

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

October 2013



Pastor Daniel Mejia

“To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything God has given us—and God has given us everything.... Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience.”

Thomas Merton

This is how beautiful every Tuesday morning between 9 am and 1 pm our parking lot looks. A huge Food Bank truck arrives to deliver all sorts of canned goods, produce, toiletries, and diapers that will become part of the more than 150 boxes and bags to be distributed by our food ministry the 4th Saturday of every month. Let me repeat this again just in case you missed it. Our congregation distributes more than 150 boxes and bags of food that can help a needy family to eat for up to two weeks. The number of people who receive food and sustenance from this ministry every month is between 450 and 500. The food ministry has applied Jesus’ simple message that expects us to feed and clothe those who are hungry and naked. (Matthew 25: 31-46) The people who receive food come mostly from Beltsville, but also as far as Virginia. Our policy is simple, if they tell us they are hungry we give them food.

While the food delivery is taking place, on the other side of the church--in the Fellowship Hall--you have a group of wonderful ladies who meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month to pray and send encouragement cards to those in our prayer list. The recipients of the prayers and cards are not just members of our congregation, any name or any need that makes it on our prayer list, gets prayed for. The prayer circle has applied Jesus’ simple invitation that no matter how big, small or impossible the circumstances might be, if people request prayer, we pray for them.

And finally, on the same day and in the same section where we store the food for the Saturday food distribution, every Tuesday night between 7 and 9 pm our congregation opens its Sunday school rooms to teach English classes to immigrants from El Salvador, Russia, China, México, The Dominican Republic, Korea, and Honduras. An average of 35 to 50 students come every Tuesday night to learn basic English communications skills. The cost for the entire semester is \$25. One way that we try to motivate good attendance for the students is to give them their \$25 back if they have perfect attendance throughout the semester. I’m happy to inform you that every semester we have students that get a full refund. We are very excited because the English classes ministry turned 6 years old this year.

A huge Food Bank truck arrives every Tuesday morning.



All these ministries--and many more--that take place every single day in our church make me very thankful and excited to be part of this congregation. I want to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your time, your service, your prayers, and your money that make this work possible. Your financial tithes and offerings along with your work makes the message of Jesus a tangible reality in our Beltsville community and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Daniel Mejia".

Pastor Daniel Mejia

Former Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan's Commentary



Greetings from Nicaragua! It's hard to believe that I've been here for two months already. So far it has been a good experience, but I do miss you all. As I mentioned in my last article, the biggest challenge continues to be the communication barrier that comes from my still far from perfect Spanish skills.

Before I came, I expected frustration at times when I'm unable to say what I want to say in the way I want to say it. However, I've noticed another challenge that I didn't expect. I've found that in general I get upset at others more easily here. At first I didn't recognize how these two things were related, but I've come to see that they are. I'm frustrated with myself for not being better at Spanish than I am, and I project that frustration onto others. Consciously or unconsciously I assume that others must be annoyed with me for my lack of fluency. I then become defensive and guarded, often around people that aren't actually judging me at all.

In Nicaragua, Spanish is spoken everywhere. I'm confronted constantly with the need to improve. This was a major motivation for coming to Nicaragua, but it also means that I am constantly fighting against judging myself (and others apparently) for my inadequacies. This experience has caused me to reflect on judgment more generally in our lives.

Sin harms us and others. It's necessary to discern what is sinful and what is not in our lives to work to mitigate this harm. In this sense it's essential that we all judge ourselves, but when our judgments become assessments of self-worth, we risk the struggle that I'm faced with now. Our self-worth is not based in how well we speak a language, how well we do in school, or whether we have a job. Our worth is found in the love of God, a love that is absolute and unwavering. Until we can accept that grace-filled love for ourselves, it is very difficult to share that love with others.

Now when I find myself getting frustrated, I take a breath. I try to calm down. I remind myself that I'm the person most concerned with my language ability, and I remember that my weaknesses (and my strengths) are not what define me. I remember the love of God; the love that we all borrow and share.

Even though we're separated by thousands of miles, this month I'd encourage you to try something with me. When you find yourself getting upset at someone, ask yourself if it is because of a problem you have with yourself. Open yourself to the unmerited love of God, and see how that affects the way you relate to others. We're all journeying to perfection together, so if you have a story or insight about this (or anything really), send me an e-mail to let me know.

Bendiciones,
Ben Sloan

Join the Sound Crew at Emmanuel!

The sound crew is looking for a few good people to join their ranks! Training sessions will be held throughout the month of October during the 9 am service with Mike Hatton. Training will begin at 7:30 am each Sunday and run until the end of the 9 am service. Anyone 15 and above can join. No experience is needed! Both men and women are encouraged to join. Stop by the sound booth in the back and talk to one of the technicians if you have any questions.

Faithful Readers Book Group

Join us to read and discuss Marie Osmond's latest book "The Key is Love" to understand how her Mormon faith and upbringing guides her through life's passages, both expected and unexpected. It's available in the library system. We'll meet in the Media Center, Saturday, October 5th, 2013, 10-11am.

We've put flyers out in the community, so we may have guests! Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was very nervous.

When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



Food Closet

Thank you, thank you for your continuing support to keep our food closet stocked. We have boxes ready to go and have served members of our community on a monthly basis. We are still in need of protein: Peanut butter and jelly, Spam, Vienna Sausages, Tuna, Salmon, Nuts.

Also canned corn, potatoes, limas and any type of canned soup. Cooler weather is coming, so hearty fare is needed!

Storage Space Available for Church-related Items

Now that the food distribution group has Room 28 for their storage, space has opened up in Room 22.

If you need to keep items at the church, please contact Barbara Butcher.

Available Now

Trunk-Or-Treat This Halloween



We will be holding our annual trunk-or-treat this year on Thursday October 31 from 6:30 to 8 pm. The trunk-or-treat was started in 2001 after the sniper attacks in D.C. As you may remember, during that time children were not allowed to go out during recess and many parents kept them inside once they got home. We felt that with the safety of our parking lot in the back, we could provide an opportunity for the children to trick or treat safely. This wonderful outreach has grown over the years and it is always a delight to see the neighborhood children come out in their costumes. We ask that you park your cars between 5:45 and 6:30. From 6:30 until 8 we ask that you don't leave to ensure the safety of our trunk-or-treaters.

We could also use some help setting up and cleaning up. If you can volunteer to help, contact Rick Bergmann at 301-785-7516 or e-mail frohike131@gmail.com. We hope to see many of you there handing out candy.

Former Assistant Pastor Nickie Moreno Howard's Commentary

Over the past month I have been in a flurry of school and work. Between extra time commuting, managing my classes and establishing two new ministries at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church I have wondered how I will ever find time just to rest. Several days I've forgotten to eat lunch and gotten home so late I had no energy to eat dinner. What I've recognized is that I must add a new spiritual practice to my life. That practice is one of Sabbath. With so much happening in all our lives do we take time to breathe deeply and rest in God?

This is the same call that Jesus directs the disciples to before he feeds the Five Thousand. In Mark 6:31 Jesus says to the disciples, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." The disciples go off on a boat with Jesus to rest and they are followed by the crowd. Jesus looks around at the crowd and recognizes their hunger. Instead of speaking to them or working them he chooses a mode of service that requires Sabbath. Jesus' miracle of feeding five thousand people is about providing a miracle of rest.

During the weeks and months ahead remember Jesus' miracle of Sabbath. Sabbath is a chance for us to rest, to take a deep breath and to be fed by Jesus. I hope this is a message I can remember also!



Thank you for your support of the Boxtops for Education program. We have sent over \$30 so far to the Children's home in Baltimore. More information is on the UMW Bulletin Board.

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."



Apple Festival

Saturday, October 19
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The United Methodist Women's annual Apple Festival and Craft show will be on Saturday, October 19. We desperately need your help to make this successful again.

We can use your help in setting up tables on Wednesday, 16 October, from 6 to 8 pm, Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm, Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm.

We especially need help with cleanup on Saturday.

For donations, we do not accept clothing, but accessories are fine.

Debbie McNitt 301-937-4291

For Sale:
Handmade Crafts,
Toys, Books,
Attic Treasures,
Fresh Georgia
Pecans and
Lunch



Craft Tables Are Available To
Rent, Please Call 301-937-7114
For More Details

Homemade Baked Goods
Will Be For Sale, As Well
As Our Fabulous
Handmade Apple Pies



*Proceeds Benefit Women and Children Through
Approved UMW Mission Programs*

Prison Ministry



Kairosprisonministry.org

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25: 35, 36 (CEB)

I'd like to share with you a very special ministry that I am involved with....Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (KPMI).

Kairos began in a Florida prison in 1976. **Kairos Inside** is a volunteer non-denominational lay-led Christian ministry that conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions in the U.S. and around the world. The mission of Kairos ministries is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and all those who work with them, as well.

The **Kairos Inside Program** strategy brings together inmates who have been identified as having leadership potential and those seeking another way of life, for a three and one-half day weekend event of carefully coordinated talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and music led by the loving spirit of the volunteers. After the weekend, inmates are encouraged to establish strong Christian communities within their institutions.

I am sharing this information with you because I am thrilled to report that God has blessed us to minister

at the only prison for women in the State of Maryland: Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCI-W) in Jessup, Maryland. I will be one of the team members serving on Kairos #11 MCI-W which will be held October 31-November 3, 2013.

Kairos means God's special time, and in the lives of these women, we know it will be a very special time for them with God. Your prayers and financial contributions will help make it possible for this very important ministry to continue.

If you would like to commit to prayer (1/2 hour sessions are available throughout each day) please let me know so I can sign you up. We need to keep everyone prayed up through the entire weekend while we are working inside. We have many different time slots that require prayer for **everyone** in the entire compound.

Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated! As with all mission trips there are costs to sponsor volunteers and inmates for this weekend. Volunteers must pay for lodging and meals. The team goes into the prison from 8 am to 8 pm. We eat meals with the inmates in their "chow hall." Believe it or not we actually pay for the privilege to eat prison food! There are also additional costs for paper goods, Bibles and crosses that each inmate receives at the end of the weekend.

Any size donation would truly be a blessing. **Please take a few minutes to remember these women and to prayerfully consider a tax deductible contribution.***

On Sunday, November 3, 2013 there will be a closing ceremony where outside guests, family, friends, & Kairos recruits are invited. An application must be submitted providing

driver's license, social security number, date of birth, race and sex. The information will be forwarded to Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, 7943 Brockbridge Road, Jessup, MD 20784 for a background check. The approval process takes several weeks.

If you are interested in attending the closing ceremony, I can provide you with an application and address any concerns you may have.

Volunteers can also support **Kairos Inside** by letter writing, making posters for the meeting room and placemats for the meals. A special thanks to Todd Reitzel for coordinating the Sunday school, which made colorful placements for the last inside retreat during April 4-7, 2013. The adult Bible study also made posters.

Reminder: Only first names and ages are listed on placemats/posters. Church name, location and last names are not permitted.

Thank you for your help as we share the goodness and graciousness of God with the inmates, correctional officers and the prison staff. After all, we want them to come out in better shape than when they first went in.

In His Service

Jane Grays

LadyJaneGra@aol.com
Home: 301-937-6392

*Checks should be made payable to **Kairos in Maryland**. Please note MCI-W#11 in the memo field and either give to me to turn in or mail to the following address:

Kairos in Maryland
P.O. Box 174
Jessup, MD 20794



October Birthdays

- 1 Rose Johnson, Abraham Scotland
- 2 John Cavallo
- 4 Erica Belshay, Nick Lee
- 5 Shirl Akers
- 7 Peggy Wells
- 9 Elizabeth Galloway
- 13 Lauren Fadely, Alexandra Butcher,
Michael Hatton
- 14 Brian Beach
- 15 Magdalena Elliott, Elizabeth Elliott,
Edrie Powell
- 16 Samantha Painter
- 18 Madison Cruz, Leticia Mejia,
Charles Vannoy
- 19 Kathy Mellott, Betty Osborn
- 20 Betty Midkiff
- 21 Brian Crotti
- 22 Kell Jones, Mary Plantholt
- 23 Shawn West
- 24 Patricia Embrey, Janet Jones, Ruth Vaye
- 25 Mabel Claye
- 29 Donna Horton, Cameron Beach
- 31 Ronald Midkiff, May Stewart



October Anniversaries

- 6 Eleanor & Jim Butler
- 7 Mary Jane & Dan Kenyon



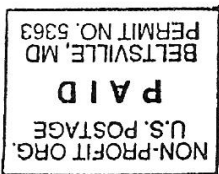
Altar Flowers

- Oct. 6 Thrush
- Oct. 13 Hatton
- Oct. 20 Paul & Frances Cruz
- Oct. 27 Lorna Marselas
- Nov. 3 Danny Webb
- Nov. 10 Loretta Claye
- Nov. 17
- Nov. 24 Carol Clatterbuck

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 pm ESOL	2 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	3 7 pm Chancel Choir	4	5 9:30 am Charge Conference 10 am Faithful Readers Book Group
6 9 & 11:15 am Wor- ship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Confirma- tion Class 12:30 pm UMW Exec Meeting	7	8 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7:30 pm ESOL	9 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	10 7 pm Chancel Choir	11	12 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
13 9 & 11:15 am Wor- ship 10:15 am Sunday School 2 nd Sunday Lunch 12:30 am Confirmation Class 1 pm Youth Fellowship	14 12:30 pm Women's Club of Beltsville 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trus- tees Meeting	15 7:30 pm ESOL	16 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 noon Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters in Spirit	17 7 pm Chancel Choir	18 11 am Community Place Café 7 pm Friday Live	19 Apple Festival 10 am to 2 pm 
20 9 & 11:15 am Wor- ship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Confirmation Class	21 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	22 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7:30 pm ESOL	23 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	24 7 pm Chancel Choir	25 7 pm Food Prep	26 10 am Food Distribution
27 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Confirmation Class 1 pm Youth Fellowship 2 pm Blessing of the animals service 4 pm Halloween Party	28 7 pm Church Council 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	29 7:30 pm ESOL	30 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	31 Parking Lot Trick or Treat 6:30-8 pm 7 pm Chancel Choir		

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Address Service Requested



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