



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### October 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 Members and Friends of EUMC,

Greetings as we transition from summer to fall and begin our journey into the last three months of the current year. The annual picnic at the Bay Ridge clubhouse organized by the Worship Team, the evaluation and planning retreat at Jackie’s place, the start of Sunday School – all these signal to us that it is time again to recalibrate and pay closer attention to our walk with the Lord and to the mission and vision to which he has called us as a community.

As I have stated many times over the years we have been together, realizing God’s desired future for us – the mission and vision we have been entrusted with as discerned by your leaders through prayer and reflection – God’s desired future for us is not just the work of the Pastor or of the church leaders. Every member of the congregation has this responsibility as well. Thanks be to God and thanks to many of you this is happening already with your selfless and generous sharing of your time, gifts, talents, and skills.

Friends of the congregation are doing their part as well. Like dedicated members, they selflessly share of themselves as volunteers in some of our ministries. About two months ago, the office received a check for five thousand dollars from an anonymous donor who did not designate what the money is to be used for. Through this article, I want to say thank you very much, dear friend, for your generosity and for entrusting this gift to us. Be assured that, as with every gift entrusted to us, yours will be put to good use to further the mission and vision of the congregation.

It is my hope and prayer that this generous gesture and the example of hard working members and

friends of the congregation will empower many more of you to step up to the plate to bring our mission and vision to reality. There are different ministries already in place that need more member involvement. For church to move forward into a sustainable future, your active participation is vital.

After the Charge Conference on October 28th you will be hearing about strategies leadership suggested for us to achieve our goals. When they come inviting you to participate in this Spirit led effort, please have it in your heart to do so. Even better, come forward and share with them what you are passionate about and they will point you to the ministry or ministries that suit your personality and gifts.

Remember sisters and brothers: what and where the church will be in the future depends a lot on your active involvement in its life now. Lend your church a hand, please. God, through the church, needs you.

*~Grace & Peace, Pastor MaAn*



#### Outreach at Crofton Middle School

Staff at Crofton Middle School had a Bagel Breakfast on August 22<sup>nd</sup> sponsored by Joanne Christofel as an EUMC Outreach. Everyone was delighted with the goodies and appreciated our church keeping the staff and students in their thoughts and prayers for the new school year.

*~Joanne Christofel*



## Volunteers in Mission

A team of eight people from EUMC will participate in the mission trip to the Appalachia Service Project in Brenton, West Virginia, October 16 to 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be doing home repair. Welcome first timers Paulette Schwallenberg, Anne Owen, Vern Renshaw, and Eric Smaridge! Joining them will be Ann Rawls, Jeff Bauckman, Pastor MaAn, and Jackie Cunningham. Please hold these dedicated folks in your prayers.



## Annual Pumpkin Carving

We're looking for people willing to coordinate the annual Pumpkin Carving on a date close to Halloween. Sherrie Little will share her hints and guidelines. You'll get lots of help and it's a fun, informal event that the children love (the adults too!). This year will be the 14<sup>th</sup> Pumpkin Carving at EUMC! Let's not disappoint the kids – please think about it, pray about it, and talk it up with others. It's not going to happen without leaders. If you think you'd like to team up with others for this special event, contact Pastor MaAn or the church office.



## UMM to Hold Annual Navy Football and Tailgating Outing

The Eastport United Methodist Men will hold its yearly Navy Football and Tailgating Outing on Saturday, October 26, when Navy will tackle Pittsburgh. ***This year the seats are on the 50-yard line.*** Most games in the past have turned out to be thrillers, often with the outcome decided on the last play. And there has been great food and fellowship at the pre-game tailgating, which will be held in the

church parking lot (11 a.m.). Men, women and kids are invited to this event, which has been a lot of fun. The United Methodist Men have purchased a block of 15 tickets for the game. The cost is \$30 apiece, first come, first served. See Jim Wilcox at church or call him at 410-268-7458.



## Fall Work Day in the Church Yard October 26, 2013, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*(Please note – this is a date change from last month's Spire.)* We will do major pruning and clean-up to get ready for the winter. Please come and help out, and remember – high school students, any time you put in counts towards your community hours before graduation. We plan to put Round-Up on some plants to reduce their size and reduce some of the weeds. Any way you can help would be appreciated. Please bring your own work gloves, cutters, rakes and shovels. The church will supply yard waste bags. If anyone can bring their truck and haul some of the larger limbs to the dump, that would really help. The City of Annapolis no longer will pick up yard waste at our church, only during GreenScape in the spring. Thank you for any help and suggestions.

~The Garden Team & Trustees

## All Creatures Great and Small

Some of us are brought to the church as infants in white lacy gowns by our parents for Baptism; recently one of us wore an antique white lacy dress for the occasion and brought her parents to the church. That's how Erin Connor arrived for her Baptism on Sunday, September 8, 2013. She was also accompanied by her sister, her best friend from childhood, and her boyfriend. Erin has been attending Eastport Church regularly for some time now, having moved to Annapolis recently. She has already shown her commitment to her church by joining the Wesleyan Choir in the Alto section.

## Retreating to Advance

Pastor MaAn administered the Sacrament to Erin, with her family and loved ones gathered around the font for the responsive reading of the vows and the laying on of hands. Baptism is always a moving ceremony; Erin's should be especially meaningful for her because she will remember it always, which, of course, is a privilege not available to infants.

In addition to beginning a new chapter in her life as a member of our Eastport family, Erin is an accomplished scientist; she is a biologist who holds a PhD. and works in Dairy Science at the US Department of Agriculture's farm in Beltsville. We are certain that her Holstein colleagues are as delighted with Erin's care as we are to welcome her to our flock.



~Bill Riggs

### A Prayer of Trust

*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.  
– in a letter to a young student*

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new; and yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually – let them grow. Let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say: grace and circumstances, acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

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Members of the Church Council met recently to review the accomplishments of 2013 and to plan for 2014. This Evaluation and Planning Retreat was held on Saturday, September 21, at the home of Jackie Cunningham. Our church does Food, Fellowship, and Christian Hospitality well; however, as with everything in life, practice is important for the maintenance of these attributes of the Christian experience. Those assembled enjoyed a vigorous practice session that day.

A Continental breakfast was followed by a brief time of worship, which in turn led to the principal business of the day. This year's retreat was organized around the familiar passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, "*For everything there is a season....*"

At last year's retreat, the Council adopted goals for 2013-2015, based on guidance received from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. At this year's retreat, the Council reviewed EUMC's progress toward those goals and made plans for the modification, advancement, and continuation of those goals for 2014. A more complete report of the proceedings at this year's retreat will be posted to our web site. This article is intended as only a brief overview of this year's discussions. The Council reviewed the first five so-called SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-framed) over the course of the day. The following five goals were reviewed, augmented with more food and fellowship at the lunch break.

The following 2013 accomplishments were reviewed, as were the revisions which were proposed for 2014:

#### 1. Disciples worship

- a. Hold a recommitment ceremony. Done October 28, 2012. To be repeated annually, beginning early 2014.
- b. Increase worship attendance by 2% by end of 2013. Done. Worship increased by 5%. 2014 goal is to maintain or increase the 5% increase.
- c. Re-evaluate current worship service. Done. Further minor modifications being considered.

## 2. Disciples make new disciples (evangelism)

- a. Begin outreach to Hispanic community. Faltered in 2013. BWC has new Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry, Rev. Dr. Leo Rodriguez. Church Council chair, Pastor MaAn, and District Superintendent are meeting with Pastor Leo in September 2013 to begin to lay groundwork for establishing this ministry at Eastport.
- b. Increase number of giving units by 2%. Done. 2013 giving units increased by 5%. Maintain 5% pace for 2014.
- c. Invite members of the congregation to share testimony concerning family's giving once each quarter. Not done. Program to begin first quarter 2014.

## 3. Disciples engage in growing as disciples (small groups and children and youth ministry)

- a. Encourage members to take part in at least one Bible or topical study per year. Done, but not quantified. Continue for 2014 and measure results.
- b. Start a book club. Attempted, but not successful. Apparent lack of interest. Pastor to discuss with "Socialites" Young Adult group for 2014.

## 4. Disciples engage in mission (justice and mercy ministry)

- a. Provide to church members a list of all mission outreach ministries the church is engaged in. Congregation members to select a ministry in which to participate prior to recommitment service. Done. Follow-up and improvement needed for 2014.
- b. Pertains to children and youth ministries. Church lacks critical mass currently for Youth. We have only three in that category. Large number of children currently attending to be developed as the future Youth. Planning target for 2014 and beyond.

- c. Continue process of "paying forward". Done. Program to be reevaluated and continued under Worship team direction.
- d. Pertains to Hispanic ministry. See 2a, above.

## 5. Disciples give to mission (focus on stewardship)

- a. Increase recycling by 2% each year. Done. Increase recycling aggressively in 2014 and future.
- b. Increase number of giving units by 2% each year. Done for 2013. See 2b, above.
- c. Invite members of the congregation to share testimony concerning family's giving once each quarter. Not done. Program to begin first quarter 2014. See 2c, above.

Additional discussion outside these five SMART goals concerned such matters as our Homework and Reading Ministry, our leadership in the annual Interfaith New Year's Eve service, our participation in the Winter Relief homeless shelter program, planned improvements to our church building and grounds (Trustees), and nurturing the organizations and functions that share our facilities with us (Colonial Pre-School, the Hispanic Seventh-Day Adventists, the T-Mobile cellular communications facility, AA, NA, the Ballard Center, and others, without whom our financial position would be seriously and negatively affected.

As always, there is no shortage of things to pray about. The effectiveness and impact of our presence in the Eastport community depends on your prayers and commitment. Let the church say Amen.

*~Bill Riggs*

### Covered Dish Luncheon

October 13, 11:45 a.m.

After Worship Service.

Hosted by United Methodist Women.  
Main dish is provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Everyone is welcome, with or without food!





## **Incarceration: Prison Ministry in the Annapolis Area**

The Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network will present a forum on prison ministry on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of St. John Neumann Church, 620 N. Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Come and learn what is being done by local faith groups and other organizations to work with people who are incarcerated. Speakers will include Leah Green, President of Maryland CURE; Val Hymes, Director of the Prison Ministry Task Force of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland; the Alternatives to Violence Program of the Annapolis Friends Meeting; the Prison Ministry of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Annapolis and a prison chaplain. A question and answer session will take place.

All are welcome to attend. It is hoped that this forum will be the beginning of looking at the urgent issue of incarceration both locally and in the nation.

Contact Liz Vanden Heuvel at 410-267-9009 or by email at [liz2vh@comcast.net](mailto:liz2vh@comcast.net) for more information or directions.



### **For Your Health.....**

#### **It is flu vaccine time again!**

Because flu strains circulating the world are constantly changing, scientists make this year's vaccine by predicting which flu strains are the most common. That is the reason an annual vaccine is recommended for all. About 135 to 139 million doses of flu vaccine are projected to be available

during the 2013 to 2014 flu season. Most of these vaccines have been designed to protect against three strains. During this flu season, another vaccine that protects against four strains will be offered for the first time. These four strain vaccines will probably be the norm in the next few years.

Fluzone High-Dose is an influenza vaccine designed specifically for people 65 years of age and older. This vaccine contains four times the antigen (the part of the vaccine that prompts the body to make antibodies) contained in regular flu shots. Otherwise, it is made up of the same 3 virus strains most likely to cause illness this flu season. (It contains the H1N1 virus vaccine, as well.) The additional antigen is intended to create a stronger immune response.

Medical experts say vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza. However, recent studies show that people over 65 years of age may not respond as well to the standard-dose flu vaccine as younger people. Aging decreases the body's ability to mount a good immune response, thus a higher dose of antigen is indicated for better protection against flu. This added protection may prevent the elderly from the dangerous complications resulting from influenza, which can include pneumonia and even death.

Most people have minimal or no adverse effects after receiving either flu shot, although these events were reported more frequently with the high-dose. The most common adverse reactions were mild and temporary and included pain, redness and swelling at the injection site and headache, muscle ache, fever and malaise. As with all flu vaccines, it is not recommended for people with severe allergy to chicken eggs, or people who have had a severe reaction to a flu vaccine in the past. (However, there is an egg-free vaccine available, too.)

The CDC does not recommend one vaccine over another at this time. Discuss all flu vaccine options with your primary care provider.

*~Article contributed by Dianne Crews, St. Luke's Episcopal Church*

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## October Birthdays

## October Anniversaries



Oct 3 Brooke Hughes  
Hazel Kinnamon

Oct 4 Brady Duckett

Oct 7 Brian Cunningham III

Oct 9 Barbara Krebs  
Dylan Liedy

Oct 10 Lorie Rawlings  
Dorothy Meehan

Oct 11 Thomas Newquist

Oct 12 Neil Bergsman

Oct 14 Eloise Gleason

Oct 19 Eli Wurst

Oct 20 Rebecca Dobrick

Oct 21 Myrna Dobbs  
Ann Rawls

Oct 22 Donna Nuckels  
Dawn Moyer  
Dallas Jones

Oct 23 Marge Stevens

Oct 24 Lisa Stevens  
Nate Owen

Oct 25 James Keller, Sr.

Oct 28 Tom Eicher  
Michael Valentine

Oct 5 Brian & Yaritza Edstrom

Oct 11 Mark & Dawn Goodnow

Oct 13 David & Amanda Owen

Oct 14 Albert & Carol Stevens

Oct 15 Joseph & Frances Wilmer

Oct 16 Kevin & Sally Hight

Oct 21 Ryan & Catherine Elliott

Oct 22 Mike & Anne Owen



### Life Changes

**Erin Elaine Connor**

Adult – Baptized September 8, 2013

**Katherine Carmen Wilcox**

Infant – Baptized September 29, 2013

Jon & Kim Wilcox, parents

Jim & Jean Wilcox, grandparents

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Homework & Reading 4pm	<b>2</b> Study 10:15am  Art-Children 4pm  UMW 5:30pm	<b>3</b> NYE Meeting 3pm  Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>6</b> Conversations 9am-Chapel  Worship 10am  Sun.Sch. 10am	<b>7</b> Bells 7pm	<b>8</b> Homework & Reading 4pm	<b>9</b> Study 10:15am  Art-Children 4pm	<b>10</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>11</b>
Mission Trip to Brenton, West Virginia October 16 to 20. Pray for our Volunteers in Mission.						
<b>13</b> Conversations 9am-Chapel  Worship 10am  Sun.Sch. 10am  COVERED DISH 11:45am	<b>14</b> Bells 7pm	<b>15</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  Trustees 6:15pm	<b>16</b> Study 10:15am  Food Pantry 1-3pm  Art-Children 4pm	Homework & Reading 4pm  Choir 7pm		<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> LAITY SUNDAY Conversations 9am-Chapel  Worship 10am  Sun.Sch. 10am	<b>21</b> Bells 7pm	<b>22</b> Homework & Reading 4pm	<b>23</b> Study 10:15am  Art-Children 4pm	<b>24</b> Homework & Reading 4pm  ECCO 5:30pm  Choir 7pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Fall Yard Work Day 9am To 12noon  NAVY tail-gate & game 11am
<b>27</b> Conversations 9am-Chapel  Worship 10am  Sun.Sch. 10am	<b>28</b> Bells 7pm  Charge Conference 7pm  UMM 7pm	<b>29</b> Homework & Reading 4pm	<b>30</b> Study 10:15am  Lunch/Friends 12:15pm  Art-Children 4pm	<b>31</b> HALLOWEEN  		