

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

January 2010



Pastor Daniel Mejia

*I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.* (Psalm 121:1-2)

If hope is dependant on always having perfect health, a perfect family life, a perfect church, or perfect friends, then hope is simply an unreachable utopia since most of us don't have that "picture perfect life." But, from God's point of view, hope is not a matter of having good luck or bad luck. Hope is a matter of faith. Hope is a matter of holding on tightly to the eternal reality that "God is with us always." Life may have dealt you a low blow or a setback. Life may not be what you envisioned or expected. But God is certainly by your side, helping you to pick up the pieces of your life and making the best out of it.

"There are dates that people hold in their minds all the time, dates of good times and bad times. For me the 24th of April 2004 will always be one of those dates. The day I fell from Stange Edge (England) and paralyzed myself. That day is not something I have ever looked back on with regret, obviously I'd prefer to not be in a wheelchair, but I don't think of it all and wonder what if, or wonder why. As you will understand when you read the events of that day, far from being unlucky at becoming paralyzed, I am lucky to be alive. I look at the 24th of April as the luckiest day of my life and the start of just another chapter in my life."

These are the words of Andy Campbell, a professional skier and self-proclaimed "wheel chair adventurer." His life was highlighted in the 2009 ski movie "Dynasty", produced by the renowned ski icon Warren Miller. Despite the many setbacks and tragedies he has faced, Andy's life and professional accomplishments represent that picture of hope that needs to be engraved in our hearts and minds as we begin a new year. I am not sure if Andy is a Christian man, but I do know the Author of the words "Die Living" stenciled onto his monoski.



Andy Campbell on his monoski preparing to ski-jump.

"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." (John 12:24-25) Jesus is saying, "Die to your fears that choke my Words of hope in you. Die to your pessimism and negativity that steals my Joy in you. Die to your obsession of always getting your way."

As your pastor, I am very thankful for you, because I can see how many of you have defied the odds and overcome tragedy. I am thankful for you, because your lives have become a picture of hope to me and the many people around you. I am thankful for you, even though I don't know what your bill of health will be in 2010, how the stock market will affect your savings and retirement in 2010, or how your children will behave in 2010. But I know that in 2010, we will hope together, pray together, and serve together. And we will attempt new and great things together, because God has promised to be with us. My prayer is that in 2010 we will die living, die hoping, and die serving Christ together.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

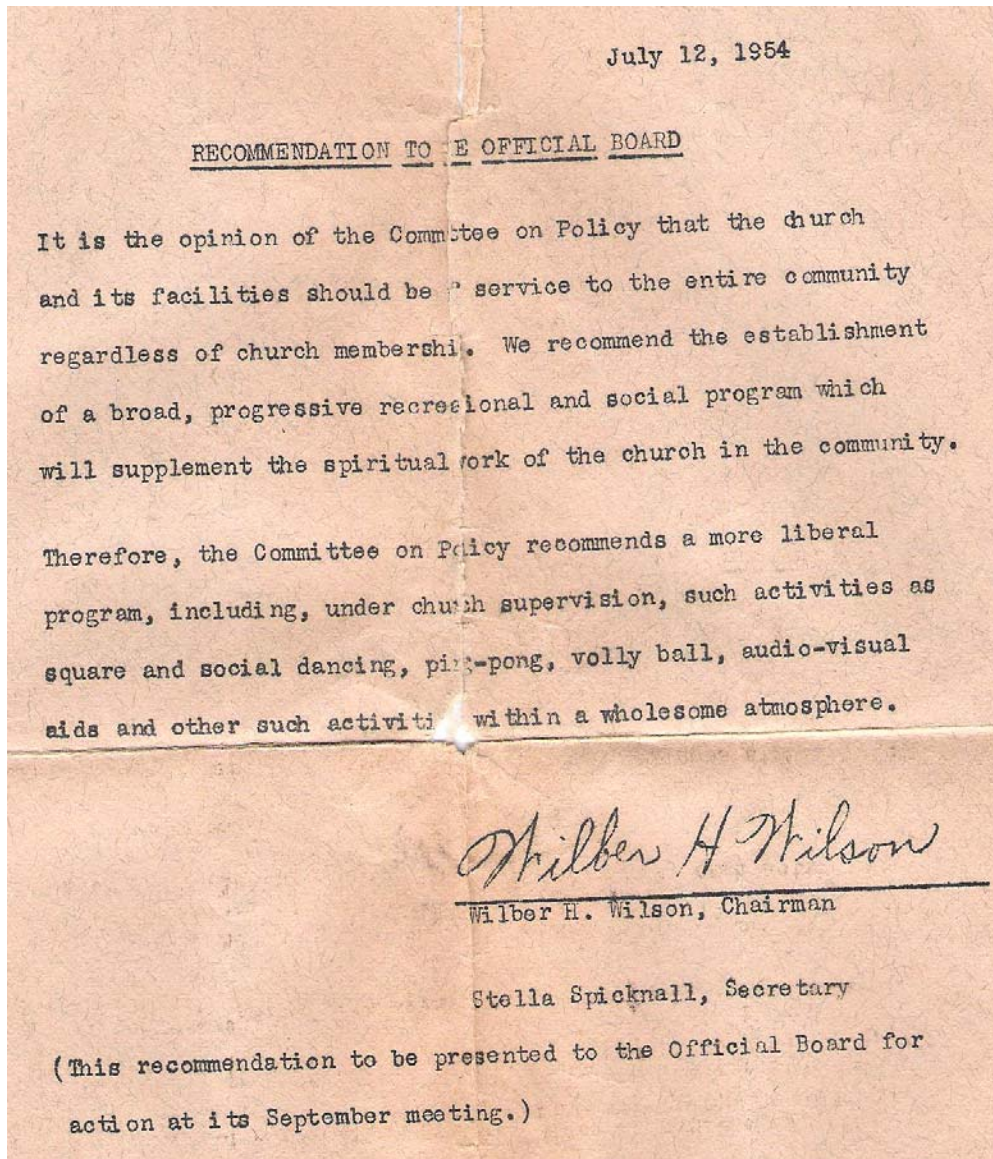
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A BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Pastor Daniel Mejia

This new section will be dedicated to looking back at the history of our church through meaningful pictures, documents, and anecdotes from the past. In our first effort, Mildred Bladen gave us this letter that she received on July 12, 1954. As you read this letter, you will see the clear intention of the Committee on Policy to open wide the doors of our church to the community. What a great testimony. Fifty-five years later our church is doing and trying new ways to make our church a safe place for the youth in our community. I hope you will be inspired by the bold message of this letter. In many ways, this is a prophetic letter with prophetic words for what we want to do and become in 2010, a church of **“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”**



The text of the above memo is reproduced below:

“It is the opinion of the Committee on Policy that the church and its facilities should be in service to the entire community regardless of church membership. We recommend the establishment of a broad, progressive recreational and social program which will supplement the spiritual work of the church in the community. Therefore, the Committee on Policy recommends a more liberal program, including, under church supervision, such activities as square and social dancing, ping-pong, volley ball, audio-visual aids and other such activities within a wholesome atmosphere.”

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

By Mike Hatton and George Urick, Co-Chairmen

As the activity level for all of us at Emmanuel is increased during the Christmas season of Advent, a decision was made that the Worship Committee would not meet in December. However, all members remain in touch with Rev. Mejia and each other on an as needed basis.

A quick reminder to everyone reading the Lamplighter about a new time change coming up soon: Traditional worship service NEW time to start will be at 11:15 a.m. beginning January 3rd, 2010. Sunday School classes will meet from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Advertisement in the Beltsville News also reflects this time change, so that everyone in the community readership is being informed.

Individual and family Advent wreaths seem to have been a big hit at Emmanuel this year. If you don't have one yet, it's not too late to pick up materials in the narthex to make one. Also, pick up an Advent calendar of devotions for 2009. Enjoy reading from the booklet all of the daily selections. They are very uplifting to the spirit and do help to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Members of the Worship Committee wish to thank the congregation for its continued support in 2009. May you and your families all have a blessed Christmas Season with much hope for the New Year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Todd Reitzel

For the New Year, the Sunday School teachers share below what their classes have been doing and what they will do in the New Year. Come join us soon!

PreK through 1st grade. Our fall lessons began with Joseph receiving a beautiful coat from his father Jacob and how this impacted his life with God. As Moses led the Israelites from Egypt to Jericho, our class traveled with them learning about their struggles and how God was always with them during the long journey. Winter will teach the children about Jesus' life from birth into his adult life. We will also begin learning the Lord's Prayer. --*Linda Hiner*

2-5 grade. The 2nd through 5th grade class has been well attended with eight students enrolled, and an average of six in attendance each week. This is a new class that began in September with Miss Scarlet as teacher and Miss Crystal as her assistant. We welcome Crystal Webb who joined the Sunday School Department last summer. Crystal brings much enthusiasm and many new ideas to use in the classroom. The students have been very busy learning about Joseph, Moses, Isaiah, and the coming of Jesus. --*Scarlet Robertson*

6-8 grade. We have been studying the strength of good friendships. We started with Ruth and Naomi. Difficulties in friendships such as negative behaviors were discussed. We have been using our student journals. We have been praying for our families, friends, and neighbors. --*Debbie McNitt*

9-12 grade. Learn more about Jesus and the Bible as we explore topics using the weekly scripture readings and other topics chosen by our class. --*Patrick and Sarah Elliott*

Adult Study: 1 Corinthians through Ephesians. What does the bible say? What does this passage mean? How does the Scripture relate to my life? The adult bible class welcomes you as we are embarking on a journey that will strengthen your understanding and appreciation of the Bible. We are studying Corinthians and will continue Paul's letters (Epistles) to the Galatians and Ephesians...what a wonderful New Year's, resolution! --*Jane Grays*

Adult Study: Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith. By means of a nonlinear journey through the Bible, we have been rediscovering the parts of the Holy Trinity, the unique characteristics of Jesus, and the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the New Year we will move forward learning how to live better in faith and in service.

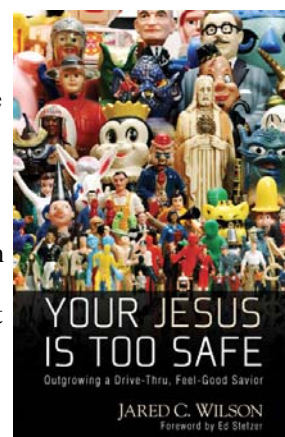
WORKING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“YOUR JESUS IS TOO SAFE”

Cutting through the glossy, modern perceptions of Jesus, Jared C. Wilson returns to the Gospels for twelve raw, realistic portraits of Christ in this revolutionary book. Your Jesus Is Too Safe offers a clear image of the historical figure of Christ in his biblical and cultural context. Ideal for readers dissatisfied with the “Buddy Jesus” that has pervaded the evangelical landscape, Your Jesus is too Safe provides a devotional, inspirational survey of Christ and his kingdom with a conversational style, humor, and solid theological foundation.

Join us Thursday nights 7:00 p.m. at the parsonage, 11305 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, Md.

If you are interested in joining us contact Pastor Daniel Mejia at dmejia3686@aol.com



CHURCH COUNCIL

By Charlie Deegan, Chairman

The New Year is upon us. Emmanuel made it through 2009 in remarkable shape considering the economy. While 2010 doesn't look much better for our country and community financially, we continue to pray and hope for better days ahead. Spiritually our church family is doing very well. Our ministries are growing as well as our membership. We pray that our good works continue to grow. However, we are very close to ending 2009 in a fiscal deficit and unlike the federal government we can't just print more money. Now don't get me wrong - the lights aren't in danger of going out. But we do need to be ever vigilant of our spending habits. While everything we do as a church family seems necessary, the reality of the dollar has to be considered.

The Church Council set forth an ambitious budget for 2010. But the number of pledge cards that have been turned in is down from last year. This is not a good way to start the year. At our next Church Council meeting we must decide to either cut our budget or find a way to raise some dollars. Deciding whether to cut programs (and if so, by how much) is never easy, but it is particularly difficult if we don't know how much money we can expect to have coming in. That's why receiving pledge cards from our members is so important. So I am asking that you look into your heart and return a pledge card for 2010 ASAP. Now remember, nobody will ever say a word to you if you are unable to keep your pledge or if you give more than your pledge amount. As a matter of fact, no one but the Financial Secretary will even know how much you pledge/give. But that little pledge card will go a long way toward helping your church leadership plan this year's events. So please, turn in a pledge card with the amount you think you will give this year, if you haven't already done so. That will give the Financial Secretary an estimate of the amount Emmanuel can expect to receive. The Council will take it from there.

On a related subject, Todd Reitzel has served as both Financial Secretary and Sunday School Superintendent at Emmanuel for the past year. Given the amount of time Todd has been devoting to the Sunday School, he has asked to be relieved as

Financial Secretary in 2010. So we need a volunteer for that job. It requires a detail-oriented person who can spare about an hour a week to record the contributions, plus a couple of hours every three months to print and mail the quarterly statements. The good news is that a computer program is already set up, so the hard work has been done for you!

If detailed computer work is not your thing, I have one other volunteer job open that should be very rewarding. The congregation now worshipping at Emmanuel United Methodist Church will be 175 years old in 2011! We need someone to head up our 175th Anniversary Committee. Ways to observe this auspicious occasion are limited only by our imaginations, so here's a great opportunity for a creative team leader. The Chairman of the 175th Anniversary Committee will have a lot of help from every member of the Church Council. We just need someone to guide observation of this very special occasion throughout the year.

As you see, there are a number of ways to serve God and our church besides giving money. Giving your time is just as valuable. If you are interested in serving as Financial Secretary or in leading or serving on the 175th Anniversary Committee, give me a call at 301-937-7070.

FINANCE

By Bill Raulin, Finance Chairman

Christmas is over and we are all back to normal. I need you to get back to writing check amounts on envelopes. As usual, your name isn't necessary as the financial secretary only uses the envelope numbers. We handle over 100 envelopes a week and if yours slips through blank, you will not get the credit. It is very difficult to track a month or more later, but we will take your word for it

When making donations for causes other than your pledge or offering, please either put it in a separate envelope marked for the cause (such as flowers, ESOL, Family Life, etc.) or be sure the check is marked clearly so we can post it to the proper ministry and keep your statement listed correctly.

Thank you for another year of doing God's work.

COMMUNITY PLACE CAFÉ

By Ann Rowland

If you had stopped by the church during the evening of December 4th you would have been greeted by the aroma of chocolate chip, sugar and peanut butter cookies baking in the kitchen ovens. Attending these yummy treats were the ten members of Girl Scout Troop 4129 accompanied by their leader, Debbie Mast. Most of these 9th grade girls (and two 8th graders) have been meeting every other week at Emmanuel for the last four to five years with Ms. Mast as their leader.

At this level, Ms. Mast said, "It is a girl run Troop." They set up their calendar and always include a service project. This year they chose to bake cookies for the church's ministry at Community Place Café (CPC) at First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville where we serve 75 - 100 homeless, working poor and jobless individuals a hot nutritious lunch once a month. When asked what this project meant to the girls, Ms. Mast said "they felt privileged to be asked to do something for the less fortunate." The very fact that all ten of the girls came out to participate in the service project speaks volumes of their enthusiasm for service to others.



While we serve cake baked by Emmanuel volunteers each month, the cookies were an extra treat that they could take with them to satisfy their sweet tooth at a later time. The recipients of the program at CPC were grateful for the special treats and especially thankful that a group of Girl Scouts would take the time to do something for them. It's refreshing to know that girls at this age place such a high value on service to others. If you would like to join us in helping the homeless at CPC by cooking, serving or baking a cake please call Elsie Cline at 301-937-6024 or Ann Rowland at 301-572-5250.

FAITHFUL READERS BOOK CLUB

Our meeting this month is Saturday, January 23rd, 2010. We meet 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the education building. We're discussing *The Shack*, by Wm. Paul Young. Please think of a part of the book you'd like to talk about. Pastor Daniel mentioned that he might be able to join us this time! Please come join us and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck



FOOD CLOSET

“T” was the month after Christmas and all through the church, activities continued, yet for food, people searched.

Alas! The food closet, its shelves all but bare, is waiting for cans now, as many as can be spared.

So, here's hoping our members bring a can one day, for each month's collection to keep hunger at bay!”



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Debbie McNitt, UMW President

THANK YOU ALL! Once again, your efforts helped raise about \$1600 for UMW Mission programs. Everything was sensational! I think everything went smoothly. We had 9 crafters, 5 kinds of apples for purchase, apple butter, attic treasures, a quick pick up of leftovers from AmVets and a steady turnout all day. There were so many other festivals that day, I was a little worried. You all make me so proud! May God Bless All Your Efforts.

ANGEL TREE

By Becky Cavallo

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Angel Tree Project this year. All of the gifts have been delivered and the recipients were very appreciative of the generosity of our congregation. There is a card on the bulletin board from one family thanking everyone. God bless you all.

TEEN CLUB

The January 2010 Teen Club will be in Friday, January 8, due to the New Year's holiday. Remember, bring a friend and get a prize! Teen Club is open to middle school and high school students and they do not have to be members of Emmanuel to attend.

TRUSTEES

By John Stewart, Chairman



Some wonder about the van parked in the back of the parking lot. It belongs to a neighbor who has permission to park there.

The Trustees have a snow removal contract in place. The parking lot will be plowed when it snows more than two inches. If there is ice on the steps, there is ice melt in the boiler room. If conditions show ice is likely, the snow melt will be placed next to the front door.

For those that use rooms in the Education building. When you leave the room, turn the thermostat down all the way. **DO NOT TURN THE HEAT OFF.** The thermostat needs to stay on heat so the rooms will not freeze. If you have unlocked doors, in classrooms or doors to the building, please relock them. Do not unlock any emergency exit door. Some of these have been found unlocked after a week or more.

HOMELESS MINISTRY

By Sarah M. Elliott

The Homeless Ministry has been incredibly blessed in 2009! God was quite busy working through the membership of our congregation, and many others. This year, our congregation surpassed our own abilities in serving our homeless brothers and sisters in Christ. Over the course of the year we served over 1,600 people, providing the most basic of necessities to many of them, including meals, toiletry kits, socks, shoes, pants, shirts, blankets and warm weather necessities.

I know many of you have not had the opportunity to go to D.C. and serve the meals to the individuals, so please let me share some of that experience with you now. One of our dearest friends on the route is Jesse, called Mr. Thank You by many of us. Jesse never hesitates to show appreciation for the small comforts that are offered, even when nothing we have meets his particular needs. Despite hearing the appreciation from Jesse every trip, It wasn't until I encountered Jesse recently in another segment of life that I realized exactly how warm hearted our friend truly is. While waiting on a D.C. street for a tow truck, Jesse happened to come by. On this slightly chilly evening, on his way to eat the warm meal in hand, Jesse offered to wait with us till the tow truck arrived to be sure no harm came to us on the "dangerous streets" of D.C. What a tremendous sacrifice this gesture was for Jesse, warm meals are not easy to come by living on the street, yet Jesse was willing to let his meal go cold to insure we were ok. What a warm soul Jesse is, doing as we are reminded in Hebrews 13:16: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (NIV) It is amazing how our homeless friends share themselves with us, just as much as we try to share our own blessings with them.



2010 promises to be a busy year in serving our homeless friends. Certainly God will challenge us with new opportunities to reach out and serve his people. As we continue to build our friendships with those we have been serving, many new faces appear each week. Through the Grace of God and the continued support of the congregation we will attempt to serve our Homeless brethren 12 times this year. Our first trip of the year will be on January 24th.

As noted earlier, distribution is frequently past many of our bedtimes (6: 30 p.m.- 12:00 a.m.), but that doesn't mean you can't help! Other ways to volunteer include: help sort clothing, assist with making lunches, donating clothing and/or food, and volunteering to help with the shopping. But if you find yourself able to go to D.C. and serve the people directly we welcome you to join us. Signup sheets can be found on the bulletin board near the coffee table.

So mark your calendars for our next service opportunity with our Homeless brothers and sisters on January 24th.
Yours in and for Christ

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1. Carrie White
- 5. Mark Walter
- 7. Doris Coe, Katherine Cavallo,
- 8. Michael Baker
- 9. Walt Schlegel
- 11. Jane Grays
- 12. Sabrina Painter
- 14. Hazel Newell
- 21. Mike Berry, Vivian Reio
- 23. Dorothy Manley
- 25. Bonnie Bland, Todd Reitzel
- 26. Bobbie Deegan
- 30. Darlene Norris
- 31. Rick Bergmann,



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14. Nancy & Rick Zerbe
- 31. Maxine & Karl Norris



ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2010 Flower Chart is now available. The chart is located next to the mailbox in the Narthex. Please sign your name next to the day you want flowers. Take a Flower Announcement Form to fill out and put in the office mailbox. The cost is \$25.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Below is a list of guidelines for publicity by each committee or group at Emmanuel:

This is a list of possibilities for you to consider as you communicate your ministry to various target groups. For efforts within the church, you are most welcome to proceed on your own, unless you need help or advice from the Communications Coordinator. The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month preceding the event.

Narthex

Post on bulletin board.

- Use color
- Use images/graphics.
- Use photographs.
- Use large type.

Print flyers and put in half-envelope holder on bulletin board.

Set up an information table in narthex, supply with flyers, and staff around services.

(Prior permission of and coordination with Narthex Committee required.)

Worship

Announce at both worship services.

Put announcement in Sunday bulletin. (Deadline is Wednesday prior.)

Print and include flyers in Sunday bulletin. (Deadline is Wednesday prior.)

Church-wide

Post in parking lot announcement board. Give poster to the office.

Describe in monthly Lamplighter. (Deadline is 15th of prior month.)

Post to the EUMC Yahoo group:

- If you are a Yahoo group member go to eumcbeltsville.
If not, contact Communication Coordinator or someone who is a group member.

Outside EUMC - Provided by the Communication Committee

Put in the Beltsville News:

- Write a news item or article
- Prepare an advertisement. A charge will occur from The Beltsville News.
- Deadline is the 2nd to last Wednesday of the month.

Post on Beltsville.Com. – Contact Alison Sowers through Beltsville.com

Post on an EUMC website.

- Ask Communication Coordinator to update your webpage on the EUMC website. Include instructions, links, and graphics.
- Ask Communication Coordinator to post on EUMC Facebook webpage.

Prepare and distribute flyers via:

- EUMC booth at Beltsville Day
- Literature table at EUMC Summer Festival
- EUMC booth at Beltsville Night Out
- willing local businesses

Put in the Gazette.

- Write a Community Notebook item. (Submit at least 3 weeks before event.)
- Prepare a Community Calendar entry. (Submit at least 3 weeks before event.)
- Prepare an advertisement.

Put in the Calverton Newsletter.

Put in the Pennysaver calendar.

Communications



Prepare 2-sided yard signs for:

- around church grounds (front street, drive, entry points)
- busy local intersections (post less than 7 days before event, due to County laws)

Write an item for Baltimore-Washington conference of the United Methodist Church:

- UM Connection
- E Connection

Post a calendar item to WMAL radio.

Write a press release and distribute to regional newspapers, radio, and/or television:

- Washington Examiner.
- Washington Post.
- Washington Times.
- Hispanic Communications Network.
- Washington Hispanic Inc.
- WMAL radio
- NBC4 television
- WJLA television
- WUSA television
- Fox 5 television
- WETA television
- Maryland Public Television

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2
3 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>Sunday School</i>	4	5	6 6:00 p.m. <i>Maranatha Choir</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Communication Committee-AFR</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Church Council</i>	7 7:00 p.m. <i>Chancel Choir</i>	8 7:00 p.m. <i>Teen Club</i>	9
10 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>Sunday School</i> 2nd <i>Sunday Lunch</i>	11 7:00 p.m. <i>Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group</i> 7:30 p.m. <i>Trus- tees Meeting</i>	12 <i>ESOL Class</i> 7:00 p.m.	13 6:00 p.m. <i>Maranatha Choir</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Worship Committee</i>	14 10:00 a.m. <i>Prayer Fellowship</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Chancel Choir</i>	15 11:00 a.m. <i>Community Place Café</i>	16
17 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>Sunday School</i>	18 12:00 noon <i>Ellen Hoover Circle</i>	19 <i>ESOL Class</i> 7:00 p.m.	20 10:00 a.m. <i>Susanna Wesley Circle</i> 12:00 noon <i>Dorcas Circle</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Maranatha Choir</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Sisters in Spirit</i>	21 7:00 p.m. <i>Chancel Choir</i>	22	23 12:00 noon <i>UMW General Meeting</i>
24 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>Sunday School</i>	25 7:00 p.m. <i>Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group</i>	26 <i>ESOL Class</i> 7:00 p.m.	27 6:00 p.m. <i>Maranatha Choir</i>	28 10:00 a.m. <i>Prayer Fellowship</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Chancel Choir</i>	29	30 8:00 a.m. <i>Men's Breakfast</i>
31 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Worship</i> 10:15 a.m. <i>Sunday School</i>						

EMERGE (Mental Health Ministry)

By Ann Rowland

Last month we wrote about Holiday Blues caused by stress, fatigue and unrealistic expectations but even more prevalent according to Mental Health America are people experiencing post-holiday let down after January 1. This can result from disappointments during the preceding months compounded by the excess fatigue and stress. Mental Health America at www.nmha.org recommends:

Ten Tools to Live your Life Well

1. Connect with others
2. Stay positive
3. Get physically active
4. Help others
5. Get enough sleep
6. Create joy and satisfaction
7. Eat well
8. Take care of your spirit
9. Deal better with hard times
10. Get professional help if you need it

Go to the Mental Health America web site for more information about the Ten Tools. May I suggest that for those of us who haven't made New Year's Resolutions yet, some or most of the Ten Tools would be excellent choices. Wishing you all good Mental Health in 2010. If you need assistance in accessing mental health resources contact Jennie Owens at 301-937-1157 or Elsie Cline at 301-937-6024.



*Please be aware that the second service
At Emmanuel will start at 11:15 a.m.
Starting on January 3, 2010.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!



Address Service Requested

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7114
Web: www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net

