

# The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

April 2012



Pastor Daniel Mejia

With Easter fast approaching, I want to steer you away for a moment from the wonderful ham you are planning to cook and from all the chocolate bunnies you can't wait to eat. I have a question to ask you, "What's saving your life these days?"



This is the question that nationally known preacher and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor was asked once just before she was about to preach at a small church. Barbara was getting ready for the sermon, but this time she was stressed over what she would communicate to the congregation. The priest in charge of the small parish, trying to help her overcome her anxiety and center her, asked her that simple question. So I ask you

again this powerful question, What's saving your life these days?

What saves you is what gives you life and keeps you alive. That's why I believe that this simple question can help us to re-think and explore what the celebration of Jesus' resurrection means for us today. That's why I believe that this simple question can help us to re-center our lives around the amazing gift of love as we pause to celebrate Easter.

John Lennon of the Beatles said one day, "If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace."

What's saving you these days? Your iPad, your iPhone, your job, your friends, your family, your money? Is there room for the risen Christ in your life to save you and give you life?

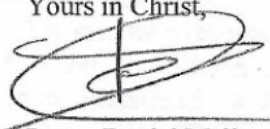
I want to conclude with a small parable from one of my favorite Christian writers, G.K. Chesterton. He wrote this parable to try to explain how the love of God can save us and give us life. "A man who was entirely careless of spiritual things died and went to hell. And he was much missed on earth by his old friends. His business agent went down to the gates of hell to see if there was any chance of bringing him back. But, though he pleaded for the gates to be opened, the iron bars never yielded. His

priest went also and argued, "He was not really a bad fellow, let him out, please!" but the gates remained stubbornly shut against all their voices.

Finally his mother came, she did not beg for his release. Quietly, and with a strange catch in her voice, she said to Satan, "Let me in." Immediately the great doors swung open upon their hinges. For love goes down through the gates of hell and there redeems the damned." (G.K. Chesterton)

I hope this Easter you will re-discover the amazing love that Christ has for you. So great and amazing is his love that he was willing to die and be raised for you. Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Daniel Mejia





*Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan*

As I was growing up in the church, prayer was the single most difficult Christian practice for me to understand. It has a simple definition. Simply put, prayer is communication with God. However, the specifics of what prayer looks like change drastically based off the time and the setting. Sometimes it is done individually, sometimes in a group, sometimes silently, and sometimes aloud.

Communication with God rarely looks exactly like our communication with other people. When I was younger I assumed that when God spoke to me, it would be through a deep, booming voice in the sky. This was troubling for me because I never heard that ethereal voice, and I thought that meant that God was not speaking to me. I wish I had known about God speaking to Elisha in the silence (1 Kings 19: 11-13) or to Job with questions (Job 38-41). Those passages may not have made me any less confused, but they would have clued me in to the fact that when God speaks it is not always in ways that we expect.

If I had to guess, I would bet that there are a lot of adults (myself included) who still wrestle with what it means to communicate with God. What has been most helpful for *me* in prayer has been finding a place free of distractions to think about my life and concerns unhurriedly while working to be open to thoughts, questions, feelings, and inclinations that come from outside of myself. Over time it has become easier for me to identify what is my imagination or wandering mind, and what is God. Even so I rarely know with certainty that what I've gotten out of prayer is directly from God. However, I believe that over time as we struggle to stay open to work of the Holy Spirit in us and test what we receive in prayer against what we know about God from the Bible, what is false will fall away. I have also learned to work to be open to receive God's voice working through other people. There are times when I haven't been open to God speaking to me in subtle ways. It took someone speaking truth to me on God's behalf for me to get the message.



Growing up I was made to believe the only correct posture for prayer was with my hands clasped in front of me, my eyes closed, and my head bowed. This way of praying is a good way to shut out distractions and put ourselves in a posture of humility toward God, but I've been excited to discover other

postures and methods of prayer. For example, in church during the benediction or while praying the Lord's prayer try keeping your eyes open and look out over the congregation. It can be powerful to not just hear, but see a body of believers joining together in unified prayer.

In college I began to get a sense of how diverse prayer can be. There are parts of the world where people all pray aloud simultaneously. Some people work to rid their minds of all thoughts when they pray. Others might pray while walking a labyrinth (a twisting path indicated on the floor). I do not believe that any one way of prayer is inherently superior or inferior to another. The standard is whether a particular method of prayer helps you to connect with God or not. The same methods of prayer are not effective for everyone.

In corporate (group) prayer, the most important thing is that everyone be able to authentically subscribe to the words of the prayer as offered. Even in the pastoral prayer, the goal is that the words the pastor says could be the words of any and all of our hearts. When we read litanies (written prayers like our prayers of confession) we should be able to not just say but feel what we're reading.

People have filled countless books with instructions on how to and how not to pray. In the end I'm convinced that the most important thing is that we try. God hears every prayer and cares about them equally. We may struggle to hear or feel God in prayer, but that doesn't change the fact that God is with us and promises always to be with us.

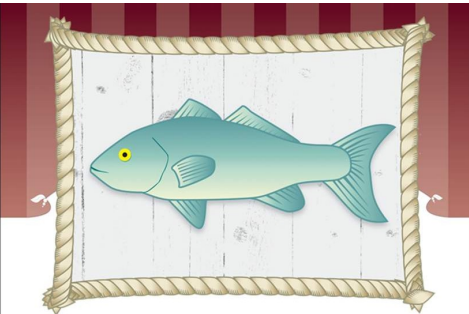
## Beltsville Day

By Kathy Mellott

Beltsville Day is Sunday, May 20th. Again this year, Emmanuel UMC will have a presence at Beltsville Day, celebrating community. Family Life is sponsoring the popular Fish Fry from noon to 5 pm. We can use your help. We need people to:

- set up before noon
- cook the food
- serve the food
- take in the money
- clean up at the end of the day
- give out information about the ministries of Emmanuel

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex after Easter. Please help to represent our Church Family in the community.



## Fish Fry

### MENU

PLATTER: FISH SANDWICH AND  
WAFFLE FRIES \$7

FISH SANDWICH ONLY \$5

WAFFLE FRIES ONLY \$2

DRINKS: SODA OR WATER \$1

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## Baltimore Washington Conference Scholarship Application Process

Submitted By Jane Grays

Greetings Pastors, Youth Leaders, Christian Educators and Key Leaders,

The Baltimore-Washington Conference announces the opening of the online scholarship application process for 2012 on March 1. Only applications submitted through the online process at <http://www.bwcumc.org/finance/college-scholarships> will be accepted.

The Scholarship Program provides funds to help students supplement their financial needs. Scholarships are for undergraduate students enrolled fulltime in an accredited college or university in the United States. Scholarship applications and supporting materials including the pastor's statement will be accepted online only March 1 – May 30, 2012. Awards will be determined based upon the application being completed and submitted by May 30, including required supporting documentation such as official transcripts, letter of recommendation from pastor, student essay or other supporting materials. The scholarship award letters will be sent out between July 30 and August 30.

Please encourage any young person who is a high school senior or currently enrolled in college to consider applying.

I would also encourage you and your congregation to support the annual United Methodist Special Student Day Offering. Should you have any questions please contact Jo Chesson at [jchesson@bwcumc.org](mailto:jchesson@bwcumc.org).

## Observe & Report

If you observe something around the buildings that needs to be brought to the attention of the Trustees, please let them know.

Tell someone in the office, or put a note in the trustee's mailbox. Thank you



## Camperships

By Kathy Mellott

Summertime is almost here and kids are signing up for summer camp. If you have a child, grades 2 - 12, who has signed up for a Baltimore-Washington Conference summer camp, you are eligible for a campership. In the past, we have been able to offer as much as \$100 or more to defray costs of the camp for Emmanuel kids.

Look for the campership forms on the red bulletin board in the Narthex, fill it out, once accepted into a camp, and turn the form in to the office. The money received through donations by the congregation will be divided among the kids applying for the camperships. If you haven't contributed to the campership fund, there is still time. Put your donation in the collection plate or turn it in at the office, in an envelope plainly marked "Campership Fund."

The April 1st Communion offering will support the campership fund.

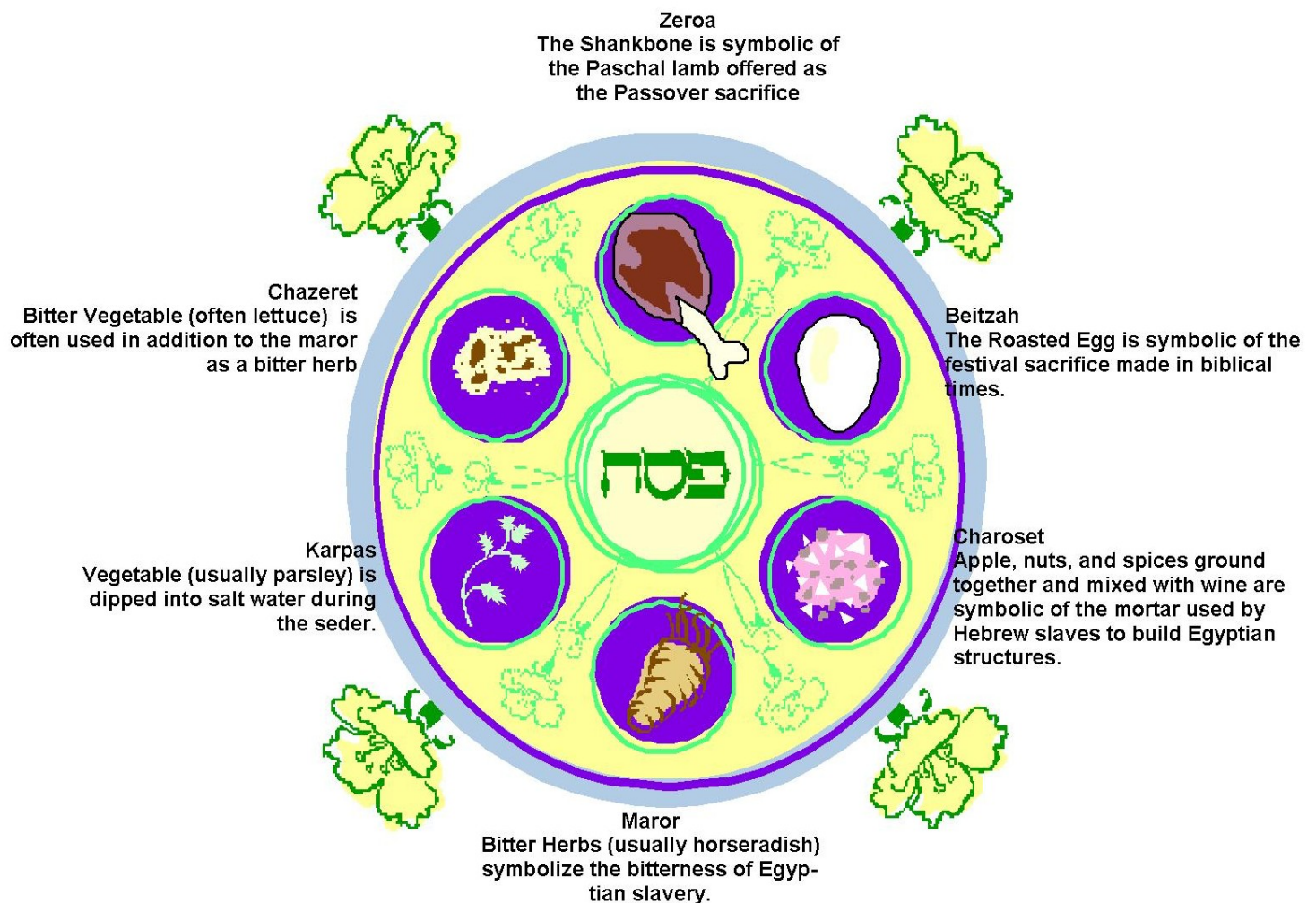


## Christ in the Seder

By Kathy Mellott

It was during a Passover Seder that Jesus proclaimed that the meal represented Himself and that He was instituting the New Covenant, which was foretold by Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah. The celebration of this covenant has become the ordinance of communion in the Christian Church. At the end of the meal, Jesus took the unleavened bread, broke it, and said that it represented His body. Then He took the cup of wine, which would have been the third cup of the Seder - the cup of redemption. He said that it was the new covenant in His blood, "poured out for you." It is through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are declared clean before God, allowing those of us who choose to accept the pardon, to commune with Him - both now and forevermore through the eternal life He offers.

Join us for a tasting of a traditional Seder on Maundy Thursday, April 5th at 8 pm, following the communion worship service. If you can bring something to the Seder, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



## March Was Women's History Month

"We've Come a Long Way Baby, but..." was the theme for Baltimore Washington Conference (BWC) Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) event.

COSROW celebrated 40 years by hosting an afternoon seminar on March 10, 2012 to discuss issues that are important to women who aspire to leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The following sessions were offered and open to men and women:

- General Conference Legislation
- Domestic Violence
- Men Supporting Women
- Sexual Ethics
- Young Women in Church Leadership

Bishop John R. Schol, BWC, gave opening remarks and the keynote speaker was Bishop Peggy Johnson (Delaware Conference). District superintendents provided worship that included a Clergywomen choir.

Roy White, Beverly Huneycutt, Carrie White, Debbie McNitt, Lupe Orosco and Jane Grays were among the celebrants and had a wonderful afternoon being in fellowship with others from the BWC.

In His Service  
Jane Grays  
Chair BWC, COSROW



## News from United Methodist Women

I'm predicting that the Rummage Sale was a huge success. Thank you to everybody for pitching in with your time, talents and donations and elbow grease! Look in the bulletin for actual totals. We hope to make about \$1500.

Thank you and Bless You, Debbie McNitt

*APRIL 14* is our next General Meeting. Our Social Action meeting features a potluck at Noon in the *Chester Stewart room*. We will be watching two short movies, *"Telling Our Story, Women of Faith. Women in the churches worldwide,"* and *"The Upper Room Chapel Museum and Gardens."* May 5 is the *Daughters and Mothers Communion Breakfast*. All women are daughters of God and are welcome to attend! We begin in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. The UMM will be serving us a delicious breakfast. The theme is Wedding receptions! Dust off your wedding photos! Bring in a bridesmaid dress or wedding gown. We will vote on the "most unusual" bridesmaid dress. Breakfast costs \$6 for ages 10 +. 3 - 10 costs \$3. You can wear a hat and gloves if you wish. Prepaid reservations only please. We start taking reservations in April!

Debbie McNitt, 301-937-4291.





## Crop Walk Set for May 6

Our church has been invited to participate in the Hyattsville CROP walk on Sunday, May 6, and join folks from many of our area churches in this worthy charitable effort. We are hoping to get at least 10 registered walkers, and many sponsors. This is a great activity for kids on a Sunday afternoon. Below is information about the CROP walk, and more will be posted soon on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

CROP Walks are the community arm of Church World Service, which began just after WWII to help war refugees, victims of natural disasters, and to encourage development in third world countries and the US. CWS is ecumenical with many United Methodist churches in it in our area. Ecumenical is appropriate because walkers often get sponsorships for their walk from a variety of faiths. This is the 31st year for the Hyattsville CROP Walk and there are a couple dozen churches from Mt. Rainier to Adelphi to Greenbelt involved. Last year about \$55,000 was raised from walkers. One fourth of that went to "Help by Phone of Prince Georges County," last year that amounted to \$13,000+ that gets translated mainly into emergency groceries. Last year about 55,000

Prince George's County citizens received groceries this way. It has 8 food pantries at various churches in our county. The other funds go for development and relief/emergency situations in US and overseas. CWS gets A+ rating from Charity Navigators (watchdogs.) The walk is around Lake Artemesia, a total of 2-3 miles, and begins about 1:30 p.m. at the Ellen Linson pool parking lot on 5211 Paint Branch Parkway.

It takes most walkers 1 and 1/2 hours to walk it, but there is a short and a long route around the lake. Water is given out along the way. Strollers, wheel chairs, doggies and runners are all welcome. It's a great way to meet new people.

For more information talk to Pat Allen.

## College Angels

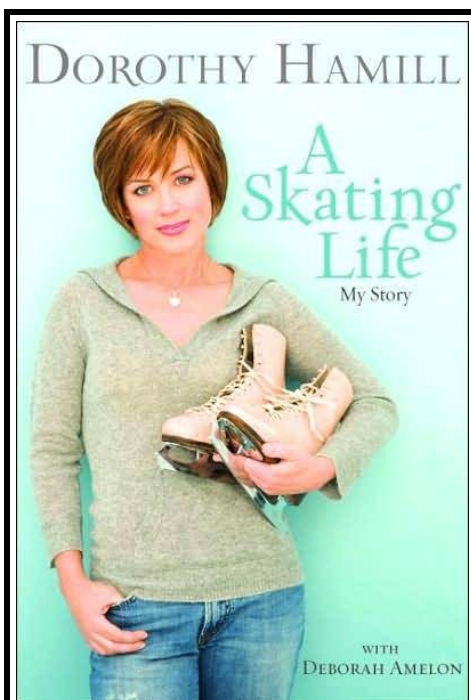
It is Spring Break time for colleges. And, don't forget our students at Easter. Thank you for keeping in touch with our college students.



## Food Closet

Because of your kind donations each month, we are able to keep prepared boxes in the food pantry ready for families or individuals who need them anytime throughout the month! Know that your canned and boxed goods are making a difference in people's lives in our community.

Thank you



## Faithful Readers Group

On Saturday, April 14th, 10-11 a.m. we will meet in the education building to discuss Dorothy Hamill's book *A Skating Life* where she talks about her struggle with depression, perfection, performing and her faith. Input on what food best represents this book is appreciated and we'll enjoy it while we talk. We would like to invite the Mental Health Ministry to join us and lend other perspectives to our discussion! Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.

## Community Garden at Behnke's Nursery

The Food Bank is almost 1 year old. In May they will be celebrating one year of giving out food, clothes and many other items to those in need. In the first 8 months (May-Dec. 2011) Emmanuel fed more than 300 families through the food bank. Those 300 families came from over 20 different cities in the surrounding area. We are constantly looking for new ways to branch out and help meet the needs of those around us. It is with this in mind that we are proud to announce a community partnership with Behnke's Nursery to provide a community garden to help supply fresh produce to families who need it.



The plots for the garden have been donated by Behnke Nurseries Co., and the seeds and seedlings are being personally donated by Elizabeth (Cissy) McKenzie, the store manager of Behnke's. This will provide a new opportunity for members of our church to get involved. Our first planting will happen on March 31, 2012. Once the produce begins to bloom we will need help from the congregation in weeding, watering and picking the produce during the week.



If this is something you think you may be able to help with, please fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or give it to Theresa Timity or Julie Pavelka.

### I am interested in helping out with the Community Garden at Behnke's

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

The Food Bank is very excited about this new partnership. The Food Bank as always thanks you, the congregation, for all the support you have given us over the last year.

Also, we would like to thank Girl scout troops 2751 and 6797 who donated 40 boxes of cookies to hand out at our next distribution. Without you, we couldn't do this.

Here is this month's wish list: Socks and Underwear for men, women and children. Diapers, Wipes, infant cereal or baby food (jars), travel toiletries.

## Pancake Supper Report

We thank all who attended last month's pancake supper and made it a successful fundraiser event (\$361.83) for Emmanuel's Family Life program.

Special kudos go to the cooking crew, Mike Hatton, Rick Bergmann and Greg Stiggers for the great pancakes and sausage. Additional praises go to Kathryn Griffin, Frances Cruz and the Youth Fellowship for beautifully decorating the Fellowship Hall in a Mardi Gras theme.

The Youth also helped with serving the food. Ascenna Scotland supervised mask decorating crafts for the kids, and Alexandra Scotland organized the pancake races that were held before the supper.

Special appreciation is given to Debbie McNitt, Ester Hatton, Elsie Cline and Becky Cavallo, for their help with setting up and cleaning up, and to Ernie and George Kilbourne for managing the ticket desk.

All in all it was a great group effort that produced a fun-filled event.





### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Lil Mizzer  
 4 Monica Hatton, Nancy Bell  
 5 Timmie Warner, Kelly Lee  
 6 Susan Cunningham  
 7 Patrick Shiplett  
 8 Lea Claye  
 9 Deji Bello  
 11 Lacey Fadely, Dan Webb  
 13 Louisa Davies  
 15 George Urick  
 16 Cale Fuller, Grace Rodeffer  
 18 Ernie Kilbourne  
 19 Jim Banville, Ted Ladd  
 21 Sharon White  
 23 Rick Smith  
 24 Leslee Welton  
 25 April Ademiluyi  
 26 Glenna Pavelka  
 29 Merton Baird



### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4 Christopher & Virginia Butcher  
 28 Roy & Peggy Wells

### Altar Flowers



April 1 Charline Frederick  
 April 8  
 April 15 Carrie White  
 April 22  
 April 29 Wells

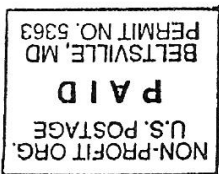
May 6 Charlene Frederick  
 May 13  
 May 20 Gilbert  
 May 27 Mellott



# APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship & Cantata	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6 pm Maranatha Choir  6 pm Soup & Soul Bible Study	<b>5</b> 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service & Seder Tasting	<b>6</b> 7 pm Good Friday Service	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9 & 11:15 am Worship  10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt	<b>9</b> 12:30 pm Beltsville Women's Club 7 pm Depression /Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trus- tees Meeting	<b>10</b> 10 am Prayer Fellowship  7 pm ESOL & Youth Learning Fellowship	<b>11</b> 7 pm Worship Committee	<b>12</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast  10 am Faithful Readers Book Club  Noon UMW General Meeting
<b>15</b> 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm UMW Exec. Meeting	<b>16</b> Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	<b>17</b> 7 pm ESOL & Youth Learning Fellowship	<b>18</b> 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle Noon Dorcas Circle 6 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters in Spirit	<b>19</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> 11 am Community Place Café	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>23</b> 7 pm Depression /Bipolar Support Group	<b>24</b> 10 am Prayer Fellowship  7 pm ESOL & Youth Learning Fellowship	<b>25</b> 6 pm Maranatha Choir	<b>26</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>27</b> 7 pm Food Preparation	<b>28</b> 10 am Food Distribution
<b>29</b> 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>30</b>					

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Address Service Requested



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