

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

May 2013



Pastor Daniel Mejia

I'm finding myself again in a difficult place as I try to write my Lamplighter article. Heavy on my mind is the Boston Marathon bombing that has killed at least 3 people, including an 8 year old boy, and injured more than 140 people. Again, by the time you receive the May Lamplighter the Boston bombing might be an event of the past, not the top story of any news broadcast; but today it has just happened. Once again, as happened to me after the Newtown, Connecticut shootings, I find myself fighting with the tension of continuing to live my normal life and all of its normal activities or stopping completely in shock for what happened to the people in Boston. At this point the information is unclear and fluid. We don't know who did it or why. No foreign or domestic terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attack. However, by the time you get this, all that information and details might be old news, but today it has just happened. One of the immediate effects of evil is that it stops us in our tracks, it catches us by surprise, and makes us confused about what we need to do in the midst of it. I have to confess that

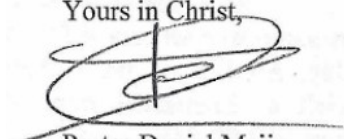
shock, anger, retaliation, and fear--all of these emotions, have flooded my mind as I see the pictures and hear the reports from Boston. Yet, what is the answer? Where can we go from here? The answer to my questions came from an unexpected source. Comedian Patton Oswalt wrote a message on his facebook page after the attacks. Here is his message:

"I remember, when 9/11 went down, my reaction was, 'Well, I've had it with humanity.' But I was wrong. I don't know what's going to be revealed to be behind all of this mayhem. One human insect or a poisonous mass of broken sociopaths. But here's what I DO know. If it's one person or a HUNDRED people, that number is not even a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of a percent of the population on this planet. You watch the videos of the carnage and there are people running TOWARDS the destruction to help out. This is a giant planet and we're lucky to live on it but there are prices and penalties incurred for the daily miracle of existence. One of them is, every once in awhile, the wiring of a tiny sliver of the species gets snarled and they're pointed towards darkness. But the vast majority stands against that darkness and, like white blood cells attacking a virus, they dilute and weaken and eventually wash away the evil doers and, more importantly, the damage they wreak. This is beyond religion or

creed or nation. We would not be here if humanity were inherently evil. We'd have eaten ourselves alive long ago. So when you spot violence, or bigotry, or intolerance or fear or just garden-variety misogyny, hatred or ignorance, just look it in the eye and think, 'The good outnumber you, and we always will.'"

I guess the answer to my questions and frustrations because of evil is the same as it has always been. "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
(Romans 12:17-20)

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia



Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan

One of my favorite seminary professors gave us the advice to praise whatever congregation we find ourselves in. He didn't mean it in a dishonest way. He just believed that regardless of the struggles a congregation may have, every congregation has something that they do well, and it is better to talk about strengths than weaknesses. I'm no seasoned pastor. I'm only just about to graduate seminary, so I'm in no place to judge this professor's thoughts just yet. However, over the past two years, it hasn't been hard advice to follow. There are so many things that I've been thankful for in my time at Emmanuel. There have been so many people who have blessed me, and I've learned too many lessons to begin to recount them. Several of you have said to me that you'll be sad to see me leave this month, and the feeling is certainly mutual. I will miss you all terribly, but I'm thankful for the time that we have had to spend together and confident that when I come back to visit, Emmanuel will have continued to grow and bless the surrounding community.

As you may or may not know, after graduating this month, Ros (my wife)

and I will be moving to Nicaragua. We will be working with a local organization called Cantera. I will be teaching English and Art to high school students in one of the poorer sections of Managua (the capital of Nicaragua) and leading bible studies for the other workers at Cantera. Ros will be doing nursing work and health education. Our initial commitment is for 1.5 years, but if it is a good fit, we are encouraged to extend our stay for an additional year.

The program that we are a part of supports us with housing, healthcare, and a stipend for food. Our participation in the program is in no way dependent on raising money, but the program does set a modest one-time goal for us to raise \$3000 per person. The idea is to encourage us to get people involved in our ministry abroad. Not everyone can pack up their things and leave their families to be in service with the poor in a foreign country. Also it can be hard to know where to give money so that it will be well spent (especially with international charities), but by encouraging people to invest in our work, more people are able to have a hand in meaningful work with the poor abroad. I want to invite you to consider making a donation, no matter the size, to the program that we will be working with in Nicaragua. Tax deductible gifts made out to "Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps" and with my name in the memo line can be sent to Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps, 1927 N. 4th St., Milwaukee, WI 53212. Thank you for your support regardless of any financial gift you may choose to give.

Though I'll be leaving Emmanuel this month, I want to stay connected with all of you. I hope to continue writing Lamplighter articles from time to time to let you know how I'm doing

and what I'm learning in Nicaragua. I'm in the process of creating a blog that I will be able to use to share more frequent reflections and pictures (more news to come later). Again, thank you for all that you've done for me. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your love. I wish I could convey how much these last two years have meant to me.

You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. (Isaiah 58:12b)
Healing Communities Training

Presented by the Baltimore-Washington Conference
 Criminal Justice and
 Mercy Ministry (CJMM)

A Healing Community engages congregations and communities in restoring people affected by crime, incarceration and reintegration.

When: May 25, 2013
 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Randall Memorial United
 Methodist Church
 1002 46th Street, NE
 Washington, D.C. 20019

Cost: \$25.00 (Continental breakfast, lunch and training manual)

Training Leader and Registrar
 Rev. Dr. Brian W. Jackson: 202-396-0375
randallmemorial@verizon.net

For more information visit
<http://www.randallumc.org/healing-communities.html>

Please contact Jane Grays, 301-937-6392, LadyJaneGra@aol.com if you plan to attend the workshop; we could carpool if you want.



Photo by Ann Ladd

Pastor Daniel Mejia and assistant Pastors Ben Sloan and Nickie Moreno participated in Easter Sunrise services at St. John's Episcopal Church on 31 March and then appeared rested and alert at our regular 9 am service (right).

Faithful Readers Book Group

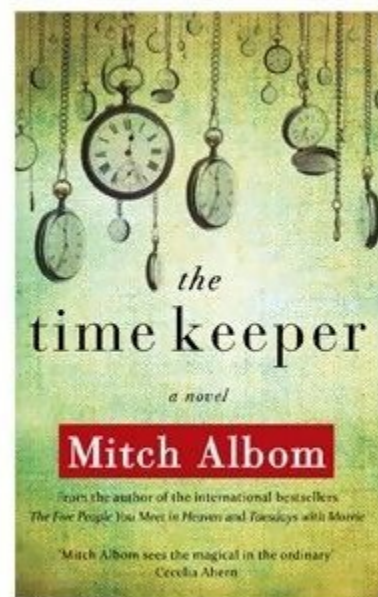
Faithful Readers met in April to discuss Tim Tebow's book, "Through My Eyes."

Talk included impressions of the book; how he talked of his personal life, and accounts of various games in his past. The overall message was to keep reaching towards your goal no matter what obstacles you encounter and how having faith in God's advice got him over his conflicts and struggles—both on and off the playing field. *Google:* Jacksonville Jaguars to read the latest news about Tebow's career.

Soon, we were discussing other professional athletes, trades, politics, opinions of football and baseball teams, etc....but agreed that sports are an important element to our youth too, and that through discipline and sportsmanship, working together on a team or striving to be the best individual player also teaches and carries on The Golden Rule.

Our next book to read for June will be Mitch Albom's latest book, "The Time Keeper" which is available in our library system. Date Saturday, June 15th, 10 - 11 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.



"The Time Keeper" will be discussed on June 15, 10-11 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Vacation Bible School 2013 God's Backyard Bible Camp

By Todd Reizel

What is the greatest commandment? Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." And he added that the second greatest commandment is "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Loving and serving our neighbors is a key part of God's Backyard Bible Camp, this year's Vacation Bible School at Emmanuel UMC, which will be held Monday, July 15, to Friday, July 19, with something new to learn every evening. The VBS Planning Committee is making plans for a great week of learning, fellowship, and fun that you should plan to join in.

We will learn how to better serve family, friends, neighbors, and community as the way to serve Jesus, as we have fun with food, music, crafts, and other projects. We will have classes for all ages from 4 and up, and will provide nursery care for those younger than 4. Kids and teens classes will be divided by ages, and two adult classes will be offered: one traditional adult class and one adult bilingual English-Spanish class.

Each evening's classes and activities will be from 6 to 8 pm. Dinner is included in the registration fee and will be served from 5 to 6 pm.

Registration costs only \$10 per person, with a \$40 maximum per family. Register in the church narthex today!

A Word About Hospitality

By Ann Rowland, Church Council Chair

Have you ever introduced yourself to someone at church, assuming the person is a guest, only to learn that he/she is a long-time member? More often than not, such an assumption can be very embarrassing, so much so that you vow to never again put yourself in that position. A typical response may go something like this: "I've been a member of this church long before you were born" or "I'll have you know that I'm a charter member of this church." No chance of that happening here since we are 175 years old and counting, but you get the idea. If this or something similar has happened to you, causing reluctance to approach a person you don't recognize, help is on the way.

At a workshop several of us attended in April that was led by Jim Griffith, a nationally renowned Church Growth Consultant, we learned that a large percentage of people entering a church for the first time are only welcomed by the greeter at the door. In Jim's travels visiting churches around the country he has found the number one reason people do not speak to someone they don't know is because they are afraid of embarrassing themselves by saying the wrong thing. If that has been your experience you can use this tried and true opening phrase that will never get you into trouble when introducing yourself: **1. "You've probably been coming for some time, but I have not met you."** Now, that was easy! Assuming that the person is a newcomer you may wish to follow up with: **2. "How did you hear about our church?"** If feasible you may also ask: **3. "May I introduce you to our Pastor?"**

If you learn, with the first phrase, that the person is a church member, the rest should be easy. You'll probably try to figure out why your paths have never crossed and the conversation will take off from there.

If guests feel uncomfortable in our environment, we may not get a second chance to redeem ourselves because it's unlikely they'll return, says Jim Griffith. Hospitality does not begin and end with the greeter. It's everyone's responsibility. Let's extend a warm welcome and display Christ's love to our guests always.

EMERGE – Mental Health Ministry

By Ann Rowland

May is Mental Health Month. Throughout the month free Mental Health Literature/Pamphlets will be available in the Narthex and Mental Health Inserts will be provided in the Bulletin. It is hoped that increased awareness about mental illness, through education, will help to reduce the stigma that still surrounds diseases of the brain. For those who may not know, we provide a peer led Depression/Bipolar Support Group on the second and fourth Monday evenings. For information, call one of our trained facilitators: Jennie Owens at 301-937-1157 or Elsie Cline at 301-937-6024.

Memorial Gifts

By The Memorials Committee

Because the former Memorials Committee Guidelines are no longer applicable to our environment and Mission, they have been revised. It is our hope that these guidelines will lend clarity to the process of handling and expending memorial funds.

Our priority is to manage the funds placed in our care with respect and thoughtful consideration of those being memorialized or honored and their families while remaining faithful to the missional needs of Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

Emmanuel UMC Memorials Committee Guidelines (Revised September 2012)

1. Membership

Pastor

Lay Leader

Chairperson of Trustees or designated Trustee

Two at large congregational members, volunteers or appointed by Church Council

Chairperson of Church Council or designated person from Church Council

Worship Committee Chairperson or designated person from the Worship Committee

Secretary—Treasurer

2. The committee will be required to meet three times during the year.

3. The committee shall periodically make known to the congregation lists of current desired needs and approximate costs.

4. The committee, working with the Church Council, will develop a “wish list” or “priority list” of items needed by the Church that may be suitable as Memorial Gifts.

5. Appropriate acknowledgments are sent to person honored by church staff. The Memorial Committee will recognize the donors after the funds are expended.

6. While donors may suggest specific gifts or select from the Memorial Committee’s priority list, the final decision will be at the discretion of the Memorial Committee. No gifts shall be dedicated until fully paid.

7. Memorial Gifts shall be appropriately recorded in the Abiding Memorial Book.

8. Items permanently affixed to the building or grounds, on recommendation and submission by committee, shall have prior approval by the Trustees.

9. The Committee shall periodically report its activities and program progress to the Church Council.

Note From the Trustees

Water was found running from the faucet in the double sink in the kitchen on Sunday morning, April 14. The kitchen was empty. If the faucets are difficult to turn off, please leave a note in the Trustee’s mail box.





May Birthdays

- 1 Joelle Onukwubiri
- 2 Walter Ademiluyi
- 3 Ada McGlynn
- 4 Buck Aplin
- 5 Pam Midkiff,
- 6 Joel Tyler
- 8 Susan Fanning, Emmy Lear
- 10 Sam Shiplett
- 12 Megan McNitt
- 13 Nancy Thrush, Jason Kresge
- 14 Diane Embrey
- 16 Roy Wells
- 17 Scarlet Robertson, Doris Shirey
- 18 Maxine Norris
- 19 Kevin Kresge
- 20 JoAnne Blakley
- 22 Nancy McNealy, Roy White
- 23 Karl Norris
- 26 Stephen Lewis
- 28 Sylvia Jones, Chester Warner
- 29 Nemahun Jones,
Preston Gregory, Sr.
- 30 Jillian Smith



May Anniversaries

- 4 Lynne & Robert Miller
- 6 Karen & James Mackey
- 10 Scarlet & Bill Robertson
- 15 Nancy & Michael McNealy
- 22 Sam & Nancy Shiplett

Altar Flowers



- May 5
- May 12
- May 19 Karl Norris
- May 26 Dottie Gilbert

- June 2
- June 9 Peggy Wells
- June 16
- June 23 Beverly Ward
- June 30

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 pm Maranatha Choir	2 7 pm Chancel Choir	3 Youth Lock in	4 9 am Mother Daughter Breakfast 10 am Parents with young children
5 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm UMW Exec Meeting 1 pm CROP Walk	6	7	8 6 pm Maranatha Choir	9 7 pm Chancel Choir	10	11 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Trustees Meeting Youth Benefit Concert
12 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Farewell Lunch for Ben 1 pm Youth Fellowship	13 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group	14 10 am Prayer Fellowship	15 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 noon Dorcas Circle 6 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters In Spirit	16 7 pm Chancel Choir	17 11 am Community Place Café 7 pm Friday Live	18
19 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12 Noon Beltsville Day	20 12 noon Ellen Hoover Circle	21	22 6 pm Maranatha Choir	23 7 pm Chancel Choir	24 7 pm Food Prep	25 10 am Food Distribution
26 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 1 pm Youth Fellowship	27 Church Office Closed 7 pm Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group	28 10 am Prayer Fellowship	29 6 pm Maranatha Choir	30	31	



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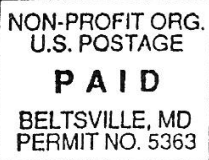
EMERGE Mental Health Ministry

Memorial Gifts

Note from the Trustees

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Altar Flowers

May Calendar



Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7114
Web: www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net

Address Service Requested