

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

July 2013



Pastor Daniel Mejia

I read anything and everything by Christian author, Rachel Held Evans. Rachel is a New York Times best-selling author and popular blogger who has been featured in national broadcasts and publications including NPR, The BBC, Slate Magazine, The Washington Post, The Guardian (UK), The Times London, The Huffington Post, and Oprah.com and was recently named one of Christianity Today's "50 Women to Watch." Needless to say, I find her very insightful, witty and prophetic. I recommend that you find her online and buy her books. In one of her most recent blog posts, she shared, "*11 Things I Wish That My Pastor Would Say.*" Here is her list:

1. "I don't know."
2. "I'm sorry. I was wrong. Please forgive me."
3. "What do you think?"
4. "Sometimes I doubt too."
5. "I need to take a break."
6. "I need to spend time with my family."

7. "I'm not exactly sure what this text means, but I'm going to take a stab at it, present some other views, and then we'll wrestle with it together."

8. "We don't have to agree for you to be welcome here."

9. "This is Christ's body, broken for you. This is Christ's blood, shed for you."

10. "Let's pray."

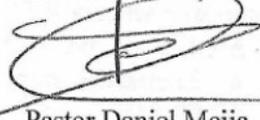
11. "Let's eat!"

For United Methodist Pastors, July is the beginning of our calendar year. This simply means that the Bishop and his cabinet have decided, in consultation with you the congregation and myself, that we will be partners in ministry for one more year ending on June 30th of

next year. As I look at Rachel's list, I see how I can improve, in particular with numbers 2 & 3, which I hope will become a more frequent occurrence in our partnership in ministry.

On a personal note, by the time you receive this Lamplighter, I will be a married man. Michelle and I ask for your prayers as we begin a new and exciting chapter in our lives together. We both look forward to growing together in our love for each other and in our service to our congregations in the years to come,

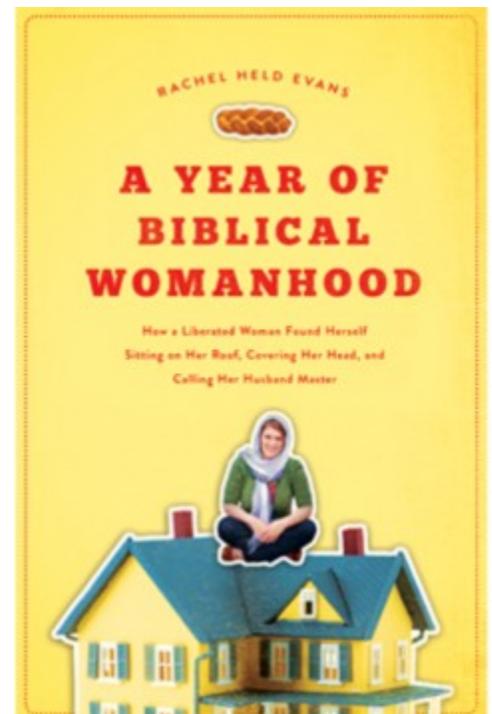
Yours in Christ,



Pastor Daniel Mejia



Rachel Held Evans





Pastor Daniel was dunked several times on Beltsville Day and came up smiling each time.

Church Picnic – Wedding Celebration ALERT!

A Reminder

Please remember that Sunday, July 14 is the date of the church picnic to celebrate the union of Pastors Daniel and Michelle. Plans are shaping up to assemble after the second service in the courtyard between the narthex and the education building. The planning committee -- Ann Rowland, Helen Akers, Nancy Thrush, and Jaime Hiner – has placed a sign-up sheet for picnic foods and desserts in the narthex. A committee member will try to sit with the sign-up sheet before and after services to discuss items that may be needed. If you're interested, please stop by and sign on to provide your favorite picnic specialty.

Also, we will need help from a few good men or women for grilling duties. In addition to the usual tending of the burgers and dogs, we may need help with bringing grills to the grilling area, fire starting, acquiring charcoal fuel, and more. After the party, we'll have to put everything away of course.

Volunteers who are interested may contact Jim Butcher, jim.hickory@email.com, 301-937-3179.

This picnic will be a time for casual dining and good fellowship, an opportunity to greet the happy couple, to celebrate informally with them and wish them the best. In the spirit of keeping the event light and simple, there will be no collection for a congregational gift. Some have inquired whether the couple has registered for gifts. For those who are wondering, Daniel and Michelle have given their kind permission to list these registrations:

Dunnmorr Studio
www.dunnmorrstudio.com
1-814-665-6061

Pottery Studio with everyday dishes
Color: Ocean Blue Glaze
View on line, but order by phone
The studio has a record of what they need

Amazon
<http://www.amazon.com/gp/wedding/homepage>

Macy's
<http://www.macys.com/wedding-registry>

Please watch the Sunday Bulletin for late-breaking updates. And please do mark your calendars *now* for July 14.

Meet the Howards

Come and Celebrate the June 9th marriage of Assistant Pastor Nickie Moreno to Christian Howard at a **Cake and Punch Reception** in the Fellowship Hall after the second service on June 30th. All are invited to extend Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Happy Couple.

The newlyweds are registered at Target.

Christian Education

Summer is a great time to try out Sunday classes. The adult summer study class is studying the book, *If God Is Your Copilot, Swap Seats*. Drop in to check it out! The teen Sunday class is continuing throughout the summer, and the One-Room Schoolhouse is giving volunteer teachers the chance to share their talents or interests with our young people. Sign up in the narthex to take one Sunday and help out our young people!

Don't forget to sign up for VBS! For only \$10, you get a week of meals, fellowship, and learning. The dates are Monday, July 15, through Friday, July 19. Dinner is at 5 pm, and classes and activities are 6 to 8 pm.

Emmanuel UMC Is Coming to Emory Grove

On Wednesday, July 24th, the Abundant Life Singers from Emmanuel UMC will be the guest performers at the Hymn Sing at Emory Grove, Glyndon, Md. Join us for a potluck before the 7:30 p.m. Hymn Sing. Plan to leave Beltsville by about 5 p.m. to get to Emory Grove between 6 and 6:30 p.m. We have reserved the dining room of the historic Emory Grove Hotel for our potluck. Bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided. The Hymn Sing, started in 1974 by my grandfather, George Lovell, starts at 7:30 p.m. in the historic Emory Grove Tabernacle. The congregation picks the hymns for the evening. The Abundant Life Singers will perform one or two pieces, but really like coming to sing the hymns.

Then, on Sunday, August 18th at 7:30 p.m. Emmanuel UMC will provide the worship service for Emory Grove in the Tabernacle. The service was well received last year, and Pastor Daniel was requested to come back to provide the evening worship. Everyone is invited to come and worship in this historic Methodist Camp Meeting ground from 1868. At one time, 1000's of people overflowed the Tabernacle and spilled out onto the surrounding yard. Today the crowds are not quite as large, but the spirit is still in this Tabernacle where worship has been conducted for more than 146 years.

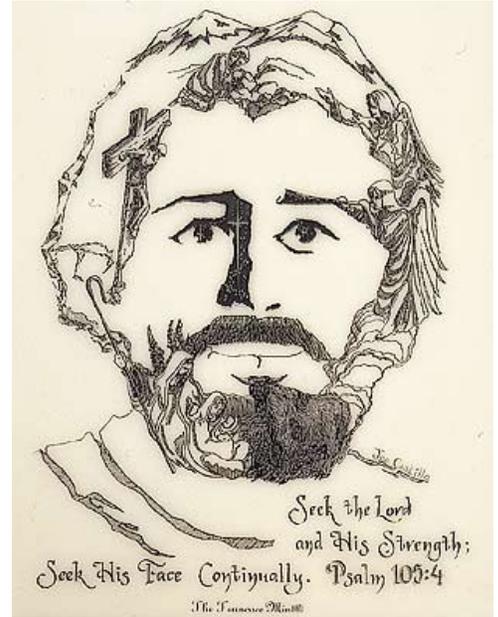
If enough people are interested, we can reserve the dining room for a potluck or cook out in the Hotel on Sunday, August 18th. Mark your calendars to join us for these two special events of praising God at Emory Grove, Glyndon, Md.

Come you apart from the madding world to this quiet retreat. And, may you hear a soft voice saying, "Be still and know that I am God".

A Cottage Tour of some of the 46 historic cottages is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Saturday, July 29th. There is small fee, but you can tour many of the cottages, the Hotel and the Tabernacle. Some of the cottages that are for sale will be on the Cottage Tour. Visit the website for more information and directions, www.emorygrove.net.

Feel free to contact me with any questions about Emory Grove or the summer services.

Kathy Mellott



Secret Sister News

Greetings from Secret Sister Secretary (SSS)

On May 4th, at the Mother Daughter breakfast, secret sisters were among the many who boarded the "Cruise Ship Emmanuel." Twenty three ladies are participating in Secret Sisters (SS) and agreed to send their sister at least 3 cards throughout the year and give at least one gift (value \$5-\$15). Each sister completed a questionnaire indicating birthday, favorite color, food/snack, holiday, hobbies and collections, plus other fun stuff. The big reveal will be the Sunday before Mother's Day in 2014!

When you mail a card to your SS, please use the church's return address; put SS on envelope so Beth or Jo Anne will put it in my mailbox if it's returned for any reason. If you want to give your SS a gift, you can put it in the basket on top of the mailboxes and I'll make certain it's delivered, or you can give it a friend for delivery. If you're not sure where the mailboxes are located, the ushers will direct you.

Tip: If you don't know your SS, you may want to check the church photo directory or face book. Face book may also give clues as to vacation plans or special occasions. This is a fun ministry as we get to know each other on a personal basis. If you have any questions, you can reach me 301-937-6392 or LadyJaneGra@aol.com

Jane Grays
Secret Sister Secretary (SSS)

Ben Sloan's Greeting from Nicaragua

I hope that things are going well at Emmanuel. Right now I'm in the middle of my second week in Nicaragua. I like to be able to choose my words carefully, so adjusting to living in a place where I am far less than fluent is a huge challenge. It's a daily struggle, but I try to take this time as a reminder of what countless immigrants go through, most of whom are not as fortunate as I am to be able to go to a language school first. Also, as I fill in gaps in my Spanish, I really couldn't ask for much of a better place in which to do it. The people are gracious and patient, Matagalpa is beautiful, and it doesn't hurt that I love the food.

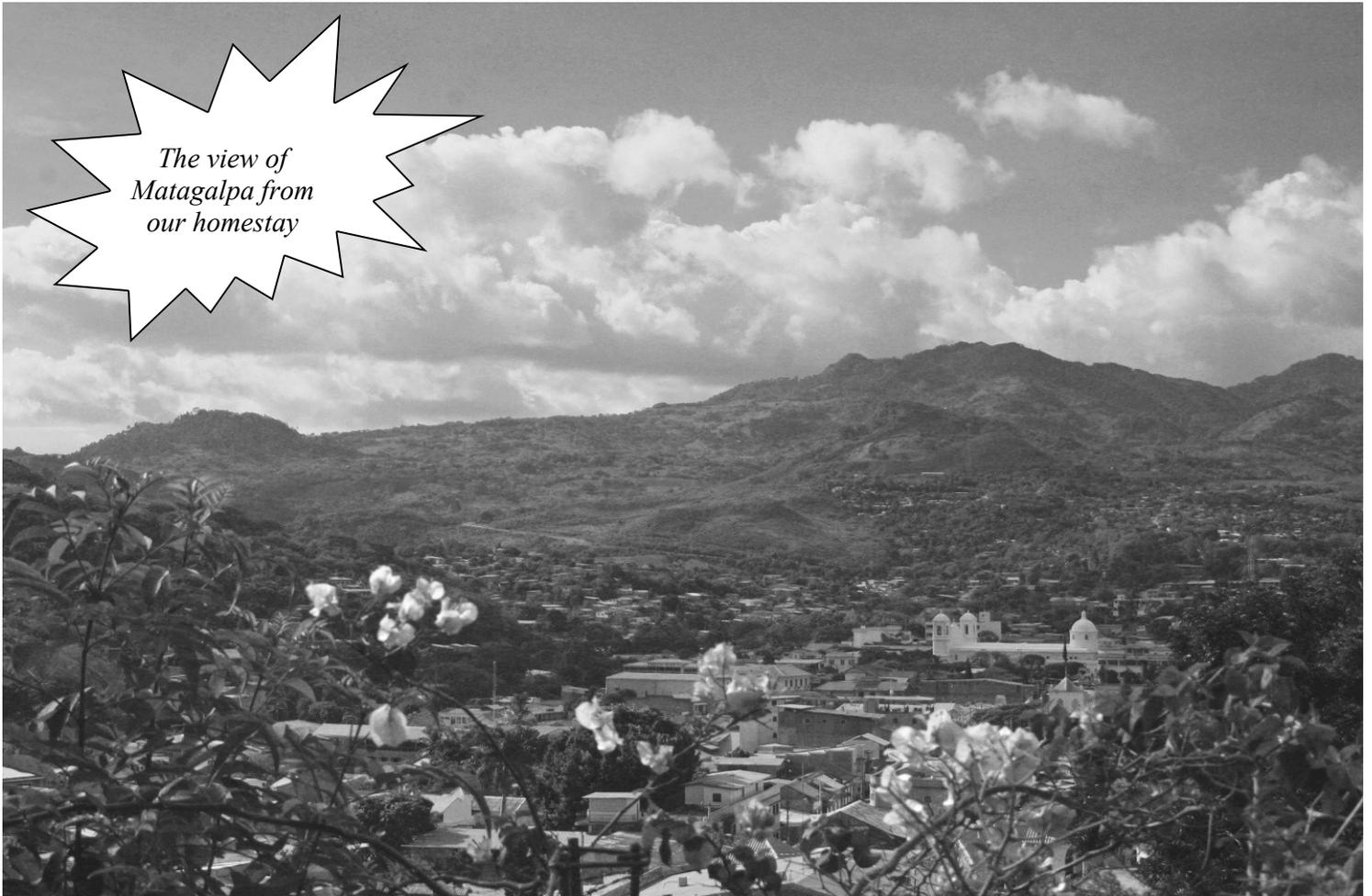
In coming months I plan on writing you more about what I'm learning, but first I wanted to say again how grateful I am for your support. Your encouragement lifts me up when I doubt myself. Your prayers sustain me, and the monetary gifts all are helping to make this possible. I wish I could thank everyone individually, but your support has been so overwhelming that I think it is better that I thank you collectively lest I miss someone. You have been and continue to be a blessing for me and a testament of the love of God. Thank you.

Also, if you're interested in following my blog, the address is benjaminsloan.tumblr.com.



Ben Sloan

*The view of
Matagalpa from
our homestay*



New Screen in the Narthex

By The Worship Committee

You may have noticed a new addition to the Narthex recently... a TV screen. I know what you are thinking, "Why do we have a TV in the narthex?" Before we get to the answer to that particular question, let us explain where it came from. The worship committee partnered with the memorial committee for the purchase and set up of the screen. The official term is "digital signage."

The answer to the earlier question, "Why," is two-fold. The first is communication. As we trek into the digital age, churches are using more and more ways to tell people what is happening at their church. The screen gives us another communication tool. During the week, the screen is on from 8 am to 8 pm (it is on a timer that tells it when to start and when to end). On the screen we will run announcements for the week (these include upcoming events, the weekly calendar and the weekly prayer list). Also, we will run videos from the ministries of the church or sometimes the conference that go into a little more detail about various things happening at Emmanuel or the United Methodist Church at large (these include VBS videos that the VBS committee has made, conference videos on things such as camping, mental health awareness, UMCOR relief etc...). The reason for doing this is so that people who come into our church, either visitor or member, can see what is going on at Emmanuel. It allows us to show them all of the wonderful things that our church is doing. And much like the bulletin and the website, we hope it entices them to come back and participate in one of the activities they see on the screen.

The second reason is so that we can provide those who may have to step out into the narthex during service a chance to still enjoy the service. Those we are reaching with this are parents with children who may be a little cranky, people who may be having health related issues and need to step outside for a moment and others who may find the need to leave the sanctuary. During service times, the entire service is broadcast on the screen. Before the early service and in between the early and the late service, the weekly announcements will play. We have decided to play only the announcements at this time and not the other videos that play at other times so that those in the narthex don't feel the need to compete with the TV for volume when having a conversation. After the second service, the announcements and normal videos will begin again. On Sundays, the TV is on from 8 am until 5 pm.

We hope that you embrace and are able to use the digital signage screen in the narthex. It is a powerful communication tool for our church. If you have any questions about it, please see any worship committee member.



At left:

The new screen in the narthex on Sunday, 23 June, as Pastor Daniel presents his message at the 2nd service.



July Birthdays

- 1 Jason Pavelka
- 2 Bob Hiner, Whitney Ademiluyi,
Abraham Scotland
- 5 Mildred Bladen, Frances Cruz,
Donald Galloway
- 7 Wanda Scotland, Tobi Haufe
- 8 Margaret Ward
- 9 Teresa Dorsey
- 10 Andrew Onukwubiri
- 11 Gail Belshay
- 12 Leslie Giron
- 17 Lorna Marselas
- 19 Trudy Headley
- 21 Nancy Green
- 22 Marcus Baird, Steven Cunningham
- 23 Crispin Wray
- 24 Dustin Storck
- 25 John Kaufmann
- 28 Kemi Oluwafemi, Temitope Oluwafemi
- 30 Lenora Painter, Kristin Fadely
- 31 Katie Crotti, Paul Cruz, Mary Anne Heath,
Edward Mellott



July Anniversaries

- 4 Beverly & George Urick
- 6 Donna Horton & Todd Reitzel
- 7 Wanda & Abraham Scotland
- 8 Kimberly & Brian Beach
- 12 Kathy & Pat Mellott
- 18 Lezlee & Jeff Kramer
- 25 JoAnne & Donal Blakley
- 28 Elizabeth & Edward Mougey

Altar Flowers

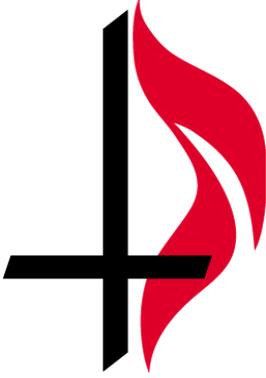


- July 7 Lynn Garland
- July 14
- July 21 Theresa Timity
- July 28
- August 4 Paul & Frances Cruz
- August 11 Danny Webb
- August 18 Janet Doetsch
- August 25 Carol Clatterburk

July 2013

	1	2	3	4 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	5	6 <i>10 am Parents with Young Children</i>
7 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</i>	8 <i>7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</i>	9 <i>10 am Prayer Fellowship</i>	10	11	12 <i>6 pm Pre-SPY Meeting</i>	13
14 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Wedding Picnic/ Reception for Daniel and Michelle 1 pm Youth Fellowship</i>	15	16	17 <i>Vacation Bible School 15-19 July</i>		19 <i>11 am Community Place Café</i>	20 
21 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</i>	22 <i>7 pm Church Council 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</i>	23 <i>10 am Prayer Fellowship</i>	24	25	26 <i>Food Preparation</i>	27 <i>10 am Food Distribution</i>
20-26 July <i>SPY Trip 20-26 July</i>						
28 <i>9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</i>	29	30	31			

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