



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### May 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 Church,

Greetings as we continue the Easter journey toward Pentecost!

As I sit down to write this article for this month’s newsletter, my mind drifts back to the month that just ended. There was so much to be thankful for in April, among them the start of the Arts Enrichment program that is being carried out by our congregation in cooperation with our neighbor Rob Levit’s Creating Communities nonprofit organization. But what stands out in my mind are the tragedies that occurred then in our country and in other places in God’s world – snowstorms, floodings, accidents, explosions, bombings, fires, not to mention other terrible events that we are not even aware of.

Closer to home, the deaths of two sisters in our faith community, Pauline Basil and Virginia Earnshaw, family members, especially Charlotte Kerns’ and Donna McWilliams’ fathers, and that of personal friends tug at our heartstrings. As members of the body of Christ, the grief these brothers and sisters experience over the loss of loved ones is our grief as well. Their questions about the meaning of life in the midst of death, is ours as well.

Times like these invite us to reach out in love to those who grieve and to include them and those who have died in our prayers. Our community has always been very good at this and I commend everyone for being so.

As our Easter journey continues this May, let us be praying for the Holy Spirit to continue to warm our hearts towards others who still need to experience and hear about the Lord. Keep sharing stories of how God has been touching your life and how the Holy One is present to you especially in times of great need. Doing so makes us the evangelizers God calls us to be. Doing so with joy and love gives us and others the opportunity to experience the Risen Lord among us even in the most tragic events of life.

Blessing and peace,  
~Pastor MaAn

### **229<sup>th</sup> Session of the Baltimore- Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church**

May 29 to May 31  
Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel

The Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is the regional body that governs much of the life of the "Connectional Church." Annual conferences are composed primarily of the clergy members and a lay member or members from each charge (a charge is one or more churches served by a minister under appointment by the bishop).

Bill Riggs, Jean Strucko, and Wendy Edstrom will represent EUMC again this year. Please pray for them and for Pastor MaAn as they participate in the work of the United Methodist Church as a whole.



## There...Go I

Well, I'm off again. For most of the month of May, I will be in London, Ontario, teaching at the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, an opera-intensive meant to give Canadian singers an opportunity to participate in a possibly life-changing experience. A few weeks after I return, I'll be off again to Europe. Bill and I will take a vacation trip to Spain BEFORE my month of work in Oberaudorf, Germany at Music Theater Bavaria, where I spent four weeks last summer. I'll keep up my "Jokul on the Road" blog as I have in past years.

"Wow, you lead such an exciting life" has crossed my ears many times. Yes, I do. Travelling to different places, meeting and working with some of the most revered people in the industry IS exciting. There, FOR/BY the Grace of God, go I. But, WHY?

Why me? Why, a Little Polish Girl who grew up listening and dancing to Polka music, taking tap lessons from age 5 through 8, whose parents took her to a family-owned music studio two blocks from home? Why me, who wasn't exposed to classical music until the age of 13, who played piano in an accordion band every Friday night? Opera? "You don't want to get involved in any of that 'Opera stuff', do you?" said my mother. Yet, here it is. There...go I.

All of the experiences, the direction, the study, the 'coincidences' are part of God's plan. Did I know what I was doing when I took certain steps, made certain decisions? Did I know where it would lead? Of course not! We can't see into the future. Only God knows...and usually, He doesn't tell us until it's time...His time. I was led. I was called...and I answered. Music is my vocation, not just my job.

We are ALL called, ALL led, to some purpose, to some life's path and journey to be 'self-realized', to become fully who God intends us to be, for the Greater Good...for HIS intention. I often say I am 'cursed with a blessing', or 'blessed with a curse'. I mean that because it is a responsibility, just as in the parable of the talents. Is it always glorious? NO. Is it hard work? YES. Are there guarantees? Of course not. But, if we answer the call, IF we listen and

respond and find our passion, we shall become FULLY who God intends us to be. He doesn't just call us once. He calls us EVERY DAY. We must listen...and answer. "What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your Gift to God". There, BY the Grace of God, go I. CARPE DIEM!!!

~ JoAnn Kulesza

## Area Teacher Seriously Injured in Marathon Bombing



*Erika Brannock, Teacher at Abby Riggs's Pre-School, Facing Long Recovery Fund Established to Help Pay Expenses*

Erika Brannock and her sister were at the wrong place at the wrong time on the afternoon of April 15. They were near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. They were at the race to cheer on their mother, who was one of the runners. Then a bomb exploded. Erika and her sister were seriously injured. Erika would lose her left leg below the knee, and her other leg was severely damaged, as well. She will be in the hospital for approximately one month, according to published reports.

Erika is a teacher at the pre-school of Abby Riggs, the amazing four-year-old granddaughter of Bill Riggs and JoAnn Kulesza. Erika teaches at Towson Episcopal Children Center (TECC). She is much-loved by her students and colleagues.

Erika's progress can be followed on Facebook. Look up "Erika Brannock Supporters". A web site has also been established to enable compassionate friends to donate to Erika's recovery: [www.thebrannockfund.com](http://www.thebrannockfund.com).

Erika and her family are on our prayer list at Eastport UMC. Knowing the generosity of our church members, we are sure that you will want to add a monetary contribution to support your prayers.

~ Bill Riggs

## GreenScape 2013



On April 20th a few of our faithful members came out and supported GreenScape Day 2013. You cleaned, weeded, planted, installed new post caps, cut grass, painted the white cross, pruned and cared about the Church's landscape. I thank all of you; you are a treasure. If you did not come, you missed a beautiful time spent with friends and enjoying the great weather.

There is still a lot to do during the growing season; please consider helping out by picking up trash when you see it, weeding when you see it needs to be done, volunteering to cut grass and caring for this diamond in Eastport. We own a large piece of green space in Eastport and our neighbors come and enjoy the peace that our gardens offer. This could only be what Jesus wants us to share. The four large gardens in the front of our church need a lot of TLC. The perennials are in great need of separating after they bloom. The plants would be free for those that want to dig – you just have to call the church office and let them know what you are doing in the gardens.

EUMC is also a registered Wildlife Habitat, and a donated birdhouse or birdfeeder would be most welcomed. Thank all of you for any help this spring, summer and fall. Please sign up for a section of gardens; the display is in Fellowship Hall and Joyce Conley will help explain what is involved.

~ Lovingly and gratefully, Paulette Schwallenberg



## JARS JARS JARS

Think peach jelly, peach jam, pickled beets, and Peach Festival! This is the time of year we ask you to look around your homes and bring us any canning jars you find – we have a good supply of pint sizes, but quarts and jelly jars are especially needed. (No spaghetti jars please.)

~ Myrna Dobbs



## Saturday June 8

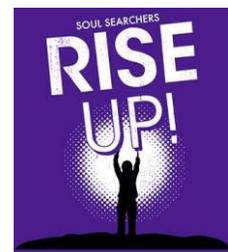
As you are doing your spring cleaning, please remember our Yard Sale. We'll have price stickers in church each Sunday, and in the office, so you can do your own pricing – this is such a big help for us!

We CANNOT take electronics, TV, CD players, computers, cameras, magazines or textbooks, clothes or shoes. These items just do not sell, and it becomes a problem trying to find a place to donate them after the sale.

Begin bringing your items to church on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>; not before, please – we have no place to store them. There will be someone in the fellowship hall to receive items during that week.

We need a lot of helpers during the week and the day of the sale. Please let one of us know if you will help. Thanks!

~ Myrna Dobbs, Sally Malamphy



## 2013 Soul Searchers

The Soul Searchers of Eastport United Methodist Church are gearing up for their 2013 performance season, with concerts scheduled throughout the month of June. **Make sure you reserve June 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. for their home church performance at EUMC.** And keep them all in prayer – Scott & Nicole, the singers and crew – as they go about the business of spreading God's message in song.



## Everywhere Fun Fair Where God's World Comes Together

This year's Vacation Bible School, Everywhere Fun Fair, celebrates God's love for ALL his neighbors – near and far. Get your tickets to this kid-friendly global fun fair running from June 24 to June 28.

Kids will learn about their global neighbors from Japan, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Australia and Mexico while discovering how to come together and celebrate God's love. The Fun Fair uses bible stories, fun games, catchy songs, cool crafts and delicious treats to teach how to be a bold, welcoming, cheerful and forgiving neighbor.

The fun begins at 9:30 a.m. and will end at 11:30 a.m. The Fun Fair is open to all kids ages five to 12 years old and parents can register their children, grandchildren and their children's friends by calling the church office at 410-263-5490.

Helpers are needed as always. Please let me or the office know if you can give the kids some of your time. Thanks.

~Lisa Parrish



### Meet Tom & Audrey (The Ospreys!)

The Chesapeake Conservancy, has set up a live webcam at the nest of a mated pair of ospreys somewhere at the southern end of Kent Island. The ospreys names are Tom and Audrey. They're presently sitting on three eggs which hopefully will hatch later in May. Watch these amazing birds as their family grows!

<http://chesapeakeconservancy.org/>

~Bill Riggs



## For Your Health Tips from Dianne (of St. Luke's Episcopal Church)

**SKIN CANCER**— develops primarily on areas of sun-exposed skin. It may develop slowly. Damage that occurred when we were young may not become apparent until later in life. One in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer at some point in life.

### **Basal cell carcinoma signs and symptoms**

Basal cell carcinoma usually occurs in sun-exposed areas of your body, such as your face, ears or scalp. Basal cell carcinoma may appear as:

- A pearly or waxy bump
- A flat, flesh-colored or brown scar-like lesion
- A lesion that does not heal or keeps re-occurring

### **Squamous cell carcinoma signs and symptoms**

Most often, squamous cell carcinoma occurs on sun-exposed areas of your body, such as your face, lips, ears and hands. Squamous cell carcinoma may appear as:

- A firm, red nodule
- A flat lesion with a scaly, crusted surface

### **Melanoma signs and symptoms**

Melanoma can develop anywhere on your body. Melanoma most often appears on the trunk, head or neck of affected men; in women, on the lower legs. In people with darker skin tones, melanoma tends to occur on the palms or soles, or under the fingernails or toenails.

Melanoma signs include:

- A large brownish spot with darker speckles
- A mole that changes in color, size or feel or that bleeds
- A small lesion with an irregular border and portions that appear red, white, blue or blue-black
- Dark lesions on your palms, soles, fingertips or toes, or on mucous membranes lining your mouth, nose, vagina or anus

The most common forms of skin cancer are typically slow growing and highly treatable. Make an appointment with your dermatologist, if you have any of the above symptoms.

Most skin cancers are preventable. Prevention tips will follow in the June issue.

## May Birthdays



- May 1 Shirley Ford  
Charlie Card  
Louis Bergsman
- May 6 Cindy Macey
- May 10 James Stevens
- May 12 Tyler Johnson
- May 13 Braden Clary  
Carter Clurman
- May 15 Art King  
Caitlin Peddicord
- May 16 Brenda Jones
- May 18 Abigail Wilcox
- May 19 Betty Storton  
Ruth Gibbons
- May 24 Gene Swanner  
Kara Hight
- 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 Jr. & Ruth Gibbons
- May 13 Robert & Ann Rawls
- May 14 David Jr. & Kathy Moreland  
Ricardo & Carrie Vasquez
- May 16 Thomas & Harriet Newquist
- May 18 Vicky & Curtis Clary
- May 21 Dallas & Brenda Jones
- May 22 Art & Annabelle King  
Steve & Pat Parks
- May 23 Joe & Sue Nasatka
- May 24 Butch & June Stevens
- May 27 Neil Bergsman & Val Devaris



**Covered Dish Luncheon May 19<sup>th</sup>  
after the service.  
Everyone is welcome.  
See you there!**



### **LIFE CHANGES**

Pauline Basil  
Died April 4, 2013

Virginia Earnshaw  
Died April 20, 2013

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## May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Children's Art 4pm  UMW Dinner 5:30pm	<b>2</b> Homework- Reading 4pm  ECCT 5:30pm  Choir 7pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Conversations 9am-Chapel</li> <li>▪Worship 10am</li> <li>▪SundaySchool 10:15am</li> <li>▪<b>UMW Tea 2pm</b></li> <li>▪SoulSearchers 2pm</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> Reader 4pm  Bells 7pm	<b>7</b> Homework- Reading 4pm  District UMM 7pm	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Jam Making</li> <li>▪Children's Art 4pm</li> <li>▪Evangelism 6:30pm</li> <li>▪Literacy Board 7pm</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> Homework- Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 MOTHER'S DAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Conversations 9am-Chapel</li> <li>▪Worship 10am</li> <li>▪SS 10:15am</li> <li>▪SoulSearchers 2pm</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> Reader 4pm  Bells 7pm	<b>14</b> Homework- Reading 4pm	<b>15</b> Food Pantry Distribution 1 to 3pm  Children's Art 4pm	<b>16</b> Homework- Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Conversations 9am-Chapel</li> <li>▪Worship 10am</li> <li>▪SS 10:15am</li> <li>▪<b>Covered Dish 11:45am</b></li> <li>▪SoulSearchers 2pm</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> Reader 4pm  Bells 7pm	<b>21</b> Homework- Reading 4pm Trustees 6:15pm Admin Council 7:30pm	<b>22</b> Children's Art 4pm	<b>23</b> Homework- Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Conversations 9am-Chapel</li> <li>▪Worship 10am</li> <li>▪SundaySchool 10:15am</li> <li>▪SoulSearchers 2pm</li> </ul>	<b>27 MEMORIAL DAY</b> Reader 4pm  Bells 7pm  UMM Prayer & Pizza 7pm	<b>28</b> Homework- Reading 4pm  Gracious Greetings 1:30pm	<b>29</b> Children's Art 4pm	<b>30</b> Homework- Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>31</b>	