

Glad

Tidings



Emory United Methodist Church
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Rev. Cathy Vitek, Associate Pastor
Rev. Ingrid Wang, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Lois Hunter, Music Director
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<http://www.gbqm-umc.org/emory/index2.html>

A Word From Our Lay Leader

Most of us have been part of or heard about the term called “empty nesting.” It took Lee and me a long time to experience that “empty nest” feeling. Our children commuted to colleges from home and lived at home after that. Lynn even made noises indicating she might come home after her honeymoon (with Jake, of course...I hope). Jill was still at home and certainly didn't encourage her. Jill said she had waited long enough for a bedroom to herself. It took a long time before we were back to the two of us. Finally the nest was empty – and it was very empty!

On the Sunday that the Conference designates as Transitional Sunday, I had a very empty feeling here at Emory.

After the three previous Sundays – the first – The United Methodist Women's annual luncheon out, with the Moore family as our guests, and so many of you with us. The second Sunday – our annual picnic at the VFW – no rain – God gave us a day that was perfection. And then, the third Sunday – is but a memory. Rev. Kathy's last sermon here at Emory, her last children's sermon here, the words of appreciation expressed to her, a poem written especially for her! Afterwards we had lunch downstairs in our Fellowship Hall, beautifully decorated by Anna Catherine and Jean in Rev. Kathy's favorite color – lavender. Ella May, Chairperson, and members of the

Pastor's Column

My father used to quote a poem about autumn that he said he learned in high school in the thirties, he quoted it so often I still remember most of it. (I had to look the rest of it up on the internet.)

The goldenrod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
It's hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest
In every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook.

From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.

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(Pastor's Column, continued from pg. 1)

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
and autumn's best of cheer. (H. H. Jackson)

I still love that poem, because it brings back vivid memories of my father and life on an Appalachian farm. I especially love that last line “with summer’s best of weather and autumn’s best of cheer.” For me a large part of autumn cheer is the energy, excitement and joy we are seeing around Emory this fall. The pews are being filled by their regular occupants again following much needed summer vacations, fellowship groups are gathering in homes and classrooms, ministry teams are working hard to prepare for special events throughout the fall and winter months, plans for the Emory/Bethany parish are moving forward and we are having a grand time getting to know one another. The poet was right, for all of this and more contributes to “autumn’s best of cheer.”

I thank God for each busy moment of our parish life, and all the while, I delight in the beauty of colored leaves scurrying in the wind, crisp dew filled mornings and soft evening light, smoke curling from fireplaces and cider fresh from the press.

I pray that this fall will find you engaged in the energy and activity of autumn and that you will take the time to enjoy the beauty, majesty and mystery of it all. Maybe along the way we will create a few memories together.

Blessings, Pastor David

(Lay Leader, continued from pg. 1)

Worship Committee and all who contributed to the meal – it’s never one committee, but joint effort that made that last Sunday a success. This is Emory’s way of doing things.

So, after lunch and after all the goodbyes, Rev. Kathy left Emory with her gifts from the congregation – a clock with inscriptions of love and appreciation, a monetary gift, gifts from individuals and the

leftover cake that Lorraine had made and decorated to match the table decorations. Rev. Kathy was gone and Emory awaits its future.

Last year, Emory asked to be considered for part-time ministry, but realized very early that part-time ministry was not an option. Like a lot of things today – blame it on the economy – preachers are retiring much later, and thus are not available for part-time ministry. Ideas were bounced around. Rev. Kathy (to her credit and with concern for our future) came back from clergy meetings with some “maybes.” In time, Rev. Carter-Rimbach presented an entirely new concept to us. Bishop Schol, in his “State-of-the-Church” address, explains it when he spoke about “growing congregations.” He gave two examples, the Silver Spring Parish which links two churches together, and the Ellicott City Parish with two campuses – Bethany and Emory United Methodist Churches. He describes this as linking a healthy congregation with a congregation that seeks to become healthier. He goes on to say that health comes from strength and a desire for healthy disciple-making ministry – finding that this is much more effective than linking struggling congregations together.

Rev. Rod Miller, who helped us out when Rev. Moore was on sick leave, said “Don’t try to be like Glen Mar or Bethany.” Also, he said, “You have a jewel here at Emory”. I think we all know what he meant – there’s something special here. It’s been here for 171 years on this rocky hillside. Hasn’t God been good to Emory for these 171 years?

With God’s leading us into this cooperative parish ministry and with all our care and caring, Emory, too, will fulfill its purpose and flourish. There won’t be a magic wand, the hills will be as steep, Emory will still have challenging parking, we’ll still not have enough of us at first, no matter how dedicated we are, and... we are.. the success of this Ellicott City Parish Ministry will depend a lot on us – the Laity of Emory.

By all appearances, Bethany enters this with enthusiasm – Clergy and Laity alike. Let

us pray with God leading us, this rocky hillside will continue to be a good place to be a church!

Post Script: That's how it was in June. And now in September – Emory has been a part of the Ellicott City Parish for these 3 months. “Getting to Know You” could well be our theme song.

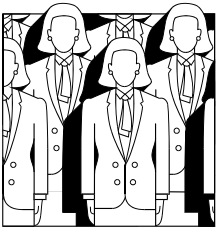
And now? We go forth to face the future secure in the belief that God is leading us!

Roberta Davis

United Methodist Women

Tuesday, November 3, 2009, is a very important date! On that date the United Methodist Women of Emory are holding their annual “Election Day Luncheon.” The luncheon is our main fundraising activity and supports our budget each year. Our budget consists of pledges to mission, both globally and locally. It is our responsibility to obtain our own finances - by our gifts and moneymaking activities.

The United Methodist Women Organization has a long history -- being a successor to The Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, The Ladies Aid, Parsonage Societies and Guilds of the seven prior denominations now comprising the United Methodist Church. The Book of Discipline states, “In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women.”



Who is a member? Any woman who commits to the purpose and chooses to belong. The purpose invites you to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We invite you to join us on the first Sunday of the month. All this said, our small group of active members could not have a luncheon without you. Thank you in advance for all who help by volunteering, for donations, and for just being here for lunch on Tuesday, November 3rd. May God guide us on that day!

Decision Making Time

Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, October 17th at Bethany United Methodist Church. We will begin at 9 a.m. with gathered worship. At 10 a.m., the several churches present will separate for their individual Charge Conference. Though this is a new location, we hope all leaders and interested folks will be able to attend as we receive State of the Church Reports for Emory, set salary and elect 2010 officers and committees. One new requirement from last year is that, in order to be approved, all lay speakers need to be present.



Upcoming Worship Events

October begins one of our busiest worship seasons at Emory. Many special things are happening on Sundays this fall beginning with World Communion Sunday on October 4th. We will celebrate with churches around the world as we partake of the Lord's Supper and remember our unity with all of God's children.



Laity Sunday arrives October 18th with members of the Worship Committee leading the service.

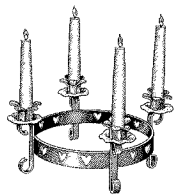
We begin November with our traditional observance of All Saint's Sunday. As we remember loved ones who have died in the last year, we will toll the bell and share in moments of silence and prayer. All Saint's Sunday celebrates the faithful witness of those who have gone before us and recalls that we are all saints together as we embrace the purity of Christ and our faith.

If any of your loved ones have passed on since last All Saint's Sunday, please make sure the Pastor has those names. A sheet will be provided in the October worship bulletins in order for you to share this information.

November 8th will be Stewardship Sunday. Once again this year, we will be completing pledge cards for our 2010 giving. November 22nd is a multi-themed service of



worship. We will observe Thanksgiving and Homecoming Sunday. Please remember to bring canned goods or paper goods and toiletries as an act of praise and thanksgiving. These items will go to the FISH Pantry and the Deaf Church to be shared with those in need. Also, please invite old friends and fellow members to come on November 22nd for Homecoming and a Pot Luck lunch afterwards. You are asked to bring a dessert, vegetable or salad to share.



Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th with the lighting of the first Advent candle. While the world is commercially, preparing for Christmas, we will spiritually prepare for the renewed coming of Christ into our hearts during the 4 weeks of Advent. "Advent" comes from the Latin word "Adventus" which means "coming."

Plans are still underway for a special service on December 20th.

And last, but never least, we celebrate the joy of Christmas Eve on December 24th at 7:30 p.m. Our service will include Christmas carols, sermon and candle lighting.



Outreach Update



The Outreach Committee was successful with the rabbits, chickens and ORT kits. We realized \$275 for all.

We received 86 pounds of food for the Grassroots food pantry. Other items were also donated.

October 18 will be Blanket Sunday. Once again, we will be collecting \$5 to supply blankets at times of disaster, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fire and wars.

We are sponsoring a "Good Time Walk" on Saturday, October 24, at 1 p.m. at the church. All proceeds will go the Emory's general fund.

We may be distributing Thanksgiving baskets to the needy and plans are underway

for Christmas including the angel tree program. You can see, we've had a busy and successful year. Thank you for your support.

Candlelight In Old Town Ellicott City



On November 20th, Christmas will be celebrated early on Main Street and the surrounding area. All businesses will be open from 7 - 10 p.m. In addition, the Thomas Isaac Cabin, the Patapsco Female Institute/Mount Ida, and Emory will be open for guests. Volunteers are needed to take turns hosting on that evening as we offer punch and cookies to visitors. Please let Shelley Wygant know if you can help. Her phone number is 410-750-0462.

Silent Auction & Tea

Emory's annual Silent Auction & Tea is scheduled for **Saturday, December 5th from 2 - 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (snow date is 12/19/09).**

This event is quickly becoming a tradition for Emory and our biggest fund raiser (all proceeds going to Emory's general fund). Please put December 5th on your calendar to save the date and also please remember -- we're accepting donations of new or just like new items to be put up for bid. If you don't have items to donate, but are willing to donate some of your time in a "service or trade" capacity or if you have something else you'd be willing to donate, what a terrific idea that would be! A few suggestions are:



- Mowing a lawn for 1 month
- Yard work
- Washing windows
- Baby sitting or pet sitting
- Christmas gift wrapping
- Hauling away junk to the dump, etc.
- 1 weekend free stay at your beach condo
- If you are a stylist – how about a haircut, perm, or manicure, etc.
- A pair of tickets to a concert (i.e. if you have season tickets somewhere)

The possibilities are endless!!!

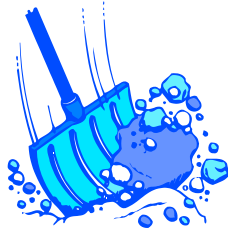
Another excellent way to help out is to solicit donations from area merchants (i.e. gift certificates to restaurants, hair salons, grocery stores, etc.).

If you're interested in planning, setting up, or helping out during this event, please don't hesitate to tell us...we'd love to have you and could always use the help! Reservation forms will be available closer to December. Please don't forget to save the date on your calendar... and, tell your family and friends! All donations can be given to Jill Spicher, Lynn Gibbons, Roberta Davis or Mary Lake.

Thank you and we're looking forward to seeing you on December 5th!!!

Snow and Ice Policy

Following is information regarding inclement weather that affects church events. We will endeavor to keep the doors to the church open for worship and activities as much as possible. However, for "people safety" or "insurance liability issues", it may occasionally be necessary to cancel an event.



If conditions concern you, and the church is still holding worship, please use your own best judgment whether to come or not. God would rather you worship in spirit with us from the safety of your home than risk injury to get to the church building.

1. Meetings (day or night) will follow Howard County School closing decisions. Chairpersons, at their discretion, may cancel meetings in cases of late-developing weather. Chairpersons, at their discretion, may also have the meeting if the weather clears. The chairpersons will call the members if they decide to hold a meeting on a day in which schools were closed.

2. Church services - in snow or ice conditions: Any cancellation decision based on Church Road conditions, weather reports or current weather conditions will be on an agreement between the Pastor, Lay Leader,

and Trustee Chair, by 8:30 a.m. Appropriate messages will be recorded on the pastor's answering machine.

3. At the present time, Kevin Boone scrapes the parking lot for \$50.00. He does no hand shoveling. Ron Whitehead or Harding Wescott will handle the list of volunteers for hand shoveling.

Thank you

Roberta Davis would like to express her sincere thanks to everyone for the many cards, calls, prayers and concerns she received during her recent surgery and continued recovery.

Thanks