

# The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

February 2016

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



Greetings! In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I greet all of you as my brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

In January, we started a new calendar year, 2016. There were several church events and activities: installation of the

UMW officers, the youth luncheon, meetings for church ministries and finance, etc.

I was very impressed by the financial secretary's report that in 2015, Emmanuel UMC received more than 100% of the pledged tithes and offerings. I have never seen this before. I have seen churches receive 85%, 90%, or 95% of the pledged amounts, but never more than 100%. You have been generous in sharing your gifts with the church. I really appreciate your continuous and faithful support, which allows Emmanuel to support its ministries.

There was a congregational meeting on January 27 to discuss Emmanuel's ministries and finances. Attendees brainstormed answers to two questions that suggested ways to make the church and its ministries financially stable. The meeting was very productive and the ideas raised will help set our direction in the future. I hope that Emmanuel will remain strong in every aspect of its ministry.

Also in January, there was a change in the youth leadership. Alex Scotland now is leading the youth ministry. She needs some helping hands, though. Please consider supporting this ministry, and pray for her and her helpers as they lead our young people.

Emmanuel's visitation ministry also is in need of some help in 2016. Ann Anderson has faithfully led a team of folks visiting the shut-ins for many, many years, first in partnership with Doris Wray and then, when Doris was unable to continue, on her own. Now the time has come for Ann to pass leadership of this ministry on to someone else's faithful service. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact me.

In February, the church will move into an important Christian season, Lent. Lent is a period of forty days. (From Ash Wednesday until Easter is 46 days, but we don't count the six Sundays that fall during Lent because Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. So  $46 - 6 = 40$ ). The more I read the Bible, the more I see that number 40. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events. In the story of Noah, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Before Jesus began his public ministry, he went into the desert for 40 days to be by himself and to think and pray. Now we begin the season leading up to Easter, and again, it is 40 days long.

Lent is the season when we think about how grateful we are that Jesus died on the cross for all of us. Lent is a time of prayer, and of thinking about the pain and suffering Jesus went through. During the Lenten season, we decorate our church with the color purple, because purple has traditionally stood for the pain and suffering that led to the cross of Jesus. Purple also is associated with royalty, and we anticipate the coming resurrection of our King, Jesus, through his suffering and death.

Ash Wednesday will be February 10<sup>th</sup>. As is our custom, we will observe it in a joint service with Queens Chapel UMC, to be held at Queens Chapel this year. I am scheduled to share the message there. At 5 pm on February 5<sup>th</sup> (the Saturday before Ash Wednesday), Emmanuel will have a Pancake Supper. If you are able, please join us at the supper before we begin our Lenten journey together.

I hope that Jesus, our Savior, will continue to bless you in your life. And I ask you to support His ministry through Emmanuel UMC.

His slave,  
Pastor Jacob



**SOLD!**

by Mike Hatton, Chairman of the Trustees



Yes, it is true! After 102 days on the market, the Cedar Lane home (also known as “the old Parsonage”) has been sold! Many thanks to everyone who helped in getting the house ready. The proceeds from the sale will be used to pay off the mortgage on the current Parsonage.

Editor’s Note:

Many thanks to Mike Hatton for getting us a great price for a very old home! Mike spent a lot of hours on this, and on behalf of the congregation, I thank Mike, Ester, Monica and Angela for sacrificing so much of their “family time” over the last four months.

**FILL THE FOOD CLOSET!**

by Carol Clatterbuck

As the new year rings in, so does the cold weather. Please help our neighbors with your donations of food. Especially needed are canned meats and tuna; canned potatoes; peanut butter and jelly; soups; cereals; and canned or box milk.



Thank you!



**WE SURVIVED THE BLIZZARD OF 2016!**

**THE PRAYER MINISTRY**

by Ann Anderson and Ernie Kilbourne



Our ministry continues in 2016. The Prayer Ministry of Emmanuel United Methodist Church has two important parts:

1. The Telephone Prayer Circle is made up of concerned people who pass along the names of those who have requested prayers for themselves or their family and friends. After passing the requests on to the next person in the chain, each prayer circle member prays for those individuals. This process continues until it reaches the one in the circle who started it. Currently, there are eleven ladies in the prayer circle.
2. The Prayer Fellowship is a small, dedicated group of ladies, plus the pastor, who meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month to pray for those who are ill, hospitalized, or who have requested prayers for any reason - for their family, friends, or themselves.

We send notes to those for whom we have prayed to let them know about our support. We have sent more than 700 cards this past year to those who were ill, bereaved, troubled, or struggling with difficulties in life. Requests for both prayers and prayer notes have been steadily increasing.

Everyone is invited to join one or both of these groups. We also ask you to pray for those persons listed in the Sunday bulletin.

The following note was sent by someone who received one of the Prayer Fellowship’s notes after the death of her husband. She gave us permission to share it with the congregation as an example of what this ministry means to others.

*December 23, 2015*

*Dear Bobbie and the E. U. M. prayer group,*

*Thank you so much for including me and my family in your prayers during the recent passing of my husband John. We have been comforted knowing our loss and our needs have been supported and ministered to by your prayers. We ask that you continue to remember us as we grapple with this new reality, especially at this holiday season.*

*God Bless You,*

*Audrey Scott and family*

**UMW NEWS**

by Ernie Kilbourne, UMW Vice President

The installation of the 2016 officers of the United Methodist Women took place on January 10th. Everyone celebrated with a special cake following the 2nd Sunday Lunch.

After the January 23rd UMW general meeting was snowed out, it was rescheduled for February. Accordingly, you are invited to attend United Methodist Women's general meeting on February 20th at 12 Noon in the Fellowship Hall. A soup lunch will be provided. The program will be a short study of the Lord's Prayer led by Lorna Marselas. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and He answered their request by giving them a pattern of prayer. We hope you will join us to study and discuss the Lord's Prayer and get a better understanding of it.

Coming up:

- A future UMW general meeting led by Jane Grays, who always has a great subject.
- The Epworth House Spring Luncheon, on April 2nd at the Holiday Inn College Park, 11:30 am—2:30 pm.
- The annual Rummage Sale, on April 16th, 10:00 am—1:00 pm. Please save articles for the sale. We will need many people to help.

Questions? Please give Ernie a call at 301-937-8787.



Are you interested in fellowship and Bible study with other wonderful women at Emmanuel? Then you will enjoy being part of a Circle that meets once a month! Please contact one of the following individuals for information.

- Ellen Hoover Circle meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 12 Noon. For more information, contact Circle Chair Barbara Butcher at 301-937-3179 or [barbarabutcher@verizon.net](mailto:barbarabutcher@verizon.net).
- Sisters in Spirit Circle meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. For more information, contact Circle Chair Kathy Mellott at 301-937-7538 or [kpmellott@verizon.net](mailto:kpmellott@verizon.net).
- Susanna Wesley Circle meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10 AM. For more information, contact Circle Chair Emmy Lear at 301-937-7341 or [emmylear@gmail.com](mailto:emmylear@gmail.com).
- Dorcas Circle meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 12 Noon. For more information, contact Circle Chair Eleanor Butler at 301-937-7314.

**BC/AD, CE/BCE, Astronomical Numbering?**

There have been many attempts to "date" the passage of days. Many types of calendars have been developed to help the world stay on track. Some cultures mark dates based on the reign of certain rulers. For many years, European countries right next to each other used different ways of measuring the days. Sometimes the "new year" began on Christmas, or Easter, or the Annunciation. It must drive historians crazy!

The calendar most widely used today is the Gregorian calendar, named after Pope Gregory. It was devised in AD 525, but wasn't widely adopted until after AD 800. Some countries didn't adopt it until the 1700's. But now it is the unofficial global standard, recognized by international institutions such as the United Nations.

The Gregorian calendar uses the abbreviations BC and AD. BC stands for "before the birth of Christ." AD is Latin for "Anno Domini," meaning "the year of the Lord." AD does NOT mean "after death." If it did, the 33 years of Jesus' life would not be accounted for in the Gregorian calendar at all. The Gregorian calendar does not contain a "year 0," so year 1 BC is immediately followed by year 1 AD.

Today, many prefer to use terminology that is neutral and inclusive of non-Christians. CE, the abbreviation for "Current Era" or "Common Era," often is used instead of AD, and BCE, "before the Common Era," has replaced BC for referencing the years before Christ's birth. But dates are still measured from before and after the birth of Christ.

The astronomical system for dating years does include a Year 0, because astronomers have to be precise in noting dates for eclipses, etc. Astronomical year 0 corresponds to 1 BCE; astronomical year -1 corresponds to 2 BCE. The astronomical calendar still uses the same numbers for AD years. The astronomical date for 2016 CE is +2016, or 2016.

Are you BC/AD or CE/BCE?

### Visitation Team

The Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership has decided to initiate a new form of Visitation Ministry. For many years, one or two dedicated persons have faithfully visited shut-ins once a week. This model is no longer feasible, because there are 12 – 15 shut-ins at any given time. We are seeking volunteers who will visit or contact one shut-in. The commitment would be to contact the shut-in at least once a month, by phone call, visitation, and/or delivering church bulletins and sometimes altar flowers. Most of our shut-ins live in the Beltsville area. Since there are currently 13 shut-ins, 13 individuals or family volunteers are needed at this time.

Rev. Jacob will continue to provide pastoral care to those who are homebound or hospitalized, of course. But nothing warms the heart like the loving face or kindly voice of a friend from church. If you would like to participate in this very important ministry, please contact the church office to have the name of a shut-in assigned to you.

### Looking for a Job? Check Out These Resources by Sallie Rhodes

Are you looking for a job? Is someone you know looking for a job? Are you finding it hard to locate employers with job openings in line with your education, skills and abilities? Try using one of the national job banks or job posting services as part of your job search strategy. The following provides a brief description of a number of these services.

**CareerBuilder** allows job-seekers to search for jobs by location, job type, and key words. Users can store up to five resumes and cover letters publicly or privately, as well as create up to five personal search agents to receive emailed job listings daily or weekly. The site can scan resumes and match jobs according to the experiences of job-seekers.

Visit: <http://www.careerbuilder.com/?cbRecursionCnt=1>.

**Dice** is the leading career site for technology and engineering professionals, hosting close to 80,000 listings at every IT level, from entry to senior. Job-seekers can create free and confidential profiles to post their resumes. Dice also can be used to analyze technology trends, get career advice, and ask technical questions.

Visit: <http://m.dice.com/m2/index.jsp>.

**Glassdoor** is a free career community that gives job-seekers an inside look at jobs and employers. The content includes salary reports, company assessments, interview questions, aggregated job postings, average salaries for specific positions, and more. The information is posted by company managers and employees, as well as by job-seekers.

Visit: <http://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>.

**Indeed** is a service that many employers use to set up an account and post job listings. The site gets 100 million unique visitors each month. Search results from this site include listings aggregated from thousands of company websites and job boards across all fields. Once registered, job-seekers can receive automatic emails about openings matching their skills. Visit: <http://www.indeed.com/>.

**LinkedIn** is a professional social networking site that also can be used for job searches. Employers can search the site for qualified candidates and job-seekers can search listings. The user's profile, which lists work experience and skills, is essentially his or her resume. Employers can list job openings on the site and users can both search for openings and investigate potential employers. Visit: <https://www.linkedin.com/>.

#### National and State Workforce Agency Job Posting Services and Job Banks

**American Job Centers (AJC):** Every state receives federal funding to operate a workforce service delivery system within the state. Most of these funds are distributed to local American Job Centers that provide direct services to job-seekers. Every state workforce system maintains its own job bank, providing information on job listings throughout the state. These websites can be searched for current job postings using company names, job type, key words, geographic area, etc. Check out the "Resumes and Interviews" link for useful tools and tips to support job searches. Locate the AJC serving your area by visiting America's Service Locator at: <http://www.servicelocator.org/>.

**US Jobs:** Sponsored by the National Labor Exchange (NLX), the US Jobs website is the primary federal and state job posting and job search source for employers and state workforce agencies. US Jobs is free to both employers and job-seekers. The NLX collects job posting information from employers and feeds it into the US Jobs system. The job openings are exclusively found on over 9,000 corporate career websites and in state job banks. All job openings are unduplicated, currently available, and with vetted employers. Job feeds are refreshed and shared with states daily. The previous day's file is eliminated and replaced with a new one to ensure the currency of the job postings.

Visit: <http://us.jobs/>.

### Sharing and Caring

**Bob and Charline Frederick** were faithful members at Emmanuel for many years. They relocated to Fulton several years ago to be closer to their children, but came back to Emmanuel to worship with us when they could. Health issues have resulted in the Fredericks being confined to home, but they would love to hear from their church friends. Their address is:

Bob and Charline Frederick  
7088 Pindell School Road  
Fulton, MD 20759-9719

**Pastors Daniel and Michelle Mejia** are expecting their first child in late July! Pastor Daniel gave Bobbie Deegan permission to share the good news with the congregation at Emmanuel. For our newer members, Pastor Daniel was the pastor at Emmanuel from July 2006 until June 2014, and married Rev. Michelle Mejia while he was here. If you would like to send them a note, their address is:

Revs. Daniel and Michelle Mejia  
4106 Crosswick Turn  
Bowie, MD 20715-1109

### Did You Fill Out the Survey?

The Finance Committee has been exploring the possibility of allowing you to make donations online by credit card. The last two *Lamplighters* included a brief survey to assess your interest in electronic giving. The results are in! Seven persons responded. Of those seven, one person would make online donations regularly; one might do so occasionally; and five would not use such a service at all. Based on these responses, the Finance Committee will not pursue this option at this time. A sincere thank you to the persons who took the time to share their thoughts. You helped the committee make an informed decision!

### CHOIR NEWS



After many years of meeting on Thursday evenings, the Chancel Choir has moved its rehearsals to Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm. So if you want to join the choir but haven't been available on Thursday evenings, now is your chance! We are just beginning to learn the music for the Lenten cantata, so this is a great time to start. Come help us make music for the Lord!

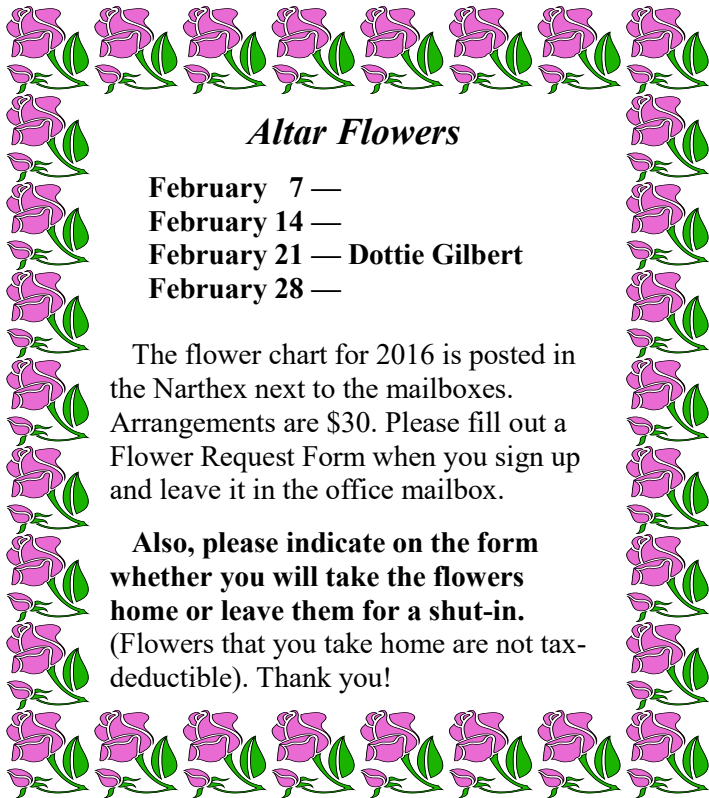
### Brainstorming With the Church Council

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, twenty-three hardy souls left their warm homes to talk about Emmanuel's ministries and finances. The meeting was very productive. Attendees divided up into four groups to discuss two questions:

1. What aspect(s) of Emmanuel is/are most important to you?
2. Which options best suit Emmanuel?
  - a. Share our church space with another church that will provide rent money.
  - b. Invest in improvements to finalize the day care tenant.
  - c. Cut staff positions/expenditures.
  - d. Use more congregational volunteers to augment staffing needs.
  - e. Refocus our ministries to just one or two, allowing us to do something really well rather than many things at mediocrity.
  - f. Financially give more to Emmanuel.
  - g. Others.



After the group discussions, everyone came together again to "report out." Church Council Recording Secretary Patrick Elliott took notes which will be shared with the whole congregation after they are finalized. Attendees were concerned that some persons who wished to attend the meeting might have been unable to do so because it was a night meeting and the roads were snowy. It was agreed to hold a meeting on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am to give persons not able to attend the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting another opportunity to discuss the two questions, if they wish.



**Altar Flowers**

- February 7 —
- February 14 —
- February 21 — **Dottie Gilbert**
- February 28 —

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 a shut-in.** (Flowers that you take home are not tax-deductible). Thank you!

**February Birthdays**

1. Elmer Padgett
2. Emmanuel Forbete, Charles Pavelka, Sarah Rodeffer
3. Patrick Elliott
8. Gloria Slingerland
9. Georgia Reitzel
10. Julliette Jones
11. Amelia Risdon
13. Barbara Butcher, Dean Hoch, Emma McNealy
14. Emmet Croson
15. Therese Onukwubiri
16. Julie Pavelka, Patrick Young
17. Sheun Bello
19. Josh Aplin
20. Patrick Elliott, Bob Rodeffer
21. Tobi Oluwafemi
22. Karen Mackey
24. Nancy Zerbe
26. Gary Heath, Rebecca Kirby
27. Jeff Kramer
28. Charles Aderenle

**GREETERS are Needed**

- February 7, 14, 21, and/or 28 —**  
Greeters are needed for both worship services.
- March 6, 13, 20, and/or 27 —**  
Greeters are needed for both worship services.

To volunteer to cover one or more of these Sundays, please put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary in the Narthex. Thank you for helping to make Emmanuel a welcoming congregation!

**February Anniversaries**

- 2. Katie & John Kaufmann

**IN MEMORIAM**



Praise Band drummer Byron Bobo lost his dad on December 30th— just three months after his mom passed away on September 30th.

Rev. Dennis Dorsch's wife, Roberta, passed away unexpectedly on January 23rd. Rev. Dorsch is the friend and mentor of Pastor Daniel Mejia, and preached at Emmanuel several times. If you would like to send him a card, his address is 707 Maiden Choice Lane, Catonsville, MD 21228.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Byron and his family, Rev. Dorsch, and with everyone who is struggling with the loss of a loved one. May happy memories comfort you.

**WELCOME, VISITORS!!**

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

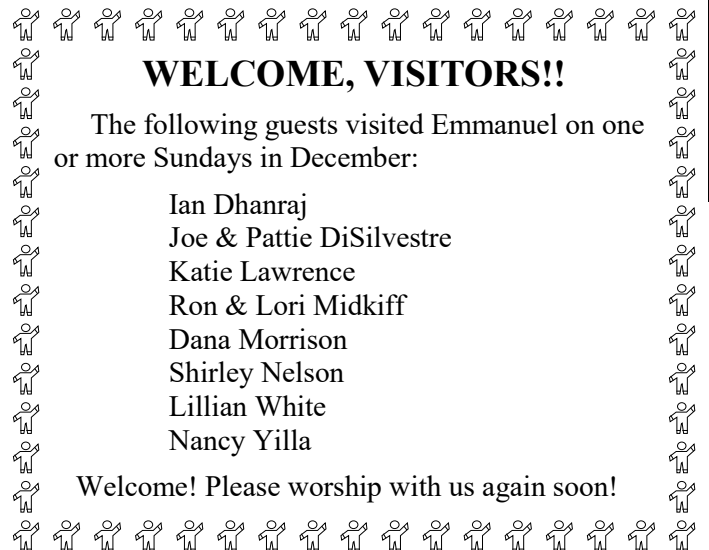
- Ian Dhanraj
- Joe & Pattie DiSilvestre
- Katie Lawrence
- Ron & Lori Midkiff
- Dana Morrison
- Shirley Nelson
- Lillian White
- Nancy Yilla

Welcome! Please worship with us again soon!

**News and Articles Needed**

The Lamplighter is for everyone. Please make it interesting! To share information, submit an article or get in touch with editor Bobbie Deegan, contact her at 301-937-7070 or BobbieDeegan@aol.com. Thanks!

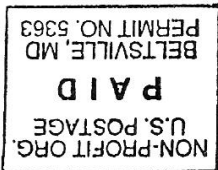
To get in touch with **Pastor Jacob**, please call the Church Office at 301-937-7114 or email Pastor at Jacob.Young@EUMCBeltsville.com.



## February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7 pm ESOL	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 11 am Maranatha Choir 5 pm Pre-Shrove Pancake Supper 5 pm NA
<i>7</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm UMW Executive Meeting 12:30 pm Chancel Choir– Sanctuary 12:45 pm	<i>8</i> 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>9</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL	<i>10</i> 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service at Queens Chapel UMC	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 11 am Maranatha Choir 5 pm NA
<i>14</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 2nd Sunday Lunch 12:30 pm Chancel Choir– Sanctuary	<i>15</i> 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	<i>16</i> 7 pm ESOL 7 pm Sisters in Spirit Circle	<i>17</i> 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 Noon Dorcas Circle	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 11 am Community Place Café	<i>20</i> 11 am Maranatha Choir 12 Noon UMW General Meeting 5 pm NA
<i>21</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Chancel Choir	<i>22</i> 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>23</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL	<i>24</i> 7 pm Church Council	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 7 pm Food Prep	<i>27</i> 10 am Food Distribution 11 am Maranatha Choir 1 pm Chancel Choir 5 pm NA
<i>28</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School	<i>29</i>					

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