

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

December 2015

A Vibrant Multi-Cultural Church: All God's Children Are Welcome!



Merry Christmas! I greet you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I hope that you had a good Thanksgiving and family reunion. I also had a good Thanksgiving. I invited friends to my home and we had a good time. It was a precious time to reflect upon the blessings I have received throughout the year.

I was quite busy in November, with All Saints Sunday, Stewardship Sunday, visits to the local public schools, Christ the King Sunday, 1st Advent Sunday, etc. All Saints Sunday was a good opportunity for the church to reconnect with those who passed away last year. I read their names during the service while we looked at their photos on the screen and reflected upon the influence each person had on Emmanuel's heritage.

On November 9th and 11th, Helen Akers and I visited High Point High School and Beltsville Academy, bringing coffee and doughnuts as a token of gratitude. Our visit was welcomed by the school staff and teachers. They appreciated the coffee and doughnuts.

On November 15th, Emmanuel hosted the funeral service for Donald Galloway. Don's wife, Mary Lou, crossed the Jordan River two months ago. Don himself crossed the Jordan River two months later. It reminded me of the widowhood effect. It is said that if a husband or wife loses his or her spouse, he or she has a 66% higher likelihood of passing away within the three months following the spouse's death. The reason might be a broken heart. Don and Mary Lou were born around 30 days apart and passed away two months apart. Their life, love, marriage, and return to heaven seemed to be destiny. While preparing for and participating in Don's funeral, I thought about true love, destiny, and the Jordan River.

On November 17th, ESOL's fall semester ended with the traditional potluck dinner and closing ceremony. Teachers and students shared favorite ethnic foods and enjoyed good fellowship.

On November 21st, we had the monthly food distribution for those in need. Approximately 270 families were helped by the food ministry that day.

The Advent season began November 29. We are waiting for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. There are several church activities scheduled during December, including Breakfast with Santa, Angel Tree, the Cantata, and the Christmas Eve services. In addition, we will enjoy Fellowship Sunday on December 20th between worship services. This time, we won't have pizza. Instead, we will eat Korean food. Besides being the 4th Sunday in Advent, December 20th is called Korean Culture Awareness Sunday. My Korean friends will bring Korean food and, if possible, we will see a short video clip about Korean culture. I think this would be a good approach to make this church a vibrant, multicultural church. Please join the event.

Nowadays, I am very happy because I can listen to Christmas music on the radio. I've heard that Christmas songs are played by the media not only to celebrate the Christmas season, but to increase consumerism. As Christians, we need to stay firmly grounded in the fundamental significance of Advent and Christmas.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

~ ~ Pastor Jacob



The cantata is coming! The cantata is coming!

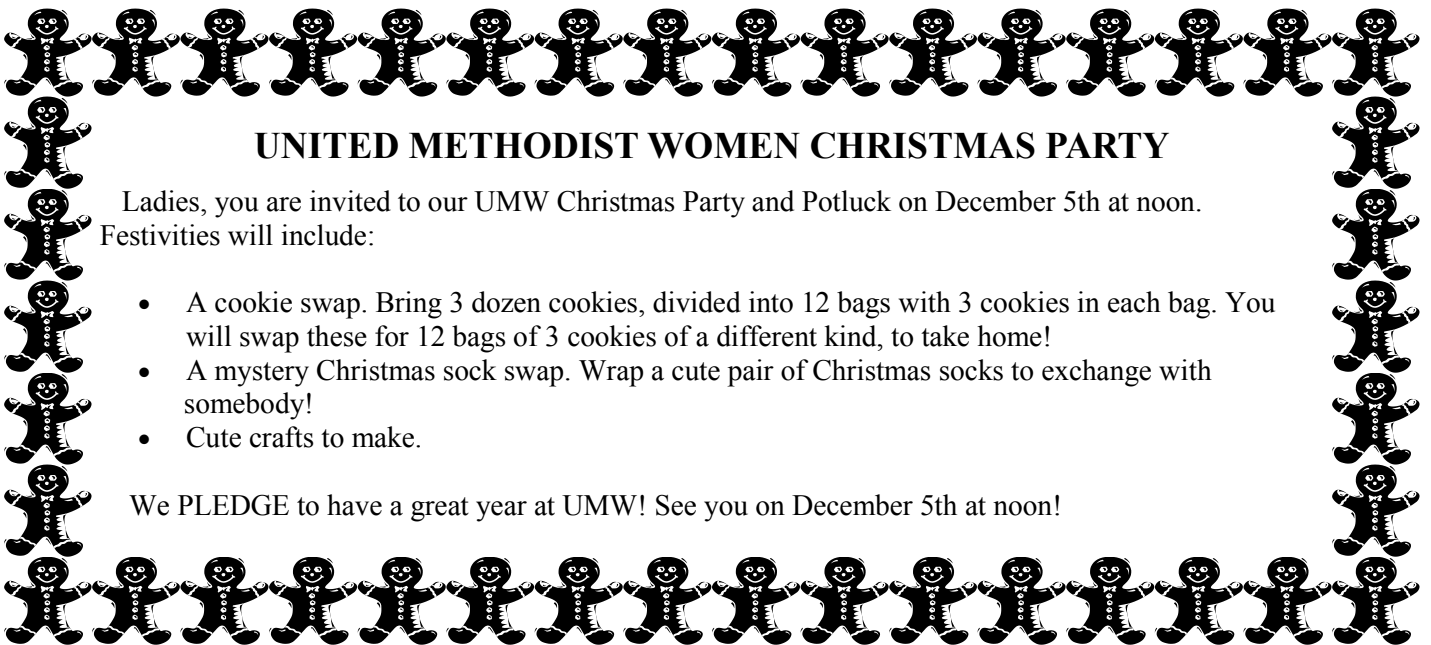


What exactly is a cantata?

The word 'cantata' means 'sung,' from the past participle, feminine singular form of the Italian verb *cantare*, 'to sing.' A cantata is a medium-length narrative piece of music for voices, with solos, chorus and orchestra. Famous cantata composers include Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederick Handel.

Our cantata, "Gloria In Excelsis Deo," will be presented on December 20th at both services. The choir has been working on the music since October. We have taken six pieces of music written by different composers and connected them with scripture to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. The Praise Band, the Maranatha Choir, the Chancel Choir and Erin Mellott will join together in presenting different styles of music – contemporary Christian, German folk carol, Huron Indian, and gospel. Our accompanist will be Alexi Ulitin, from the University of Maryland.

Please plan to attend this very special worship service!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ladies, you are invited to our UMW Christmas Party and Potluck on December 5th at noon. Festivities will include:

- A cookie swap. Bring 3 dozen cookies, divided into 12 bags with 3 cookies in each bag. You will swap these for 12 bags of 3 cookies of a different kind, to take home!
- A mystery Christmas sock swap. Wrap a cute pair of Christmas socks to exchange with somebody!
- Cute crafts to make.

We PLEDGE to have a great year at UMW! See you on December 5th at noon!

EMMANUELS
got
Talent!

Emmanuel's Got Talent this December! Members of Emmanuel will share their talents (real or imagined!) on December 19th at 7 pm. Tickets are just \$20 and include a homemade chicken dinner as well as the show! Proceeds will go toward the kitchen renovation and the Youth Group's mission trip.

So come share a good meal and be entertained by your friends on December 19th!

Seminary student Sarah Elliott will be traveling soon. She has chosen to go to South Africa for her intercultural immersion trip. Wesley Seminary recommends that students recruit sponsors to provide some of the funds for this mandatory journey, as part of their overall faith-based experience. Sarah's trip will begin on December 28, last 14 days, and cost approximately \$4000.

Should you wish to contribute toward Sarah's pilgrimage, donation envelopes are available in the Narthex. Checks may be made out to Wesley Seminary. Please note on the envelope or check that it is for Sarah Elliott's trip, and put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office. Emmanuel will see that the funds get to Wesley Seminary on Sarah's behalf. Thanks!

Answers to “Name That Lay Person”

from Laity Sunday, October 18, 2015

1. Every Sunday, we have an opportunity to light a candle in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Who sets that up?
Kathryn Griffin
2. Among other responsibilities, the Trustees ensure that the church property is cared for and maintained. Name a Trustee. **Jimmy Bello, Barbara Butcher, Paul Cruz, Charlie Deegan, Cale Fuller, Mike Hatton, Lynne Miller, Abraham Scotland, Willie Taylor**
3. One of our young adult members recently became certified as a Lay Speaker. Who is she/he? **Alexandra Scotland**
4. We enjoy the choir’s special music at the 11:15 worship service. Who is the newest choir member? **Madea Badio**
5. We have two Adult Sunday School classes. Name one of the teachers. **Doug Galloway, Jane Grays**
6. The quality of the sound enhances the worship experience. Name two of the sound technicians. **Rick Bergmann, Maddie Cruz, Patrick Elliott, Mike Hatton, Abraham Scotland, Greg Stiggers**
7. We have several Acolytes. Can you name one? **Marcus and Merton Baird, Robert and Victoria Galloway, Angela and Monica Hatton, Jason and Kevin Kresge**
8. Every Easter, we place flowers on “The Living Cross” in the front yard. Who wraps the cross with the wire that holds the flowers in place? **Lynne and Bob Miller**
9. Two members insert the blue attendance cards in the bulletins every Sunday morning. Name one of them.
Doris Humphrey and Ann Ladd
10. Many of us enjoy Second Sunday Lunch. Who coordinates this event every month? **Emmy Lear**
11. Someone arrives early every Sunday to make the coffee and set out the doughnuts. Do you know who? **Pat Allen**
12. The Lamplighter is mailed to our homes every month. Who does the lay-out and edits this publication?
Bobbie Deegan
13. One of our church members is in her final year at Wesley Theological Seminary. Do you know his/her name?
Sarah Elliott
14. Many church members bake cakes throughout the year for Community Place Café. Can you name two of the cake bakers? **Elsie Cline coordinates the cake bakers, but there are too many to list here.**
15. The Prayer Ministry meets twice a month to pray for the sick, the bereaved and otherwise hurting members, their families and friends. Name two of these prayer warriors. **Ann Anderson, Madea Badio, JoAnne Blakley, Bobbie Deegan, Dottie Gilbert, Carolyn Hicks, Ernie Kilbourne, Bonnie McBride, Hazel Newell**
16. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at the 9:00 am worship service and the first Sunday of the month at the 11:15 worship service. Who purchases the Communion elements (bread and grape juice) and assures its availability every Sunday? **Mike Hatton**
17. To continue ministering to our church family and our neighbors, Emmanuel must pay its bills. Who writes the checks for the church? **Beverly Ward**
18. As an agency for the Capitol Area Food Bank, Emmanuel serves many needy families in the Beltsville area and surrounding communities through its monthly Food Distribution Ministry. Name two members who participate in this program. **Julie Pavelka and Theresa Timity are co-leaders, but there are too many volunteers to list.**
19. The Altar Flowers are delivered to the church every Friday morning/afternoon and placed in the refrigerator. How do they get from the fridge to the altar on Sunday morning? **Rick Bergmann places them on the altar.**
20. The blue attendance card is an essential tool for the volunteer who enters church attendance in a log book. Who does that? **Dottie Gilbert**

Year-End Giving

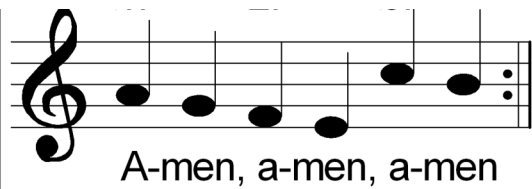
Our 2016 Stewardship Drive has ended, but if you haven't submitted your pledge card yet, it's never too late to send it in! Thank you all for supporting our church and its ministries, this past year and in the year to come.

Giving Statements for 2015 will be mailed out by mid-January. Please remember – contributions you would like to have credited toward 2015 must be received by the church no later than Sunday, December 27th. Donations must be reported for the year in which they were deposited, per IRS regulations. Contributions received during the week ending Sunday, December 27th will be deposited on Monday, December 28th. Barring special circumstances, donations received after December 27th shall be deposited on Monday, January 4th, 2016 and reported on the Giving Statements for 2016.

If you have any questions about this process or your contributions to date, please do not hesitate to contact Frances Cruz, the Financial Secretary, at 301-572-2542 or via email at cruising4@verizon.net.

“Ah-men” or “Ay-men?”

Shared by Kathryn Griffin



Amen is a declaration of affirmation, and means ‘so be it.’ The word is from the Aramaic language and is pronounced ‘Ahmeen.’ Later, it was absorbed into Greek, Latin, English and Arabic. The common English translation is ‘verily,’ or ‘truly.’ *Amen* is found in very early Hebrew scriptures, and occurs 30 times in the Old Testament and 77 times in the New Testament.

Today, we hear it pronounced two ways — ‘Ah-men’ and ‘Ay-men.’ Which is the correct pronunciation? It depends on how it is used. ‘Ah-men’ is used in standard choral and liturgical music and in mainstream Protestant churches. ‘Ay-men’ is used in gospel music and in many Evangelical churches.

‘Ay-men’ dates to the 15th century, and is associated with Irish Protestantism. ‘Ay-men’ is also the result of The Great Vowel Shift in the English language. What in the world is that, you ask!!!!?? From about 1350 to 1700, the English language underwent a big change in how vowels were pronounced. European long vowels in many words changed to short vowels or became totally different vowel sounds. For example, our "bite" was originally pronounced "beet." In many parts of the British Isles, ‘Ah-men’ became ‘Ay-men.’ With the invention of the printing press, spelling became standardized even if the pronunciation changed. That’s why English is so inconsistent.

We will be using ‘Ah-men’ in church – in our anthems, hymns, and the response to prayers. Anywhere else – take your pick. Amen!!!

SHARING AND CARING

Thank you very much for making the UMW Apple Festival such a success this year. We raised over \$2300 for missions! That goes a long way toward our \$3250 pledge to our District. Thank you to all our volunteers, too. We really couldn't do it without you!

May God Bless You,

~ ~ Debbie McNitt



Have Breakfast With Santa!

On Saturday, December 12th at 9 am, Santa will take time out from his labors at the North Pole to stop by Emmanuel United Methodist Church for breakfast. Would you like to have breakfast with Santa? For just \$10 per person, you can enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee, and have your picture taken with Santa Claus, too! If you only want breakfast, the cost is \$7. Children under 3 may eat for free and have their photo taken with Santa for \$3.

See you for breakfast. *Ho Ho Ho!*

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE —

The Finance Committee thanks you for your faithful giving during 2015. As you know, this has been a challenging year for Emmanuel in terms of our finances. We are hopeful that the Lord will bless us with a buyer for the old parsonage soon! This would lower our expenses and allow us to begin building some reserves. In the meantime, Finance and the Trustees are doing everything we can think of to keep costs down.

One of the things the Finance Committee has been exploring is the possibility of allowing you to make donations online by credit card. We recognize that some folks may find it inconvenient to have to pay their pledge or tithe with cash or a check. Quite a few churches offer electronic giving now. As with everything else “under Caesar,” however, there are costs associated with electronic donations – processing and/or transaction fees, for Emmanuel and the giver. Reluctant to take on an additional expense for a service we are not sure our congregation wants, the members of the Finance Committee would like to get your thoughts on whether Emmanuel should offer electronic giving.

Please fill out the brief survey below and put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office. This information will help the Finance Committee make an informed decision about what our givers want. Thank you!!!

MEMBER SURVEY ON ELECTRONIC GIVING

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

1. Emmanuel should offer online giving by credit card for those persons who want to do so.

Yes	No
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2. Emmanuel should offer direct payment from bank accounts (ACH) for those persons who want to do so.

Yes	No
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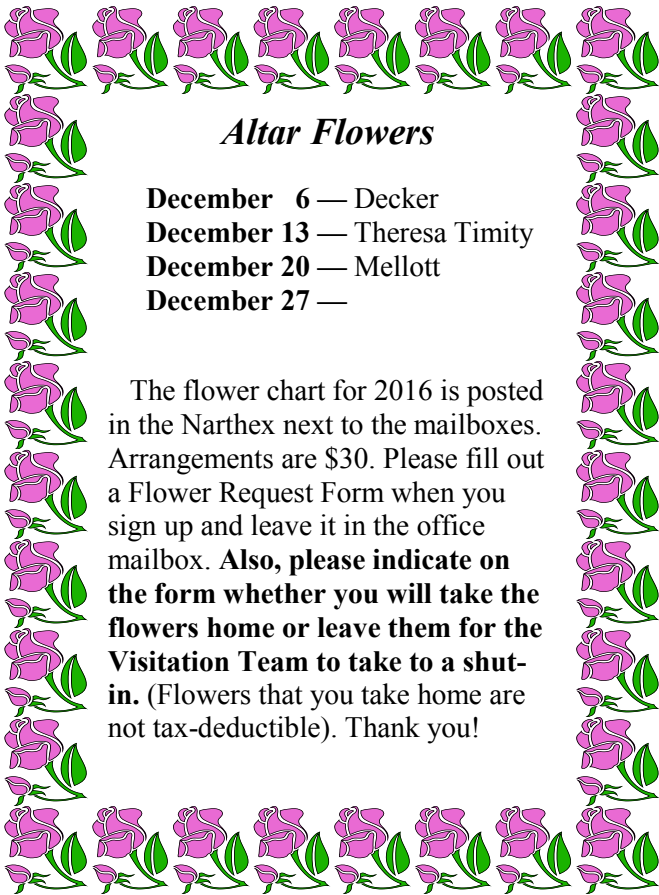
3. Were such a service offered:

I might use it occasionally.	Yes	No
I would probably use it regularly.	Yes	No
I probably would never use it.	Yes	No

3. I would be willing to pay a reasonable transaction fee in addition to the amount of my gift, if I used this service.

Yes	No
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Thank you for sharing your thoughts with the members of the Finance Committee. Please put your completed form in the collection plate or mail it to the church office, at 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.



Altar Flowers

- December 6** — Decker
- December 13** — Theresa Timity
- December 20** — Mellott
- December 27** —

The flower chart for 2016 is posted in the Narthex next to the mailboxes. Arrangements are \$30. Please fill out a Flower Request Form when you sign up and leave it in the office mailbox. **Also, please indicate on the form whether you will take the flowers home or leave them for the Visitation Team to take to a shut-in.** (Flowers that you take home are not tax-deductible). Thank you!

December Birthdays

- 1. Motunriyo Oluwafemi
- 3. Ann Rowland
- 4. Gretchen Buchen
- 7. John Stewart
- 13. Cheryl Grays
- 15. Becky Cavallo, Michael McNealy
- 16. Jennie Owens
- 25. Baby Jesus
- 26. Lois Rodriguez, Alexandra Scotland
- 27. Rogers Beasley
- 30. Kim Hiner, Maggie Leatherman, Maxine Riggleman, Jean Faris



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

December Anniversaries



- 18. Jeanette & Charles Vannoy, Susan & Steven Cunningham
- 30. Gail & Michael Belshay, Charline & Bob Frederick

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6, American Standard Version

WELCOME, VISITORS!!

The following guests visited Emmanuel on one or more Sundays in October:



- Ellen Bredbenner
- Bebe Buchen
- Linda Roberson
- Nancy Yilla

Welcome! Please worship with us again soon!

IN MEMORIAM



Marilyn Tucker's sister, Linda Davis, passed away on October 30th.

Donald Galloway passed away on November 1.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones, and with all the families who have an empty seat at the table during the holidays. May happy memories warm your hearts.

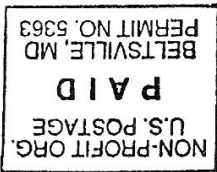
To get in touch with **Pastor Jacob**, please call the Church Office at 301-937-7114, or email Pastor at Jacob.Young@EUMCBeltsville.com.

To get in touch with **Lamplighter editor Bobbie Deegan**, please email her at BobbieDeegan@aol.com, or call her at 301-937-7070.

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>2</i> 7 pm Church Council	<i>3</i> 7 pm Memorial Committee	<i>4</i> 7 pm Maranatha Choir	<i>5</i> 10 am Chancel Choir 12:00 Noon UMW Christmas Party 5 pm NA
<i>6</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School	<i>7</i> 7 pm Trustees	<i>8</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship	<i>9</i> 7 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Bible Study	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7 pm Maranatha Choir	<i>12</i> 9 am Breakfast with Santa 12:00 Noon Angel Tree 2 pm Chancel Choir 5 pm NA
<i>13</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 2nd Sunday Lunch 1 pm Youth Fellowship	<i>14</i> 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>15</i> 6:30 pm Sisters in Spirit Circle	<i>16</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>17</i> 7 pm Chancel Choir	<i>18</i> 11 am Community Place Caf�e 7 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Food Preparation	<i>19</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 10 am Food Distribution 5 pm NA 7 pm Dinner and Talent Show
<i>20</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services and Cantata 10:15 am Fellowship	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Church Office closed 6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	<i>25</i> Church Office closed Merry Christmas! 	<i>26</i> 5 pm NA
<i>27</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Youth Fellowship	<i>28</i> 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Church Office closed	<i>Jan 1</i> Church Office closed Happy New Year 2016	

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