

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

February 2013



Pastor Daniel Mejia

It's February...and I could write a wonderful article about God's love, since it's the month of Valentine's Day and everyone will be thinking about that, but instead, I want to write about... **ZOMBIES.**

Zombies?? Yes. You see, I love the show, "The Walking Dead." It's about zombies, in a post-apocalyptic world, and although the world of zombies does not really exist, many of us may feel like we are real zombies or walking dead on a regular basis. We may feel like we run from one thing to the next, so busy that we have little time to spend in prayer and reflection. Our lives and minds may be so cluttered and we may split ourselves with so much multitasking that we are not fully present in the present moment, or fully focused and mindful of what we are doing and who we are with, even if it is just ourselves.

I must admit that there are too many times when I feel this way. But it's not the way that I want to be. This time of year offers us an opportunity to make changes. Feb-

ruary brings us Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. So what if, this year, we took Lent seriously as a time for breaking bad habits and replacing them with holy habits that will help our spiritual growth? What if we spent Lent as a time to contemplate the places/people/things in our lives that are starved for attention, and the places/people/things that we have been addicted to and need distance from?

Consider this quote from Richard Rohr, well-known Franciscan priest and author:

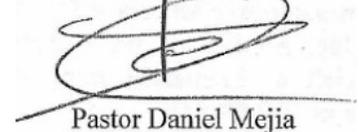
The desert is where you go apart from the world order as it is. It's where you simply stop being trapped in the world's addictive patterns. If you are addicted to the world's or your own patterns, you really need to go apart; otherwise you'll never stop sleepwalking.... What Jesus is talking about, first and foremost, is how do you enter into the real Now. Jesus gives us "real eyes" to "realize" where the "Real lies."

I don't want to be caught sleepwalking. I don't want to be one of the "walking dead" zombies who are trapped in the patterns and busyness of the world. Lent is a time to enter desert space. It's a time to simplify. It's a time to refrain from indulgence and over consumption, so that we can recognize our need and feel our hunger for real food and real sustenance. It's a time to commit

to being present to the present moment, to cultivating awareness of our surroundings, to being mindful of others and ourselves.

When Lent comes each year, I consider it a blessing. A blessing that brings with it the challenge to prayerfully reflect on our lives and choose something to change. What will you give up for Lent? Or what will your new Lenten practice be? I invite you to come and create sacred space for yourself and God this Lent.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Daniel Mejia





Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan

When I was growing up I struggled with the authority of the Bible. I didn't know how to make sense of miracles. They were outside anything I'd experienced. I didn't know what to think about the violence in many of the stories. I didn't know what to make of the rules that so few Christians seemed to follow. Even though I struggled with the Bible from a very young age, later as I was growing up, it was the stories of the Bible that drew me into a committed relationship with God. The rawness, the grit, the honesty, the characters I could so easily see myself in; all these elements drew me in.

I don't think I'm completely alone in my varied experience of the Bible. It has provoked great deeds, encouraged saints, and inspired breathtaking art. At the same time with uninspired reading, it has put many to sleep. At worst, when misused, it has caused great pain. Bibles are ubiquitous in our homes, but is the Word of God written on our hearts? How do we understand the Bible's teaching? What does it tell us about life today?

Over the next several months I'll be writing on these and other questions pertaining to our holy book, the Bible. This month I want to look at the question of where it came from and what that can teach us.

The Bible began as an oral tradition. The stories of the Bible were handed down from generation to generation long before they were first written down. If you've ever played the game telephone, hearing that might cause you to question how accurate such a story could be. However, it has been shown that in non-literate cultures, people's memory is much, much better than ours. We don't have to remember well because we can write important things down. For groups of people for whom that is not an option, significant texts like the Bible can be passed down for many generations without error or change.

When the Bible was written down, it wasn't written all at once. Some parts of the Old Testament date back to before 1000 BC. However, the Old Testament as we read it in my Hebrew class wasn't finished until around 2000 years later. When Jesus quoted scripture, it wasn't from as formal bound book like we have now. It was from a collection of widely accepted scriptural writing. In fact, the New Testament Epistle of Jude cites the Book of Enoch that we don't include in our Bible. I believe that this serves as a reminder that though everything we need to know about salvation can be found in the Bible, there are

many great lessons (spiritual or otherwise) that we can be taught by non-Biblical sources.

Some might question why these details of authorship and transmission are important. I believe that they are very important because they help remind us of the human element of the Bible. As Christians we claim that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. Yet there are Christians that would call the Bible only fully divine, in essence making it more remote than Jesus himself. The human element of scripture is crucial. The Bible records the mutual struggle toward reconciliation between God and humanity. The human element with all its flaws allows us to see ourselves in the stories, to learn, and to grow. Before I even came close to understanding the letters of Paul or the teachings of Jesus, the stories of other sinners like me captivated me and caused me to reflect on my own life. By further understanding the stories of the people who wrote these stories, we can learn even more about our human nature as we seek after the divine.

Prayer Fellowship

By Ernie Kilbourne

Several months ago, Bobbie wrote about one part of our Ministry, the ladies who meet with Pastor Daniel twice a month. We also have ladies who cannot come to the meetings, some of whom work.

These ladies are our Telephone Fellowship. They take messages on the telephone and pass the names on and pray for the people. COULD YOU be part of this MINISTRY?? We could use some MEN also. You do not have to be home all the time.

Deaf Ministry Booth at Festival

An opportunity arose for Northeast Jurisdiction of United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (NEJ-UMMD) to set up a booth at Mid-Atlantic Deaf and Hard of Hearing Festival. It was held on November 17, 2012 at Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. It was the first festival that was sponsored by Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens (MDSC) to raise funds for Deaf Seniors of America conference that will be held on August 21–27, 2013 in Baltimore. Over 3,000 people flocked into what became a one day Deaf “World” where many have not seen each other for a while and strove to catch up with news. They walked among about 87 booths of profit and non-profit exhibitors. There were also activities for children and adults, door prizes, white elephant sale, and auction.

As Roy White is a board member of MDSC, he is also the treasurer of NEJ-UMCD. So with the knowledge of the planned event, he got in touch with Karen Miller, president of NEJ and Carol Stevens, Director of Deaf Ministry in East Pennsylvania and Peninsula – Delaware conferences to help set up the booth. Carol brought in a poster about 3rd International Methodist Deaf Mission Conference that will be held in Kenya this coming July and August, and Roy brought a list of United Methodist churches with sign language interpreters that are located in Maryland, D.C., Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York. Two Deaf churches in Maryland are also listed. Carrie White, Beverly Huneycutt, Dan Kenyon, and Lasander Saunders

(from Baltimore) helped to man the booth to allow Carol and Karen to have breaks and to mingle with old friends in the crowd. As members of the festival committee, Roy also volunteered as a part of the security team, and Carrie in the registration. It is felt it was a worthwhile effort to provide information about the UM Deaf Ministry.

3rd International Methodist Deaf Mission Conference

Some of you may have read the flyer about the conference that has been posted on the Deaf Ministry board in the narthex. The conference, which will occur on July 24 – August 10, 2013, will involve teaching in 2 Deaf vacation Bible schools in 2 different schools during the first week. There will be some free time to visit a safari. The second week will focus on the conference of Deaf Methodists and Wesleyans from South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and Kenya as well as United States.

Carol Stevens has been in charge of arranging the conference with the people in Kenya. She arranged missions in Kenya as well as Zimbabwe several times within the past 5 years or so. She helped Deaf Zimbabweans to develop their standard sign language. Previously, the Deaf of different tribes or districts could not sign with each other. Some of you may recall that Margaret Stanton went to Zimbabwe several years ago.

The participants will include Roy and Carrie White, and Dan Kenyon, who happens to be president of United Methodist Congress of the

Deaf. Dan and his wife Mary Jane have started to attend 11:15 worship services. They are looking forward to working with Deaf children in Kenya and being in fellowship with others at the conference.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

By Ernie Kilbourne

The United Women Women will have their meeting on February 23rd in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a pot luck lunch at 1 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the meeting. The Susanna Wesley Circle is the host circle.

Jane Grays is our program leader. As, we all know, Jane always has good and informative subjects for us to think about. So, come and see what she surprises us with this time.

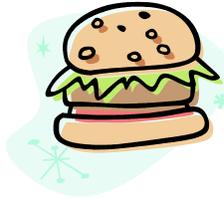


United
Methodist
Women

Rummage Sale

By Ernie Kilbourne

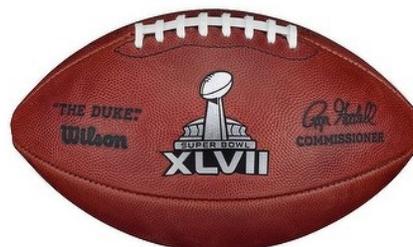
It is time to begin thinking and planning for the Rummage Sale. Look through your home, all the rooms, basement, attic, everywhere to find items that you no longer use or want. We CANNOT use CLOTHES. We will be needing people to help. **The Sale will be on March 9th.**



Coming
March 9th

3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Super Bowl Party

It's almost that time again... Super Bowl Sunday, the biggest football day of the year. We would like you to join us for the 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Super Bowl party for the entire family on Sunday February 3rd. The cost for dinner is \$10.00 per person and the party is free. All proceeds will support the worship committee so that they can update some of the equipment in the sanctuary. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. and kickoff is at 6 p.m. We will be showing the game on a large screen in the fellowship hall where we will have snacks and drinks. If you don't want to watch football for the entire time we will offer an alternative for you; there will be movies shown on the big screen in our Sanctuary. You can buy tickets for the dinner in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or call the church office to reserve them. This is a great event to come out and meet others in your church family and to spend some time outside of worship getting to know other members and their families. We hope to see you there. If there are any questions, feel free to talk to Rick Bergmann.



Trustees

If you are in the education building, you may notice that the covers for the room heaters are often loose and sitting on the floor.

The main reason is because the attachment points are bent, and they are bent because people sit on the heater. The heater top was not meant for sitting.

The Trustees are fixing the attachment points (some of which are broken) and are asking people to refrain from using the heaters for seats.

There are usually several chairs in the rooms and we ask that they be used in place of heater tops.

Faithful Readers Book Group

Our group of 10 met to discuss a variety of books we each found meaningful to us. As we shared, it became apparent that the universal theme of community, connection, helping others and trusting God wove its way through all the stories.

Unashamed to Bear His Name, RT Kendall: Embracing the stigma of being Christian; how to be available, do God's work for loved ones and strangers, even when its not convenient and your own suffering is priority.

Crossroads, William Paul Young: a man in a coma meets Jesus along his travels and has the ability to pick a person to live in the hospital....who he picks, how he makes his decision and who he meets along the way in this 'dream.'

The Prayer of Jabez, Bruce Williamson: explains the prayer and how to live blessed your whole life.

One Day at a Time in Alanon and Courage to Change: 12 steps are the basis of Christianity.

Five for Sorrow Ten for Joy, J. Neville: a prayer found on a piece of wrapping paper in a women's concentration camp was read.

Miles to Go, Richard Paul Evans: a continuing journey of life, death, love and why the best way to heal your own suffering is by helping to heal someone else's.

Full of Heart, JR Martinez: Inspired by the life story of this man who turns speaker/actor after a tragic IUD burn while serving overseas in the military.

The Color of Rain, Michael and Gena Sephn: Grief brings two families together who understand personal loss and life direction; and learning to grow a larger heart.

We'll meet again in late March/April. Book and date will be announced. If you have a book that has changed your life or you found very inspirational, please join us next time to add to our book list!

Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.

Church Council

By Ann Rowland, Chair

Please join us for our annual Church Planning Retreat on Sat., Feb. 2nd at 9 a.m. 'til 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come early at 8 a.m. for a light breakfast and fellowship. Lunch will be provided (Mexican Fare, most likely). Our very own chefs, Leticia and Ciro Mejia, never disappoint.

I would like to emphasize that the retreat is for all church members, not just church council members. Leading us through the process of planning and setting goals for 2013 is our Conference Guide and facilitator, the Rev. Rebecca Iannicelli. Rev. Iannicelli will assume her new role as our District Superintendent when Dr. Ianther Mills vacates the position the end of June. This will be a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with Rev. Iannicelli and for her to get to know us.

We have been very successful in implementing our 2012 goals. One of six goals, a teen social event, "Friday Live," came out of the 2012 planning retreat and is now a reality. What is on your "wish list" for Emmanuel in 2013? Come and share!

Food Closet

After the holidays, our pantry is once again low and ready to be filled up. Every category can be used to put together meals in a box for our neighbors in need during the month: meats, peanut butter, jelly, vegetables—greens, carrots, mixed, corn, drink cartons, pasta and sauce, soups, potatoes, fruit. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

February Celebrates Black History Month, or National African American History Month

By Jane Grays

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

Did You Know?

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Since then, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The 2012 theme paid tribute to the ways in which black women have shaped the United States and its history. The 2013 theme is: At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality. Maryland is known for its rich history of local men and women from humble backgrounds whose contributions helped strengthen the foundation of fairness and equality to which we continuously strive for today.

USHERS WANTED

Young people, men, and women; now is your opportunity to become a member of a new generation of important participants in worship services at Emmanuel UMC. Seriously consider serving as an usher. We want to form teams of ushers that would rotate in service throughout the year. Such an arrangement would minimize the impact on a person’s weekly activity schedule.

If you would like to become an usher, call the church office (301-937-7114) and leave your name.



**"... For God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7c)
A Confidential Estimate of Giving for 2013
Emmanuel United Methodist Church**

With God's help, I/we plan to support the ministries of Emmanuel Church.

With a yearly Total of: \$ _____

Amount to be given: Weekly \$ _____/Monthly \$ _____

Name & Address: (please print) _____

Signature _____

If there is a need to change your estimate during the year, please contact Lorna Marselas.

**Commission on the Status
and Role of Women**

Guest Speaker

Amy G. Oden



Dr. Amy Oden is Professor of History of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She has also served on the faculties of Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City and Oklahoma City University. She earned her Ph.D. in religious studies from Southern Methodist University, writing her dissertation on Augustine.

Amy shares that teaching is her vocation, and she looks forward to every day with students. For the last 25 years, she has taught theology and history, and pursued scholarship in service of the church. Most of her work has been an effort to make ancient voices, especially women's, accessible to current audiences. Her most recent scholarship has focused on the radical practice of hospitality in early Christianity and its challenge for communities today.

Dr. Oden has published an anthology of women's primary source writings in the history of Christian thought (*In Her Words*) and was a primary sources editor for the study series *Christian Believer: Historic Teachings of the Church*.

Born and raised on the prairies of Oklahoma, she currently lives in Riverdale Park, MD with her husband, who is a United Methodist pastor.

AGENDA

- 1:00 — 1:30 pmCheck-in
- 1:30 — 2:45 pm Welcome/Opening
 - Opening Remarks
Bishop Marcus Matthews
 - Dramatic Skit
Mrs. Peg Arnold
 - Keynote Speaker
Dr. Amy G. Oden
- 2:45 — 3:45 pm Breakout
- 3:45 — 4:15 pm Shared Findings
- 4:15 — 5:00 pm Closing Worship
& Communion



Sponsored by
Baltimore-Washington Conference
of the United Methodist Church
Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Attn: Jane Grays
11711 East Market Place
Fulton, MD 20759

**Secrets
of Survival**



**Home - Work - Church
S.O.S**

**Women's History Month Seminar
March 16, 2013
1:30 - 5:00 pm
Baltimore-Washington Conference Center
11711 East Market Place
Fulton, MD 20759**

Resident Bishop: Marcus Matthews

**Guest Speaker
Dr. Amy G. Oden**



February Birthdays

- 1 Elmer Padgett
- 2 Sarah Rodeffer, Charles Pavelka
- 3 Patrick Mellott
- 8 Gloria Slingerland
- 9 Georgia Reitzel
- 10 Julliette Jones
- 11 Amelia Risdon
- 13 Barbara Butcher, Emma McNealy
- 14 Emmet Croson
- 15 Therese Onukwubiri
- 16 Juliet Pavelka
- 17 Sheun Bello
- 19 Josh Aplin
- 20 Patrick Elliott
- 21 Tobi Oluwafemi
- 22 Karen Mackey
- 24 Nancy Zerbe
- 26 Gary Heath, Rebecca Heath
- 27 Jeff Kramer
- 28 Charles Aderenle



February Anniversaries

- 2 Katie & John Kaufmann
- 4 Mary Lou & Donald Galloway

Altar Flowers



The 2013 Altar Flower Chart has been posted. Please fill out a flower request form and leave in the office mailbox.

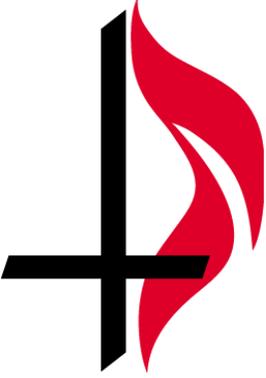
- Feb. 3 Mellott
- Feb. 10
- Feb. 17
- Feb. 24

FEBRUARY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9 am Planning Retreat 10 am Parents with young children
3 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 1 pm SPY Meeting 5 pm Super Bowl & Spa- ghetti Dinner	4	5 7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fel- lowship	6 6 pm Maranatha Choir	7 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	8	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
10 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Second Sunday Lunch 1 pm Youth Meeting 1:30 pm UMW Exec Meeting	11 12:30 pm Women's Com- munity Club of Beltsville 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	12 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship	13 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	14 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	15 11 am Community Place Café 7 pm Friday Live	16
17 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	18 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	19 7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship	20 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 noon Dorcas Circle 6 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters In Spirit	21 7 pm Chancel Choir	22 7 pm Food Prep	23 10 am Food Distribu- tion 12 noon UMW General Meeting
24 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 1 pm Youth Meeting	25 7 pm Church Council 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	26 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship	27 6 pm Maranatha Choir	28 7 pm Chancel Choir		

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Emmanuel United Methodist Church

