



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

October 2014

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

Matthew 11:28-30: ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Fall is my favorite time of year. And although September 23, 2014 was the official start date of Fall, October is the month which really ushers in the Autumn season. The slight chill in the morning air that never quite goes away. The turning of the leaves from green into a brilliant symphony of colors. The beginning of the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks. Apple cider. Pie season. It reminds me of hiking and camping with my family growing up. And in my family, it is a season full of birthdays and holidays.

There is wisdom to be learned in the changing of the seasons. Through Fall, we can learn from the changes of the leaves, which declare their last hurrah with dedication and boldness before letting go and falling to the ground, leaving the trees bare and empty before the spring brings new leaves.

Fall reminds me to slow down and take notice of what is going on around me. It reminds me to admire the beauty of the leaves and to take heed of their wisdom. There are seasons of life where we, too, need to learn to let go of the things we are clutching to so desperately and busily. We, too, need to drop to the earth with humility and grace, in awe and worship of the One who created us. We, too, need to fall into the arms of the One who grounds us, who centers us, who offers us rest and life in abundance. We, too, need Sabbath. This is part of the rhythm of life into which we were created and for which we were intended. And yet,

this is often what we busy adults let go of first. Paradoxically, Sabbath does not mean the absence of all activity, but it is through the rest which Sabbath offers where we see God’s activity at work in and through us, and we are renewed and re-energized for the new work God is calling us to at Eastport UMC. So this October, I invite you to grab a Pumpkin Spice Latte and savor this poem. Take time for Sabbath and renew your body, mind, and soul.

A Lazy Thought by Eve Merriam

*There go the grownups
To the office,
To the store.
Subway rush,
Traffic crush;
Hurry, scurry,
Worry, flurry.*

*No wonder
Grownups
Don't grow up
Any more.
It takes a lot
Of slow
To grow.*

~ Pastor Michelle



Out-To-Lunch Bunch

Schedule complications have caused the **Out to Lunch Bunch to meet twice this month – on October 1st and 22nd**. Join us at 12:15 p.m. at Sammy’s – everybody needs a lunch break! So...just show up, order your lunch and sit down with us. Tables can be added as needed.

We Care and Friends



Larry Griffin, the founder and president of *We Care and Friends*, spoke at September's meeting of the Eastport United Methodist Men. Now celebrating its 24th anniversary, *We Care and Friends* provides help to individuals who are in danger of falling through society's cracks. Those present at the meeting learned about the ways in which this organization offers support and resources for people who are homeless; people with substance abuse problems; and people in need of food, shelter, clothing and other basic needs. The kind of people to whom Jesus would have us reach out.

Larry's personal testimony was powerful. Having been a drug abuser for 28 years and homeless for two years before turning around his life, he understands the nature of addiction and the perils of life on the street.

We Care and Friends has programs for substance abuse treatment, for youth at risk, for the homeless, and for the community. It organizes an annual, free Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless and a holiday toy drive. It maintains a licensed therapist on staff to provide individual counseling sessions.

A brochure and card about *We Care and Friends* can be found in the fellowship hall for those wanting to learn more about the work of this awesome organization to which Larry has devoted his life.

~ Mike Keller



A New Sermon Series....

Can you remember the best news you've ever received? How did you react? How did this news impact your life beyond the joyful moment when you received it? As a child I remember receiving some good news and ecstatically jumping on my bed. I jumped with such zeal and gusto that the bed actually broke! There are many things we get excited about, but significant good news is profound, even life-changing. Perhaps you followed a call and found a vocation that you were deeply passionate about. Perhaps it was the moment you learned you were about to welcome a

new baby into your family. Perhaps it was the day your significant other proposed. Perhaps it was a moment of healing, which offered you a whole new life and life perspective. Good news of this kind doesn't just give us a few moments of happiness, it offers us a new way of living.

The gospel (gospel means "good news"), for those who hear and receive it, also causes a lasting, and transformative response. We see this as the disciples drop their nets, leave their homes, families, and the lives they knew, and follow Jesus. We see this through countless others who encountered Jesus and his ministry and whose lives changed. We also see this in the lives of people in the Bible who, like us, did not encounter Jesus in the flesh, but heard the gospel, the life-changing story of Christ, and whose paths changed forever. In the month of October (beginning Oct. 12), we will be taking a closer look at some of these Biblical stories of transformation through the lives of three people who encountered Christ. We'll also be exploring our own stories of hearing, responding, and living as people who have received good news. As we move through October, I hope our joyful responses are uncontainable. But I'll try to refrain from jumping on the pews!

~ Pastor Michelle

COVERED DISH LUNCH

Sunday, October 12th immediately after worship. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Main dish and beverages will be provided. Hosted by United Methodist Women.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF



It's beginning to be that time of year and we hope you plan to donate to UNICEF again. Trick or Treat for UNICEF boxes will be available in fellowship hall mid-October and EVERYONE is invited to participate! Pick one up and start filling it up with loose coins. And parents, be sure to encourage your kids to "trick or treat for UNICEF" as they enjoy the day. Filled boxes may be dropped off in the office or placed in offering plates. Please see Joyce Conley if you have questions.

~ Joyce Conley



EUMC's Playground has Grown

Dennis Bergsman and a crew of volunteers built an expansion onto Eastport UMC's playground. The project was the last requirement Dennis needed to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. Dennis is a member of Boy Scout Troop 396 in Annapolis.

The project added a new bridge, platform, climber, curved slide, and play panel. The playground can now accommodate the larger number of kids that use it regularly. The EUMC playground is used by the children of the church, plus the Colonial Nursery School, the Homework Help Program, the Seventh-Day Adventist congregation and the neighborhood kids.

Volunteers included Dennis' troop-mates and their parents, members and adult advisors of Venture Crew 396 (of which Dennis is the President), and other of Dennis' friends, and friends of friends.

Dennis conducted two fundraising dinners and raised grant funding from the Kaboom Foundation, Annapolis Rotary, and Annapolis Community Foundation. Many generous individuals have contributed funds. Johnson Lumber, Bertucci's Restaurant, Chipotle, and Franklin Toys provided in-kind donations. However, the funds raised to date

do not fully cover the cost of the new equipment and supplies. If you would like to contribute, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Eastport UMC, and mark the check "Playground." Thanks to everyone for all your support.

~ Neil Bergsman



A Fruitful Planning Retreat

Twenty-three people attended this year's planning retreat on Saturday, September 27th, at the home of Jackie Cunningham. We were privileged to have two clergy facilitating – Rev. Daniel Mejia and Rev. Michelle Mejia. As always, we focused on what EUMC is doing right (we are awesome!), hopes and plans for improving ministries, and welcoming and attracting new people. There was much discussion, intense work in small groups (the *Back Deck*, *Living Room*, *Front Porch*, and *Couch Potatoes* ☺), and concrete goals were created which will be evident in the coming year. We ended with this prayer.....

The Covenant Prayer of John Wesley (1703–1791)

I am no longer my own, but thine.

*Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.*

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

*Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.*

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

*I freely and heartily yield all things to thy
pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.*

So be it.

*And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.*

Amen.



Gracious Greetings

Gracious Greetings will meet October 16, 1:30 p.m., fellowship hall. Please join us as we make Thanksgiving cards for Timothy House residents and tags for Thanksgiving food baskets!

~ Joyce Conley

United Methodist Women



The UMW had no meetings during the summer months. We resumed meeting in September and made contributions to various organizations, such as Susanna

B. Wesley House, Pledge to Missions, BW Conference (Imagine No Malaria), Wounded Warriors Project and the USO (two military projects). At the October 1st meeting we will hear Shannon Hadaway explain the starting up process of a Christian Sorority, and what is required of her sorority to add new members. At the November 5th meeting we will have an exercise program that will have us moving and swaying to some lively music. All women of EUMC are United Methodist Women, so come join us whenever you can. Bring a brown bag dinner and we'll provide beverages and dessert. Meetings are on the first Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

~ Ann Rawls

GreenScape Make a Difference Day

Bulbs have been ordered for Fall GreenScape on October 25th. This is a city-wide event. We are asking any volunteers to come out from 9 a.m. to 12 noon that day to help clean up our church gardens and plant bulbs before winter arrives. The City has given us 100 daffodils and 100 orange tulips. Bring your rakes, gloves, clippers, and a smile ☺. We do make a difference.

~ Paulette Schwallenberg



"Extreme Couponing" Coming to Eastport

The Mission team is requesting coupons for shopping for the food pantry. We are looking for coupons for peanut butter, tuna, condiments, detergent, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper and other household items. There will be a collection container in the fellowship hall, and after sufficient collection we will be asking for volunteers to sort and cut coupons.

~ Jackie Cunningham



A fun idea that came out of EUMC's planning retreat was a change to our annual Halloween event for kids. This year it will be a "Trunk or Treat" on Sunday evening, October 26th, in the church parking lot. We'll arrange vehicles in the lot with open trunks decorated for the season, with treats or frights for the kids. You can have a "team" trunk (i.e., UMM, Evangelism, etc.), family, or individual – time to get creative! You can google "Trunk or Treat" or look on Pinterest for lots of ideas. Church and neighborhood kids are invited to drop in between 5 & 7 p.m. in costume or not, visit the trunks, have family-friendly food, and play in our new playground. Please contact Jill Peddicord at peddicorse@msn.com or 410-268-5279 with any questions and to let us know how many Trunk or Treats to expect. Put this on your calendar!

~ Jill Peddicord

Thanksgiving Baskets



The beginning of fall weather makes us aware the holiday season is not far off, and we want to make sure EUMC continues its mission of providing 45 to 50 Thanksgiving baskets for families in need at four nearby elementary schools – Eastport, Tyler Heights, Georgetown East and Hillsmere.

Thanks for all your recent Heaven Cent donations for this cause! Next we'll begin the collection of food items for the baskets. Needed items will be announced in upcoming bulletins, so stay tuned.

~ Kevin and Sally Hight

EUMC Directory Heads Up

A much-needed update is on its way for your directories. We'll be providing a working copy in fellowship hall, or you may get a phone call or email asking you to check the information we have, including email addresses. It's a work in progress but it's moving along.

~ Eunice Corse and Joyce Conley

Correction

We apologize for an error made in September's Spire announcing the birth of Jerry & Tammy Lesley's great-granddaughter. It should have read:

Isabelle Beard
Born June 10, 2014

Our prayers go with EUMC volunteers in mission, Pastor Michelle, Ann Rawls, Jackie Cunningham, and Anne Owen, as they participate in the Appalachia Service Project in Brenton, West Virginia, October 15 – 19.



Life Changes

Gwynn Bowen
Died September 11, 2014
(Ruth Bowen's husband and
Edgar Bowen's brother)

Eloise Gleason
Died September 14, 2014

October Birthdays

Oct 3	Brooke Hughes Hazel Kinnamon
Oct 4	Brady Duckett
Oct 7	Brian Cunningham II
Oct 9	Barbara Krebs Dylan Liedy
Oct 10	Lorie Rawlings
Oct 11	Thomas Newquist
Oct 12	Neil Bergsman
Oct 19	Eli Wurst
Oct 20	Rebecca Dobrick
Oct 21	Ann Rawls Myrna Dobbs
Oct 22	F. Dallas Jones Dawn Moyer Donna Nuckels
Oct 23	Marge Stevens
Oct 24	Lisa Stevens Nate Owen
Oct 25	James Keller Sr.
Oct 28	Tom Eicher Michael Valentine

October Anniversaries

Oct 11	Mark & Dawn Goodnow
Oct 13	David L. & Amanda Owen
Oct 14	Albert & Carol Stevens
Oct 15	Joseph & Frances Wilmer
Oct 16	Kevin & Sally Hight
Oct 21	Ryan & Catherine Elliott
Oct 22	Michael & Anne Owen

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Lunch Bunch 12:15 @ Sammy's Methodist Women 5:30pm	2 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	3	4
5 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	6 Bells 7pm	7 Homework & Reading 4pm	8 Bible Class 12 noon Kids Art 4pm Charge Conference 7pm	9 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	10	11 Game Night 5:30pm 
12 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am COVERED DISH LUNCH 	13 Bells 7pm	14 Homework & Reading 4pm	15 Food Pantry 1-3pm Kids Art 4pm	16 Gracious Greetings 1:30pm Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	17	18  EUMC hosts 3 churches for Cluster Charge Conference
Volunteers in Mission, Appalachia Service Project, Oct. 15 to 19						
19 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am LAITY SUNDAY	20 Bells 7pm	21 Homework & Reading 4pm Trustees 6:15	22 Kids Art 4pm	23 Choir 7pm	24	25 FALL GREENSCAPE 9 to 12 
26 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am  5 to 7pm	27 Methodist Men Prayer & Pizza 7pm Bells 7pm	28 Homework & Reading 4pm	29 Lunch Bunch 12:15 @ Sammy's Kids Art 4pm	30 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	31 Halloween 	