

The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

July 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

Dearly beloved ones in the Lord –
Members and friends of EUMC alike:

I sit in front of the computer on the day of my 60th birthday, feeling still overwhelmed by the event of yesterday – the greatest birthday bash I've ever had in my entire life – with many of you celebrating the eve of my birthday with me. I can't tell you how stunned I was; how utterly surprised that my otherwise very “let's keep it very, very simple” husband Vern could pull a “stunt” like that! So, so, out-of-the-box thinking for him! So loving, and so caring to come up with something so “grand” and so loving. Thank you so much, Hon.

But as Vern said, he could not have done it without the help of many angels, particularly, Jill, Jackie, Ann, and especially Eunice and Wendy who all quietly plotted this surprise behind my back until the last few seconds! And that you all played along with them, was a marvel! You've all known this for a week and none of you gave any indication at all. No Freudian slips. Unbelievable!

The cards, the gifts, and the loving thoughts that came with them, your prayers, your spoken testimonies and quiet presence – all of these expressed your support for my ministry among you. Thank you all, thank you, very much.

May God bless the time we still have before us as together we continue to open our minds, hearts and arms to welcome those God sends our way to reach out to and to serve.

Blessings for a safe and wholesome summer.
Your ever grateful,
~ Pastor MaAn

S.O.S. from the Garden Team

We're certain everyone sees how nice the church grounds are looking even during these hot days of summer. But we continue to need help in maintaining gardens and the lawn areas!

We've come up with a plan to share the workload so no one person takes on the entire job! While the lawn mowing will remain in the hands of our present crew (but they'd appreciate help too), we'll be dividing up the gardens and other areas into sections and we're asking folks to “adopt” a patch and maintain that one particular area over the next couple of months and then we'll re-evaluate.

Maintenance for a particular area would include weeding, mulching (if needed), dead heading, etc. If we all pitch in, it will probably require folks working less than a half hour a week! Remember “*many hands make light work!*” And please do remember to continue to “walk the church yard” and pick up that pesky trash!

A poster and sign up information will be in Fellowship Hall. Please see Joyce Conley if you have questions!
~ Garden Team



Fall Study

The Bible Speaks on Critical Issues

An eight-week study on contemporary economic, cultural and social issues that have Biblical relevance will be held Wednesday evenings from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. between September 5 and October 24 in the fellowship hall. All are invited to take part.

In the first week, participants will look at Biblical passages that relate to issues of social concern, review the history of engagement of United Methodists in this area including the positions of John Wesley, and discuss the 1908 and 2008 Social Creed adopted by the denomination.

The second week will constitute a general overview of and conversation about the six Social Principles of the United Methodist Church:

- The natural world: protection of the earth and its natural resources
- The nurturing community: the role of the family
- The social community: the recognition of each
- The economic community: sharing of the world's wealth
- The political community: protection of freedom and the rights of people
- The world community: the maintenance of peace among nations

For the remaining weeks, participants will discuss topics that relate to each of these social principles, using resolutions of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church as the basis of each session. The specific subjects to be covered will be decided in the second session by those taking part in the study in cooperation with the facilitators.

Participants will be provided with written materials and a set of questions to consider in advance of each class. Mike Keller and Bob McWilliams will facilitate the study. The sessions will be structured to maximize the opportunity for an exchange of views by those taking part. A sign-up sheet for the study will be posted in the fellowship hall. The study will be held if at least eight persons express interest.

~ Mike Keller

Yard Sale

Thank you for helping to make the EUMC Yard Sale a grand success! We made more than \$2025.00.

Hats off to Mary Jane Finkle and her family who organized and managed the plant sale and also to Jean, Audrey, and Harriet for staffing and organizing the bake table.

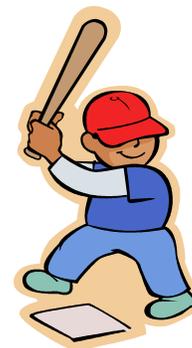
Our thanks to everyone who donated items; purchased items; baked yummy goodies; set up and cleaned up! What a fabulous team!

~ Myrna Dobbs, Sally Malamphy & Joyce Conley

Bowie Baysox Baseball Game

The Eastport United Methodist Men are organizing an outing to see the Bowie Baysox in action on Saturday evening, August 25. The cost of \$17.50 per person includes a great seat in a boxed section of the stadium as well as food vouchers. A fireworks exhibition will be held that night as well.

All EUMC women, men and children are invited to take part. At least 10 folks must sign up to take advantage of the package deal. There will be carpooling from the church to the game. If you are interested, please speak with Jim Wilcox (410-268-7458) as soon as possible so that reservations can be made.



Congratulations!

We heartily congratulate all who graduated this Spring. Our prayers and good wishes go with you this summer and into the future. Way to go!!

Andrew Beard, Tammy & Jerry Lesley's grandson, graduated from Anne Arundel Community College with an Associate of Arts Transfer Degree. Andrew hopes to become a police officer.

Caitlin Cyrus is Shirley Ford's granddaughter. Caitlin graduated from St. Mary's College with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, with a Minor in Environmental Studies.

Brian Duckett received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Towson University.

Kevin Hadaway graduated from the University of Maryland College Park with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Engineering. He finished with a cumulative GPA of 3.6. Kevin was awarded a scholarship from the Department of Defense and will fulfill his civilian service obligation with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at Warner Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. He is the son of Ed and Pam Hadaway and the grandson of Betty Storton and Jean and Dick Strucko.

Shannon Hadaway graduated with honors from Kent Island High School. She finished 7th in her class of 313 with a cumulative GPA of 4.2. She was awarded scholarships to several universities and chose to attend the Honors College at Towson University this fall to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She is the daughter of Ed and Pam Hadaway and the granddaughter of Betty Storton and Jean and Dick Strucko.

Kara Hight, daughter of Kevin & Sally, graduated from Oakland Mills High School in Columbia, MD with a 3.5 GPA. She will attend Barton College in Wilson, NC, on an academic scholarship, majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Fitness Management. Kara will be a member of the college women's basketball team.

Sally Hight completed her Bachelor's Degree in Communications from University of Maryland University College and has begun her M.E.d. program in School Guidance Counseling at the University of the Southwest. She plans to teach Secondary English.

Matthew Oechsle graduated from Broadneck Senior High School and plans to continue his studies at Anne Arundel Community College. Matthew is Barbara Schwarz's grandson.

Tommy Owen received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Towson University. He is preparing to join the U.S. Navy.

Caitlin Peddicord received her Master's Degree in Psychology from Denver University. She plans to remain in Denver to pursue her chosen career.

Jenny Stuntz graduated from Broadneck High School. She is John Stuntz's youngest granddaughter.

Nicholas Tayman is Butch & June Stevens' grandson. Nicholas graduated from the Great Lakes U.S. Naval Training Center and is pursuing a career in Naval Engineering.



New Members

Barbara Schwarz
Gene & Lynn Swanner
Gwynn & Ruth Bowen

Births

Carter Monroe Clurman 5/13/12, to Jason & Cade
Benjamin William Baker 6/9/12, to
Jennifer & Jonathan

VBS Ends with a Bang!

Last Friday, the week-long Vacation Bible School (VBS) came to a rousing end with fellowship among the leaders, the parents and the children who took part in the activities. They learned about God through Bible stories creatively presented in stories led by Lisa Parrish and Christy South. They sang songs related to the over-all theme of the week with Mary Jane Finkle leading not just the singing but the dancing. She was ably helped in this endeavor by two youth assistants, Allison and Bonnie. Eric Smaridge and Brady Duckett provided the technical support, taking turns managing the CDs and the sound system.

Each day's lesson was re-enforced in the fun games facilitated by Eric Edstrom. Hungry and sweaty from their time outdoors, children came in to enjoy the refreshing drinks and eat the theme-based cookies and other treats that Betty Tillack, friend Jan Harmon, and Shirley Keller prepared each day, thanks to the generous donations of other church members.

The children got really creative with the crafts that Vicky Clary and Paulette Schwallenberg prepared for them. Margie Hughes documented most of the activities for all to see with her camera.

Thanks to our VBS Team! None of this would have been possible without your dedication to the continuing education of the children God has entrusted to our congregation's care.

~ Pastor MaAn



Thank You (A Member's Praise to the Lord)

Thank you God in every way,
for all that You do every day.
With all your Love and tender care;
I am thankful that you are always there.

~Steve Parks



Correcting Peach Festival Misinformation

Unfortunately, a local magazine has printed incorrect ticket prices for Peach Festival dinners. The editors did this without input from us. The correct information will now appear in their August edition (which will be out in late July), on their website, and in their online newsletter. We are confident that other local publications will publish correct information. In the meantime, assure your friends and neighbors that our prices remain --- \$15 dine in or carry out, \$7 children under twelve and \$5 dessert only.

~ Joyce Conley





July Birthdays

- 02 Dawn Goodnow
- 04 Richard Hughes
- 05 Libby Cain, Pat Parks
- 06 Michelle Outerbridge
- 07 Ryan Elliott
- 09 David L. Owen, Carrie Vasquez
- 12 Kathleen Liedy
- 13 Annabelle King
- 15 Danielle Gottwig
- 16 Nicole Hughes, Debbie Morgan, Shirley Owen
- 18 Harriett Newquist
- 20 Molly Parrish, Megan Wurst
- 22 Kevin Heinz
- 24 Nathan Vasquez
- 25 Jim Wilcox
- 26 Joyce Chesney
- 27 Alexandra South
- 29 Evan Wilcox
- 30 Jerry South

July Anniversaries

- 05 Mike & Lisa Stevens
- 10 Jason & Shelly Wilcox
- 17 Gary & Christina Hataway
- 19 Russ & Lisa Parrish
- 24 David & Cyndi Councill
- 26 Gene & Lynn Swanner
- 27 Greg McDonald & Evie Swink
- 28 Jonathan & Kimberly Wilcox
- 29 Mike & Christina Valentine

Peach Festival Latest



Date: August 4, 2012
Time: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Price: \$15 adult (dining room or carryout)
 \$7 children under 12
 \$5 just dessert

See attached calendar for work dates.

We need.....

Volunteers – Fill out a peach colored volunteer form found in fellowship hall; or let Jackie Cunningham & Ann Rawls know what you will do.

Corporate Sponsors – Pick up a packet in fellowship hall or contact Mike Stevens.

Silent Auction Items – Contact the office or Sally Hight.

Start-up Funds – Envelopes are in the sanctuary.

Ball Canning Jars (all sizes), Bisquick, Sugar, Apple Cider Vinegar – Bring to the church on Sunday morning or to the office during office hours.

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 Eastport United Methodist Church
 926 Bay Ridge Avenue
 Annapolis, MD 21403
 410-263-5490
 eastportumc@verizon.net
 www.eastportumc.org
 Pastor: MaAn Barcelo
 Editor: Sherrie L. Little

Some of you have asked for a copy of the sermon below.
Many of EUMC's sermons can be found on the church website at www.eastportumc.org.

June 24, 2012 Sermon by Pastor MaAn

The second letter to the faith community in the ancient city of Corinth in Greece was written by Paul.

Paul, you may remember was not one of the twelve followers of Jesus who were very close to him. In fact, he was not at all a friend of Jesus or the followers of Jesus. It can even be said that they did not know each other personally.

We first time encounter Paul, then known as Saul, in the book of the Acts of the Apostles. In the story of the stoning of the deacon Stephen, we read the following:

The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died. (Acts of the Apostles 7:58-60, CEB)

And then the account continued with the observation that –

Saul was in full agreement with Stephen's murder. (Acts 8:1, CEB)

After Stephen's death, the followers of Jesus scattered for fear of their lives. Again, the Book of Acts tells us that:

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem... (Acts 9:1-2, NRSV)

However, on his way to Damascus, something happened to Saul. He encountered the risen Jesus. After that, he was never the same again. Saul, the persecutor of the followers of Jesus became one of the most devoted and hard-working disciples of the Lord.

In the letter for our reflection this morning, Saul, who by then was called Paul, was recounting to the Corinthians his experiences as a disciple of Jesus. As you just heard, he led a very difficult life as a Christian disciple. In Paul's life, we see the truth of Jesus' words:

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."
(Mark 8:34, NRSV)

This led me to wonder about being a disciple of Christ and a member of the church of Christ. You see, there has been much talk among church pundits about dwindling membership especially among the mainline churches that include our United Methodist Church. There is also talk nowadays about moving from membership model Christianity to discipleship model Christianity. So, I looked it up. What I learned is fascinating and very thought and prayer provoking. One article I read recorded the observations made by an Episcopal priest who has spent thirty years studying discipleship and membership based Christianity. He wrote the following:

(June 24 Sermon continued)

Membership based Christianity/Believers	Discipleship based Christianity/Believers
1. are more influenced by culture	1. are more influenced by the Kingdom of God
2. are more connected to God by ritual and the institution	2. are more connected to God by a relationship
3. tend to be autonomous in their faith journey	3. tend to be held accountable in their faith journey
4. view their faith as a matter of individual convenience	4. view their faith with a high level of commitment
5. remain individualistic, independent, and self-centered	5. pursue community, interdependence, and are Christ Centered
6. focus on church work as the major emphasis	6. focus on the ministry of the church in the world
7. are content with maintenance	7. are driven by mission and the great commission
8. are dependent on clergy for ministry	8. are dependent on the body of Christ for ministry
9. look to develop programs	9. look to develop ministries.
10. consider themselves owners of material possessions	10. consider themselves stewards of material possessions
11. are content to give according to their own standard	11. committed to the tithe and get there
12. stop with Jesus as Savior	12. follow Jesus as Lord
13. are Sunday only Christians	13. are lifestyle Christians

It is the conviction of many church leaders that in faithfulness to the great commission that Jesus gave his first disciples, we need to return to discipleship based Christianity. Jesus said to his followers then:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19, NRSV)

As his followers today we need to do same. As your Pastor, I want us to move more resolutely together in that direction of discipleship Christianity. And so in the months to come we will return to this matter again.

Or, as Paul said, “let us open our hearts wide,” not only to him and his example of dedicated discipleship. Let us open our hearts wide to the leading of the Holy Spirit and act on it. Amen.

Question for Reflection:

What would Eastport UMC look like if each of us fully practiced discipleship Christianity?

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am	2	3 Summer Reading Program 4pm	4 Independence Day – Office closed 	5	6	7
8 Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am	9 Covered Dish Dinner 6pm	10 Summer Reading Program 4pm	11	12	13	14 Lay Speakers Annual gathering
15 Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am	16	17 •Summer Reading 4pm •Trustees 6:15pm •Admin Council 7:30pm	18 Food Pantry 1 to 3pm Peach Festival Meeting 7pm	19	20	21
22 Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am	23	24 Summer Reading Program 4pm	25	26 Pickled beets preparation 9am	27	28
29 Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am	30 Pickled Beets Preparation 9am	31 Summer Reading Program 4pm	Aug 1 Begin potato salad prep 10am	Aug 2 Cook potatoes 7am (tentative) Peel peaches Bake cakes	Aug 3 Bake cakes Boxing Labeling Etc. Etc. Etc.	Aug 4 PEACH FESTIVAL 
PEACH WEEK! LOTS TO DO – ALL HANDS NEEDED!						

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