wednesday, May 13, at 7:00 p.m.** Bring your suggestions, ideas, and notes from last year.

And please round up your canning jars from last year's beets and jams – leave them in the church kitchen. Remember, **no** spaghetti, mayonnaise jars or the like. Only canning jars.

## 2015 Soul Searchers



The Soul Searchers of Eastport United Methodist Church have been working hard every Sunday afternoon, getting ready for their 2015 season. Learn more about this group by following their link on our website [www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org). Below is their tour schedule – we hope you can catch one or more of these performances, especially the one at EUMC on June 14.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

7:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
1800 Seton Drive, Crofton, MD 21114

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
13106 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20720

7:30 p.m.

Jenkins Memorial Church  
133 Riviera Drive, Pasadena, MD 21122

**THURSDAY, JUNE 11**

7:00 p.m.

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church  
1281 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis, MD 21409

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14**

10:30 a.m.

Community United Methodist Church  
8680 Ft. Smallwood Road, Pasadena, MD 21122

**7:30 p.m.**

**Eastport United Methodist Church**  
**926 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17**

7:00 p.m.

Safe Harbor Presbyterian Church  
931 Love Point Road, Stevensville, MD 21666

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21**

9:00 a.m.

Cape St. Clair United Methodist Church  
855 Chestnut Tree Drive, Annapolis, MD 21409

## Changing the Narrative from ‘Church’ to ‘Kingdom’

*This article is reprinted from the most recent United Methodist Connection.... Pastor Michelle, Jackie Cunningham, and Jill Peddicord attended the event.*

Our denomination has been in decline since 1968. There is no shortage of opinions on how to fix the problem. For the Rev. Reggie McNeal, the answer is simple: change the narrative. That was his message on March 7 at Westphalia UMC at the Southern Region Leadership Day event. More than 475 people packed the sanctuary of the church to learn how to change their stories from one of being church-centered to that of being Kingdom-centered.

“As a region, we have been trying to focus our congregations to minister more outside of our holy huddles – to be local missionaries,” said the Rev. Chris Owens, Missional Strategist for the Southern Region. “Instead of always trying to measure vibrancy and effectiveness by how many people we can attract to our church stuff, what if we measured ourselves by how many people we bless and how many lives we improve? That’s what it means to share the good news of Jesus Christ. And that’s missional.”

McNeal, a Southern Baptist from South Carolina who speaks fluent United Methodese, and the author of numerous books, outlined both the problem and the solution for a dwindling church. The problem, McNeal said, is the fact that the number of people who identify themselves today as being “nonaffiliated” with any church has grown to one out of five people. Just five years ago, that number was one out of six.

“We have a clear trajectory of where this sucker is headed,” said McNeal in his folksy, self-deprecating manner. “If people would just straighten up and be like us, we’d be fine.”

Saying that the church today is at a crossroads, McNeal said the solution isn’t in trying to fix the church. “A church-centered narrative isn’t working – it hasn’t worked for 500 years,” he said. “It’s like we’re in the 8-track tape-making business today. I believe God has a bigger vision than tending a dying business. We have to re-align ourselves with the story of the Kingdom.”

Noting that the church is a sub-set of the Kingdom, and not the other way around, McNeal said that Jesus mentioned the Kingdom of God 90 times; he only spoke about “church” twice. “Jesus came to show us the Kingdom,” McNeal said, “and that is life as God intends it to be. We’re invited to get involved in bringing about the Kingdom of God here and now – the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are healed.” Using Jeremiah 29:7 as one of his texts, McNeal said that the future of the church depends on the condition of our cities, towns and villages and whether or not they are being infused with the Kingdom. “How can we even pretend to be successful if our numbers are up but the city is down?”

The strategy we have to employ, he said, is to change the fabric, the very DNA, of our mission. “When people brush up against us (Christians),” he said, “they expect to encounter the Kingdom, but instead, we give them ‘church.’” In other words, in many instances, rather than offering God’s blessings or the new life that God brings, we insist that people come to church (a building) at a particular time and sit with a particular group of people, McNeal said.

To make the shift in narrative, several things must change, McNeal said. One of those items is changing our scorecards. Every church and denomination uses scorecards, McNeal said, which include how we count people who attend church, how much money they gave, and how many new members we made. McNeal said that it is all well and good to count this way, but that’s “church-centered thinking.” In a Kingdom-centered world, different achievements are celebrated. “Currently, we ask ‘how many people show up and how busy were they?’” he said. “The Kingdom requires us to move beyond that and ask questions that deal with the welfare of the city.”

For example, he said, ask how many people served the poor in the past week. Ask who read aloud to first-graders in the past month. Ask how much money the church gave away last year. Ask who served their neighbor yesterday. Sprinkling his talk with illustrations of congregations that have started to make the switch from church-centered thinking/speech to Kingdom-centered thinking/speech, McNeal said that focusing on the Kingdom brings life. “If the ‘church story’ is killing our clergy, why are we telling it?” he asked.

“The Kingdom story brings life.” And that Kingdom story, he said, is like an invasion force into the darkness of the world. Jesus is knocking on our door, he said, inviting us to “come out and play” in the Kingdom, not the other way around.

Making the shift won’t be easy, McNeal said. “You should not be caught off guard at the resistance or opposition you’ll face,” he warned. “We’ve gotten to the point where stress and tension in the church means that something must be wrong. In fact, it might be because something’s finally right.”

Owens said that the Southern Region invited McNeal to speak at Leadership Day because he is one of the world’s leading voices for the missional church. “He was able to affirm that we don’t have to spin our wheels in a futile effort to fix our churches,” said Owens. “Instead, we can focus on the kingdom of God, which is all about blessing all people with abundant life.”

*(by Erik Alsgaard, UMConnection Staff)*



## **Spotlight Behind the Scenes**

Did you know there is a small group of people who take turns opening the church on Sunday mornings, making sure the coffee is freshly made, the hall is set up and everything is ready for Sunday worship time? They also ensure the building is shut down, locked and alarmed after everyone leaves. Once, unfortunately, they alarmed the building with the counters still downstairs counting, but that’s another story! Our thanks go out to the Schwallenbergs, the Edstroms, Ann Rawls, Jackie Cunningham, and Eunice Corse for quietly carrying out this ministry.

## May Birthdays



May 1	Shirley Ford Louis Bergsman
May 4	Lois Bliss
May 6	Cindy Macey
May 10	James Stevens
May 12	Tyler Johnson
May 13	Braden Clary Carter Clurman
May 15	Arthur King Caitlin Peddicord
May 16	Brenda Jones
May 18	Abigail Wilcox
May 19	Betty Storton Ruth Gibbons
May 24	Gene Swanner
May 25	Mike Keller
May 26	Ashlyn Hughes Frances DuPlayee
May 30	Mitch Krebs
May 31	Kathy Volz

## May Anniversaries



May 1	Gerald & Lorraine Crouch
May 4	Tom & Paulette Schwallenberg
May 5	Robert & Ruth Gibbons
May 13	Robert & Ann Rawls
May 14	David & Kathy Moreland, Jr. Ricardo & Carrie Vasquez
May 16	Tom & Harriet Newquist
May 18	Curtis & Vicki Clary
May 21	Dallas & Brenda Jones
May 22	Dave & Carol Hill Steve & Pat Parks Art & Annabelle King
May 23	Joe & Sue Nasatka
May 24	Butch & June Stevens
May 27	Neil Bergsman & Val Devaris

**Life Changes**  
**Eleanor Elaine Jackson**  
**Died April 25, 2015**

*The Spire* is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410-263-5490  
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Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am <b>UMW TEA 2pm</b>	<b>4</b> ECCO Meeting 5:30 Bells 7pm	<b>5</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Finance Mtg. 6:30pm	<b>6</b> Kids Art 4pm UMW 5:30pm Columbarium Meeting 7pm	<b>7</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>♥MOTHER'S DAY♥</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	<b>11</b> Bells 7pm	<b>12</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Missions 6pm	<b>13</b> Kids Art 4pm Evangelism 6pm Peach Festival Meeting 7pm	<b>14</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am <b>COVERED DISH LUNCH 11:45</b>	<b>18</b> Bells 7pm	<b>19</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Trustees 6:15pm Admin Council 7:30pm	<b>20</b> Food Pantry 12-2pm Kids Art 4pm	<b>21</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
			United Methodist Church Baltimore-Washington Conference May 27 – May 30			
<b>24</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am <b>Worship Mtg 11:45am</b> <hr/> <b>31</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Mem. Day Parade 10am</b> UMM prayer & pizza 7pm Bells 7pm	<b>26</b> Homework & Reading 4pm SPRT 7pm	<b>27</b> Kids Art 4pm	<b>28</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
						