



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

September 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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

September is forever linked in my mind to “Back to School,” and every year around this time I get flashbacks. Flashbacks of all the many years of school I attended. For better or worse, I can still smell the aroma of freshly sharpened pencils, crayons, new binders, and wide-rule paper that I had to buy each year. I remember the excitement and the nervousness I felt getting on the bus, ready to start a new school year, not sure if I would be in any classes with my friends, worried about which lunch period I had, and hoping that the teachers would be nice.

I also remember the “Back to School” craze as everyone rushed to find the perfect new school supplies, pick out that super cool first day of school outfit, and pack everything in its right place in that spiffy new book bag. In my family we didn’t do any of this until the night before school started, that time when the shelves have already been emptied and you can’t even find everything you need. I’m sure you have your own stories about Back to School, rituals you did every year that marked the beginning of a new season of learning.

This year, with the “Back to School” fever running high, I’m reminded of a quote from John White, a Christian author:

“There are no shortcuts to holiness. There is no easy way to conquer the flesh. Christian character is a matter of growth, not of secrets or formulas. Growth takes time. It also takes the discipline of prayer, of study, of heart searching, of sensitivity to the Holy Ghost’s pleading, and of consistent obedience. It must always begin with a

renewed thankfulness for the never-ending grace of God, and a sense of being set free repeatedly to a life of holiness.”

Maybe this year, we can catch the September “Back to School” fever in our church. Maybe we can let it remind us of our ongoing call to discipleship, to learning, to spiritual growth, to beginning anew in our relationship with God, to striving toward holiness. As our New Year’s Resolutions have long been forgotten, let’s make September resolutions that will help us learn and grow in holiness. This September, you will have opportunities to explore new ways to walk and grow with Christ and one another at Eastport UMC. We invite you to come to a special Bible Study that will begin Wed. Sept. 10th at 12 p.m. We will be studying themes from the book of Exodus for a four-week series on Sept. 10th, 17th, 24th, and Oct. 8th. I’m excited to dive in to one of the most important narratives of the Old Testament, the story of the people of Israel on their journey to the Promised Land. My hope is that this Bible study will help us reflect on our own spiritual pilgrimage as individuals and as a faith community as God continues to lead and push us in new directions never before explored. This study will be complemented by a 6-week sermon series on the book of Exodus called *Becoming*, that will begin Sunday August 31st.

I covet your prayers as we begin this Bible study together. This study is another piece of my ongoing ordination process that I will be working on this fall.

Hope to see you there!
~ Pastor Michelle





JEAN STRUCKO AND BILL MALAMPHY
PEACH FESTIVAL CO-CHAIRS

Peach Festival

Another successful Peach Festival is behind us. Here is a note from Bill Malamphy, Co-Chair of this year's event...

We just want to thank all of you who worked or supported the Peach Festival. We have never seen such dedicated and hard workers anywhere. It is a lot of work, but nobody ever complained...at least not very often.

Thank you to all of the chair people. You made things roll along like a well-oiled machine. This well-oiled machine could not have accomplished anything without the volunteers. We really enjoyed working for you on this 39th Peach Festival, mainly because you are so organized.

Note: A "Special" thank you to Jean Strucko who made this job so easy. It was a pleasure working with her. ~ Bill Malamphy

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!!

Bake Table – Peach Festival

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this year's bake table. Your response to our call for donated baked goods was wonderful – we received more donations of goodies and raised more money than ever before. You are awesome!!

~ Shirley Owen



Pickled Beets – Peach Festival

To everyone who helped in any way with making our famous pickled beets – thank you for your dedication and tireless efforts. You are an amazing bunch of people!

~ Myrna Dobbs



Notes from Missions

The Missions Team will meet Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and give us your input for mission projects.

We assembled and delivered 25 backpacks to Annapolis Middle School and 25 backpacks to Bates Middle School. Many thanks to all who helped.

Plans continue to be made for our mission trip to Appalachian Service Project in Brenton, WV. We will be leaving October 15th and returning on the 19th. This year Ann Rawls, Anne Owen, Jackie Cunningham and Pastor Michelle will be joining over 20 other persons from area churches to do home repairs for very needy families in the area.

Even though school has just started we have to think ahead, and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. We again will be doing Thanksgiving baskets, and Winter Relief will again be held during Thanksgiving week. Please mark your calendar for volunteering opportunities.

We are still serving Food Pantry the third Wednesday of every month. Your help is always needed and appreciated.

~ Jackie Cunningham

Gracious Greetings Resumes



Our card making folks will meet September 18, 1:30 p.m. and craft Halloween cards for Timothy House residents. Everyone is invited to take part in this fun-filled ministry! No previous experience required! Come and experience an afternoon filled with laughter and good fellowship.

~ Joyce Conley

The ANNUAL EUMC CHURCH PICNIC will be at the Bay Ridge Clubhouse on Saturday, September 21, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The main dish (fried chicken & pizza) and beverages will be provided. We ask all who can to bring a side dish or dessert to share; those who can't, just bring yourselves anyway because we guarantee there will be plenty of food. Your family and friends are invited. Bring your favorite lawn chair and join the games or relax and be a spectator. Good company and fun for all ages! (There's rumor of an ice cream sundae bar.)



Choir rehearsals start Thursday, September 11th. Like to sing? Join us at 7 p.m.



United Methodist Women

Come join a cool group of ladies having lots of fun, along with some serious business. Remember, it's the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 5:30 p.m. Bring your brown bag dinner; drinks and dessert are furnished. First meeting is Wednesday, September 3rd.

~ Ann Rawls, President

Sunday School is Cool



Sunday School starts September 7th. There will be two classes...kindergarten through second grade children will be in Val Devaris' class, and any child in third grade or higher will be in Nicole Hughes' class. Bible study, games, activities, crafts, and music will all be important parts of the program. The first unit is titled "Out of Egypt" which will tie into Pastor Michelle's messages. *Thank you Val and Nicole for your love of the kids and your dedication to this important ministry!*

EUMC Annual Planning Retreat



Everyone is welcome to attend the fall planning retreat on September 27th. This is a time for discussion of issues and ideas affecting our church. It will include an Administrative Council meeting so team leaders are especially encouraged to attend or to send a representative. *Our thanks to Jackie Cunningham for again hosting this event.* Specific times have not been determined – stay tuned for bulletin announcements.



Out-To-Lunch Bunch

The August lunch bunch had 12 people, men and women, at Sammy's for conversation, laughs, good food and service. We usually meet on the 4th Wednesday but **the next one will actually be October 1st so as not to conflict with the last Bible study.** Join us Wednesday, Oct. 1st @ 12:15 p.m. at Sammy's – everybody needs a lunch break!



Life Changes

Isabelle Maness

Born June 10, 2014

Parents – Andy Beard & Lauren Maness

Grandparents – Hank & Sonya Beard

Great-Grandparents – Jerry & Tammy Lesley

Isabella Lorraine Nasatka

Born June 25, 2014

Brother – Brixton Nasatka

Parents – Joseph & Katie Nasatka

Grandparents – Joe & Sue Nasatka

Samuel Byars Clurman

Born July 27, 2014

Brother – Carter Clurman

Parents – Jason & Cade Clurman

Tyler Thomas Burton South

Born July 29, 2014

Sisters – Alexandra & Ryleigh

Parents – Jerry & Christy South

Grandparents – Tom & Paulette Schwallenberg

Jaden Christian Vasquez

Baptized August 10, 2014

Brothers – Ricardo Jr. & Nathan

Parents – Ricardo & Carrie Vasquez

Godparent – Martha Vasquez

Sherry Burford

Died August 21, 2014

Daughter of Jerry & Lorraine Crouch

September Birthdays

Sept 2	Mike Owen Andy Owen
Sept 3	Carol Hill
Sept 5	Bill Bowen
Sept 8	Neill Kinnamon
Sept 13	Vicki Clary
Sept 15	Mike Stevens Kitty Leitch
Sept 16	JoAnn Kulesza David Peddicord
Sept 18	Elaine Hollidayoke Gage Savoy
Sept 19	Betty Moreland
Sept 21	Joan Dove Taylor Stevens
Sept 23	Sherrie Little Catherine Daywalt
Sept 26	Sally Colburn Frances Wilmer
Sept 27	Cierra Ploof Barbara Schwarz
Sept 28	Bob McWilliams

September Anniversaries

Sept 6	Vern Renshaw & MaAn Barcelo
Sept 15	Dale & Libby Cain
Sept 17	Mike & Megan Wurst
Sept 23	Earl & Harriet Macey
Sept 25	Mark & Sharon Stevens

Mark Your October Calendars

Oct 8	Charge Conference
Oct 15	Mission Trip to Brenton, WV
Oct 18	Cluster Conference at EUMC
Oct 19	Laity Sunday

PUMPKIN EVENT TO BE ANNOUNCED



The Spire is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410-263-5490

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office closed 	2 Homework & Reading 4pm	3 Methodist Women 5:30pm	4 Homework & Reading 4pm ECCT Planning Meeting 5:30	5	6
7 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	8 Lay Leadership 2pm Bells 7pm	9 Homework & Reading 4pm	10 Bible Study 12 noon	11 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	12	13
14 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	15 Bells 7pm	16 Homework & Reading 4pm Trustees 6:15	17 Bible Study 12 noon Food Pantry 1-3pm	18 Gracious Greetings 1:30 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	19	20 Navy football & pre-game tailgating 
21 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am Church Picnic 2pm 	22 <i>Fall</i>  Methodist Men Prayer & Pizza 7pm Bells 7pm	23 Homework & Reading 4pm	24 Bible Study 12 noon	25 Homework & Reading 4pm ECCO 5:30pm	26	27 Fall Planning Retreat
28 Worship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Nursery 10:15am	29 Bells 7pm	30 Homework & Reading 4pm	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Fall begins September 22nd </div>			

Eastport United Methodist Church

926 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403-3091

The Rev. Michelle Mejia, Pastor
Church 410-263-5490

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery 10:15 a.m.
Office Hours 9:30-3:30 Monday-Friday
Office Closed 12-1 p.m. for Lunch



www.eastportumc.org