



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

October 2012

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

Fellow members of the church of the Risen Lord, greetings!

At the Fall Retreat held at Jackie Cunningham's home, your leaders worked, as indicated in the previous issue of the Spire. Together we (1) reviewed the past year, (2) looked closely at what is happening in our congregation now, and (3) discussed the future.

On the 14th of this month, the fruit of our communal reflections will be shared with you. Together, we will have to make decisions about our future at that gathering.

Sisters and brothers, the flourishing of our congregation ultimately rests in God's hands, but God calls all of us are by virtue of our baptism and the covenant we entered into with God and our faith community to work together with God's Spirit to make that happen now and as we move into the future.

Please be at the meeting. We will be joined by our regional guide, the Reverend Vicky Starnes. Grace and peace to you all.

- Pastor MaAn



Charge Conference 2012

The day of the congregational meeting, October 14, is also our Charge Conference. Our regional guide, the Reverend Vicky Starnes, will chair.

The charge conference is “the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council.” It meets at least once per year. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry.” (The 2008 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church)

October is Stewardship Month

On Sunday, September 23, there were “estimate of giving” forms inserted in each bulletin. You are asked to prayerfully consider submitting one of these forms – not only will you be assisting the Finance Team in budget planning, you will also have set a goal of personal financial stewardship for yourself. This is not a contract but rather a useful guide. Place your form in the box provided – it will be kept in strict confidence. Vern Renshaw's sermon on the subject of stewardship can be found on the church website.



Community Dialogues

November 6th is just around the corner and there are some important and worrisome issues on the ballot. Wouldn't it be nice to participate in a "respectful conversation" about some of these questions? You can do this by attending one or all of three upcoming Community Dialogues. After a person from each side states their case for approximately 8 minutes, the rest of the evening will consist of small, facilitated groups to talk about your questions and concerns. These dialogues are sponsored by GAIN, the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network of which EUMC is a member. All meetings will take place at Friends (Quaker) Meeting House on Dubois Road in Annapolis, from 7 to 9 p.m. Put these dates on your calendar:

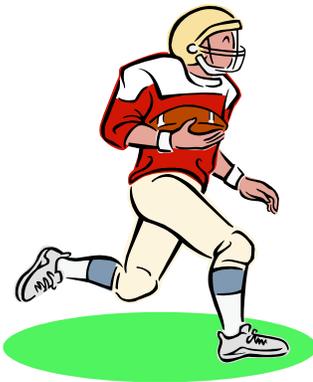
October 4 – Ballot Question 7, Expanded Gambling
October 18 – Ballot Question 6, Marriage Equality
November 1 – Ballot Question 4, the Dream Act

Navy Football

The Eastport United Methodist Men will hold its annual Navy Football and Tailgating Outing on Saturday, October 20. This year's game is Homecoming, where Navy will tackle Indiana.

Most games in the past have turned out to be thrillers, often with the outcome decided on the last play. There has been great food and fellowship at the pre-game tailgating, which will be held in the church parking lot. Men, women and kids are invited to this event! The UMM has obtained 20 tickets. The cost is \$28. See Jim Wilcox at church or call him at 410-268-7458.

~Mike Keller

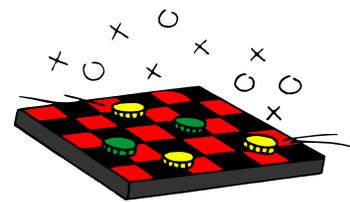


Our Thanks!

Eastport United Methodist Church has many unsung heroes in our membership and we treasure all of them. The latest hero is Sally Colburn for recovering all of the cushions for the furniture that is located in Multi-Purpose Room A. They look amazing and her talents are a gift to EUMC! Thank you Sally!

~Paulette Schwallenberg

EUMC Game Night



Game night is back! Join us Saturday evening October 13 at 5:30 p.m. for the fun! Bring your favorite games or play the games we have here at church. Enjoy pizza and soft drinks and let the games begin! If you'd like to bring any additional treats, we will enjoy them too!

This event is for children of all ages! We so much fun on these evenings. We are usually here until about 7:30 p.m. so it's not a late night. If you'd like to come, but don't drive after dark, please call the church office and we will try to arrange a ride for you. If you haven't been to Game Night before, try it! If you are a "seasoned" game nighter, welcome back!

Pumpkin Carving!

Mark your calendar for the annual EUMC Pumpkin Carving event on Saturday, October 27 from 5 – 7 p.m. Bring your pumpkins and your carving utensils. Plan to enjoy dinner with us as you carve your masterpieces for the Grand Illumination. Hope to see you there for some family fun!

~Sherrie Little



A Beautiful Day!

(by Bill Riggs)

For I know the PLANS

I have for you:

Plans to PROSPER you

And not to harm you:

Plans to give you

HOPE and a FUTURE.

Jeremiah 29:11

On a beautiful September day, the annual planning retreat for our amazing church was held at the home of Jackie Cunningham. Committed members gathered to consider the past year, our present circumstances, and to plan for next year –and beyond. Our considerations were leavened with plenty of fellowship and were nourished by even more food. None of this should surprise anyone who has spent any time at all around Eastport United Methodist Church. Equally UN-surprising was the fact that the entire day was undergirded with prayer. The day before our retreat, JoAnn Kulesza had been sent a copy of a prayer by St. Brendan. She shared this prayer with the gathering, and it guided our time together.

*Help me to journey beyond the familiar
And into the unknown.*

*Give me the faith to leave old ways
And break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
To be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know
That my times, even now, are in Your hand.*

*Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
And somehow, make my obedience count
For You. Amen.*

Arriving as it did on the eve of our annual planning meeting, this prayer served as further confirmation (if any was needed) that, in God's creation, there are no coincidences; everything happens for a reason.

Eastport is a hopeful church. In addition to prayer, its hopefulness is grounded in the accomplishments born under Pastor MaAn's loving shepherding. (Did you know that in Spanish, *Pastor* means *shepherd*?) We as a church are concerned by a number of factors, which gave a sense of urgency to our retreat this year, and to the importance of sharing with and

hearing from the entire Body of Christ at Eastport. The primary purpose of our **congregational meeting after church on October 14** will be just that –sharing, listening, and then putting plans into **action!**

Among the considerations deserving congregational action that were raised at the planning retreat are:

1. Maintaining our status as an “Acts 2” church, as defined under Bishop Schol;
2. Focusing on “radical Christian Hospitality”;
3. Reaching out in love to members who have drifted away (rebuilding from within);
4. Strengthening and encouraging our Young Adult group;
5. Strengthening and encouraging Christian education at all levels;
6. Nurturing and encouraging our youngest members –our children (and their families, and teachers);
7. Nurturing and expanding participation by helping our church family to express new ways that they will serve God through their church;
8. Strengthening and encouraging such programs as our Homework Ministry and our Hispanic Ministry, and encouraging other missional activities;
9. Prayerfully evaluating recent worship attendance patterns to find ways to grow our congregation, even as the older generation inevitably moves into the later stages of their lives.
10. Finding ways to manage change, which is also inevitable in the lives of our Christian family, and in the ministries of our beloved Eastport Church.

Pastor MaAn reminded (and challenged) us to recognize that change is inevitable; we have a new bishop, Rev. Marcus Matthews, who will inevitably institute his own programs within our Conference; and Pastor MaAn herself will not always be with us. Eastport must have plans in place to guide us into the future. Even as we conclude this year of celebrating our 125th anniversary, we look forward to the next 125 years as the Body of Christ in Eastport.

Annual Picnic

On September 30th we were once again blessed with perfect weather for our end-of-summer annual church picnic. LOTS of children enjoyed the moon bounce and the piñata. Food was plentiful and good. The Betty & Charley Show was a hoot! All in all it was a relaxing time of fun and fellowship in a beautiful location. We thank all of you for coming and sharing your time, your food, and your presence with us.

~Jill Peddicord & JoAnn Kulesza

And EUMC thanks you, Jill & JoAnn, and the helpers who made the day so special!☺



John Stuntz & Bishop Leo

A Visit from the Bishop

It was a privilege to hear Bishop Leo Soriano's message on Sunday, September 30th. His sermon was entitled "Connectors" based on I Kings 17:8-16 – we are all connectors between each other and God. Pastor MaAn and Vern hosted Bishop Leo who is from Davao in the Philippines and is in the United States attending meetings and visiting relatives. In his parting note he wrote *"Thank you for your hospitality. You have a very much alive church. If there is another opportunity, I'd love to come back to Maryland."* -Bishop Leo

Prayers for Mission Team

EUMC is sending a mission team to Brenton, West Virginia on Thursday, October 17th, returning on Sunday, October 21st. Along with teams from other Methodist Churches, Jackie Cunningham, Pastor MaAn, Jeff Bauckman, and Ann Rawls will devote an intense few days working on the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP is a Christian volunteer organization operating in Central Appalachia, specifically in the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The organization is concerned with home repair for low-income families, as well as a limited amount of free home construction. Please hold these devoted workers in your prayers.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13

Trick or Treat For UNICEF

Boxes will be in Fellowship Hall beginning October 21.

Please remember to place in offering plate or turn in to office no later than November 11.

*Lord, take me where You want me to go;
Let me meet who You want me to meet;
Tell me what You want me to say; and
Keep me out of your way.*

*Father Mychal Judge
FDNY - died 9/11/01*

October Birthdays



- 03 Brooke Hughes, Hazel Kinnamon
- 04 Brady Ducket
- 09 Barbara Krebs, Dylan Liedy
- 10 Dorothy Meehan, Lorie Rawlings
- 11 Tom Newquist
- 12 Neil Bergsman
- 14 Eloise Gleason
- 19 Eli Wurst
- 20 Rebecca Dobrick
- 21 Myrna Dobbs, Anne Rawls
- 22 Dallas Jones, Dawn Moyer, Donna Nuckels
- 23 Marge Stevens
- 24 Lisa Stevens, Nathan Owen
- 25 James Keller
- 26 Tom Howard
- 28 Tom Eicher, Michael Valentine, Jr.

October Anniversaries



- 05 Brian and Yaritza Edstrom
- 11 Mark and Dawn Goodnow
- 13 David and Amanda Owen
- 14 Al and Carol Stevens
- 15 Joe and Frances Wilmer
- 16 Kevin and Sally Hight
- 21 Ryan and Catherine Elliott
- 22 Mike and Anne Owen

*Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the Lord;
and I will heal them.
Isaiah 57:19*



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bells 7pm	2 Finance Mtg 6:30pm	3 UMW 5:30pm Fall Study 6:45pm	4 Choir 7pm Homework- Reading Program 4pm	5 Gracious Greetings 1:30pm	6 Fall Cleanup 1 to 3pm
7 ▪Conversations 9am-Chapel ▪Worship 10am ▪Sunday School 10:15am	8 Bells 7pm	9 Homework- Reading Program 4pm	10 Fall Study 6:45pm	11 Choir 7pm Homework- Reading Program 4pm	12	13 Game Night 5:30pm
14 ▪Conversations 9am-Chapel ▪Worship 10am ▪SS 10:15am ▪CONGRE- GATIONAL MEETING	15 Bells 7pm	16 Homework- Reading Program 4pm Trustees 6:15pm	17 Fall Study 6:45pm Food Pantry 1 to 3pm	18 ▪Gracious Greetings 1:30pm ▪Homework- Reading 4pm ▪Choir 7pm	19	20
Mission Trip to Brenton, West Virginia						
21 ▪Conversations 9am-Chapel ▪Worship 10am ▪Sunday School 10:15am	22 Bells 7pm UMM 7pm	23 Homework- Reading 4pm	24 Fall Study 6:45pm	25 Homework- Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	26	27 Pumpkin Carving 5pm 
28 ▪Conversations 9am-Chapel ▪Worship 10am ▪SS10:15am ▪RECOMMIT- MENT DAY	29 Bells 7pm	30 Homework- Reading 4pm	31			

Information subject to change – we will do our best to keep you informed.