

# The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

November 2013



*Pastor Daniel Mejia*

Halloween night is staring directly at me and it's not blinking. The reason for this uncomfortable staring contest between us is simple; Halloween is almost here and I don't have a Halloween costume to wear. Now, to be perfectly clear, in past years I was able to get away with just showing up in a super hero t-shirt or a cheap mask on Halloween night. But this year I want things to be different. I want to learn the skill(s) of creating a cheap Halloween costume. This is where the Halloween challenge begins for me. Learning a new skill is something that doesn't come easily or naturally to me. I suspect that for some of you it's the same story. Learning how to stitch, cut, paint, and create a Halloween costume will require developing crafts skills that I don't have right now. Yet, don't give up on me. I have two weeks and--most importantly--Michelle will be there to help me, and believe me, she is very resourceful.

In the past few months God has been challenging us to re-learn skills that are fundamental to our Christian faith and growth, such as prayer, Bible reading, worship attendance, service to others, witnessing, and financial giving. All of these spiritual skills and disciplines are key to the healthy development of our congregation. But interestingly enough, from all these spiritual disciplines or skills, the one that I received the most feedback on, as challenging and difficult, is telling others what God has done in our lives. Witnessing to others or evangelism is a practice that we seldom think about and much less practice. As I have shared with you in the past, United Methodist members invite someone to come to worship with them once every thirty-eight years. (Get Their Name: How to Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships)

As I mentioned before, each of us in our own context, struggles with the idea of how to tell others that we are people of faith. We don't want to be obnoxious or judgmental in the way we communicate our faith. We don't want to come across as "holier than thou." We want to respect everybody's personal space, and we feel that talking to them about Jesus will violate that space. And yet, telling others what God is doing in our lives is a fundamental part of our faith and how our church continues to grow and exist.

I recently started a new evangelism journey to put into practice what I preach. This new journey has taken me to the local Starbucks and Panera bread where I bring my computer, my Bible commentaries and preaching books and write my sermon surrounded by coffee and food enthusiasts. I have also begun to use those places as a meeting space. The purpose behind it is not just to enjoy coffee and good food but to give myself the opportunity to meet new people and witness to them about my faith and our church. It's been a slow process but in the past few days I have been able to meet people like Judy who, while I was working on my sermon, felt compelled to ask me what I did for a living. I shared with her that I am a pastor and that I love going to Starbucks to do church work. Judy asked me to pray for her because she recently lost her job and it has been very difficult to find anyone to hire her. Now, when Judy sees me, she updates me on her job search, and because she is loud enough, I believe that now everybody in Laurel Starbucks knows that I am a pastor, and you know what? That is a good thing, a great thing, because I can continue to share my faith in a place where people need God.

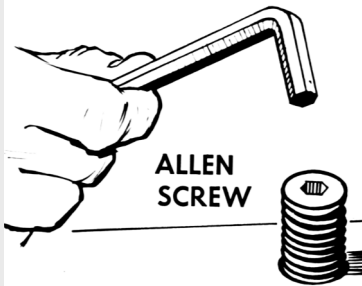
I ask for your prayers as I continue on the new evangelism journey. I will also pray for you so that you too will find new creative ways to share your faith. So don't be surprised if the next time we meet to talk that our meeting will be at Starbucks, and who knows, you too may get to meet Judy.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

## Double Check Entrance Door

### ALLEN WRENCH



There have been several reports that the main glass door to the church has been found unlocked.

Please remember that when you use your key to enter the building, this unlocks the door for your entry only. You must use the Allen wrench, found on the wall near the doors, to unlock it on a semi-permanent basis; i.e., for a meeting where others will be entering. The bar will not move when the Allen wrench is used properly.

When leaving, the Allen wrench must be used again to secure the door. Make sure the bar is all the way out before leaving. At times, this has not been done.

If you have questions, please call Barbara Butcher or the church office.

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Emmanuel

“Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied.” (Mark 6:41-42).

This year Emmanuel plans to start a new Thanksgiving Day tradition by hosting a free community dinner on Thursday, November 28 at 3 pm. In the spirit of thanksgiving and with the love of Jesus Christ, we will open our doors and table to anyone who would like a holiday meal. If you do not have holiday plans, are alone, do not want to cook, cannot cook, are hungry, or just would like to fellowship with others then this meal is for you.



The hosts will cook a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, ham, salad, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, rolls, and pumpkin pie. Guests are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share, but it is not required. Also, if you have plans but would like to send a dish, contributions are welcomed.

If you would like to help with this ministry, we are looking for and will appreciate the following assistance:

*Attend, if your are able*  
*Spread the word and invite your neighbors*  
*Help solicit donations*  
*Send a dish to share, if you cannot attend*  
*Help with the setup and cooking*  
*Help with the clean up*  
*Pray for our success*

Dinner will start at 3 pm in the fellowship hall. If you plan to attend, please RSVP at <http://eumcbeltsville.com/content/community-thanksgiving-2013-rsvp> or by calling 301-937-7114. Please direct any questions or interest to help to [patrick.elliott@emmanuelumcbeltsville.net](mailto:patrick.elliott@emmanuelumcbeltsville.net).

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Methodist Missions Conference of the Deaf

Two key events occurred in Kenya during July 24 – August 10, 2013 – the Kenya Deaf Mission during the first week and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Methodist Missions Conference of the Deaf, the second week. The experience during the mission was awesome and very humbling. At the conference, about 140 participants from several countries had a wonderful time together, using different sign languages among them. Also, touring the safari, a tribal home, weaving co-op and other places could not be missed.

To prepare for the mission, Dan Kenyon, Carrie and Roy White attended 5 planning meetings at Magothy United Methodist Church of the Deaf in Pasadena, Md. and in Orem United Methodist Church in Orem, Md. Carol Stevens from East Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference chaired the meetings. Eight other people from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia also attended the meetings. They prepared two Bible stories that would be done in story telling, drama, and crafts for two Methodist Deaf schools. The participants also brought donated school supplies and sport items as well as money from their home churches. All the items were packed in luggage called “God Bags” as provided by each participant of local churches.

On July 24, we, along with 5 other team members from Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington State, checked in for an overnight stay at Comfort Inn near Dulles Airport for our final planning meeting. We also repacked about 17 God Bags. The next day, the 16-hour flight to Nairobi, Kenya airport included a 2-hour layover transfer at Addis Abba, Ethiopia airport. Two people from Zimbabwe also joined us. Three days before the mission, we stayed at a gated Methodist Guest House in Nairobi the first night (July 26).

The next day, we rode in 3 safari vans for a 4-hour drive north to Meru where Kaaga School for the Deaf and Kaaga Methodist Church were located. On the way, we stopped to visit Giraffe Reserve Center where we petted and fed a giraffe on an elevated platform. After being on the highway for some time, we stopped for lunch at Karibu Trout Tree Restaurant near Nanyuki. The black and white flying monkeys among the trees entertained and amused us. We checked in the Methodist Bio-Intensive Agriculture Training Center in Meru for room and board. All the meals were prepared from their garden and livestock. This center trained Kenyans to become self-sufficient small farmers. We stayed there through August 1 and came back on August 3. This center was within a walking distance to the school and church.

On July 28 (Sunday), we attended a 2-hour morning regular service and an 1½-hour afternoon Deaf service. Many Deaf school children and adults were at the Deaf church where we had a chance to learn to communicate in

**DEAF CONFERENCE**

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The Faithful Readers met to discuss ‘The Key is Love’ by Marie Osmond. Conversation centered around what the title of the book meant in life, loving the season of life you’re in, how faith can help manage depression, and the bond between parent and child. “Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge.” “God is Love.”

We also viewed two interview videos with Marie Osmond and played her hit song from the 70’s, “Paper Roses.” Oh, the memories ...



We’ll meet again in January 2014. Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.

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Kenya Sign Language. It was not that difficult since English is their main language. We simply fingerspelled words to them to find out what their signs were. Later, a group of middle school Deaf children invited us to observe their dance rehearsal at the school. We were very impressed with their performance.

Over the next 4 days, we divided into 2 teams to do a 2-day Bible storytelling and role-playing at each school. While Dan and Carrie's team taught about Moses and the 10 Commandments at Kaaga School for the Deaf with 166 students on Monday and Tuesday, Roy was with the second team teaching the Good Samaritan at Njia Special School in Maua, about a 45-minute drive from Meru. This school has about 140 students of which 93 are Deaf and the rest are mentally challenged and physically disabled. Then on Wednesday and Thursday, the teams switched to other schools. As each team had prepared the lesson for different age groups, some adjustments were made to fit in the school schedules. At both schools, all the children eagerly introduced themselves by fingerspelling their names, signing their name signs and were very enthusiastic being involved in role-playing the Bible lessons. Also at 11 am each day, the teams, teachers, and administrators had a tea time.

Farewell ceremonies were held at both schools on Friday, August 2. Team members presented God Bags, and the schools also gave each team member a gift. Also, each school was given \$3,000 to buy a commercial washing machine. (For years, the housemothers and students have done all their laundry by hand and lay their clothes on stone fence and big rocks to dry.) After getting to know so many of these children and teachers, leaving them was heartbreaking for all of us.

Toward the end of that Friday, we headed to Samburu National Reserve and saw several animals before we settled at Samburu Simba Lodge for the night. Early next morning before breakfast, most of the team members rode in the safari vans to observe more animals like elephants, zebras, cheetahs, lions, giraffes, oryx, impalas, gazelles, ostriches, dik-diks, and many others for an hour and a half. Also, the sunrise was beautiful.

Not long after we left the Samburu National Reserve, we visited and toured one of the Samburu tribal homes (there were about 25 tribes scattered in this area). They are nomads who move every 6 months. We saw their huts, which were built with tree branches, dung, and coverings. Inside the huts, a tribal member explained to us how they live in them. A tribal man showed how to start a fire with wood chips and dried dung. Also tribal men and women, adorned in their colorful beads, danced for us.

On the way back to Meru, we stopped at the equator where a souvenir shop was located. Then we also stopped at Nanyuki Weavers and Spinners co-op that was established by the Presbyterian Church of East Africa for women to earn their living. They gave us a tour that began with wool spinning, cleaning, dyeing, and weaving. Everywhere we went, we passed wagons pulled by oxen, mules, and cows on the road. Also many people walked or rode motorcycles. We saw many leashed goats grazing the ditches. We drove through many towns that had shacks for businesses and housing. There were very few decent shopping malls, which often were surrounded by shacks.

We returned to Methodist Bio-Intensive Agriculture Training Center in Meru on Saturday evening, August 3. The next day, we attended the Deaf church afternoon service at Kaaga Methodist Church. Again, we conversed with many of the same students from the school.

Monday evening, we returned to the Methodist Guest House in Nairobi to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Methodist Missions Conference of the Deaf for the next 4 days through August 9. The theme was "The right time is now, change and believe the good news" Mark 1:15. About 140 people came from America, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Burundi. During every presentation, sign language interpreting of different languages was done simultaneously. For example, as every presentation was voice interpreted in English, the interpreter for each country interprets in his or her native sign language. The participants from each

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country signed their songs for others to follow. Also, we participated in a lot of dancing for fun and workouts.

The program over the next 3 days included reports about education of the Deaf in Kenya and the need for a better Kenya Sign Language training program. Then Deaf Ministry and Mission presentations were made by participants of different countries. Roy White gave a short presentation about the Deaf Fellowship Ministry of Emmanuel United Methodist Church while Dan led the first morning's devotion with a brief sermon and also gave a talk about the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf, of which he is President.

During the afternoon of August 8, there were 2 group tours. Dan and Roy visited the Deaf Opportunity Outreach (DOOR) International just outside of Nairobi. This organization translates the Bible into different sign languages for Africa. They use the Chronological Bible Story method rather than word for word concept so that the Deaf can understand the Bible better. DOOR has studios for video-taping, graphics, and plenty of office space for research. Carrie went with the other group to visit the Mamba Village where they saw many crocodiles of different sizes, and some rode camels.

After the group tours were over, the conference participants went to Carnivore Restaurant for a farewell dinner of game meat that included ostrich, crocodile, wildebeest, chicken, pork, and beef. The next day concluded with closing service and Holy Communion after presentation of reports and a panel discussion on Deaf Missions.

In retrospect, this conference was wonderful in that Deaf people from many different countries shared their stories that may be useful to other Deaf ministries and missions. They had a great time signing songs and praising God together. Every person there was the same; yet different sign languages never prevented them from communicating with each other.

Returning to the States turned out to be challenging, yet God was with our team. The August 9 departure was the first day that Nairobi airport opened, two days after a major fire occurred there. Our team was stuck there for 8 hours; our flight was delayed 4 hours. Thus, we missed our connecting flight at Addis Abba, Ethiopia by 40 minutes. The Ethiopian Airlines provided room and board for us at a nice hotel in the city. We thought we would stay only 1 day but ended up staying 2 days due to miscommunications with the hotel, airlines, and airport staffs.

During our brief stay in Ethiopia, many of the team members took advantage of visiting Holy Trinity Cathedral (an old Ethiopian orthodox church), Haile Selassie Museum, and a ramshackle souvenir shop that sold religious items during the first afternoon. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, a few of us visited a modern Ethiopian Orthodox Church and other places. While at the hotel, some other team members also had fun playing games with a Northstar Church group from Florida. The whole USA team was relieved when we finally returned home on August 12<sup>th</sup> after a long flight.

## United Methodist Women Membership Meeting

Greetings in Christ Sisters! You are cordially invited to our UMW Membership meeting on November 2. We will have a potluck at noon. We will be making thanksgiving decorations for a nursing home! Find out who we are and why we spend our valuable time in this mission organization! New sisters are welcomed guests and are not asked to bring a dish. Peace and Joy.

The United Methodist Women would like to thank you for your generous support of the Apple Festival and Craft Show! We hope you had fun!

Thank you Jo Anne and Beth for everything!



United  
Methodist  
Women

*Debbie McNitt, 301-937-4291.*



**November Birthdays**

- 1 Elisabeth Cavallo
- 2 Chelsea McGlynn, Crystal Webb
- 4 Beverly Huneycutt
- 6 Katie McNealy
- 12 Ruth Cottman, Jaime Hiner,
- 13 Christie Ademiluyi
- 14 Loretta Claye, C. J. Huneycutt, Michael Vaughan
- 16 Bobbie Barkley
- 19 Allan Corman
- 21 Edward Mougey
- 25 Patricia Allen, Sarah Elliott, Claire Wray
- 26 Craig West
- 27 Charlene Frederick, Ginger Butcher
- 28 Olamide Oluwafemi
- 30 Edward White, Jr.



Nov. 12 Suzie Kilbourne and Chris Insley

**Altar Flowers**

- Nov. 3 Danny Webb
- Nov. 10 Loretta Claye
- Nov. 17 Ada McGlynn
- Nov. 24 Carol Clatterbuck
- Dec. 1 Carol Clatterbuck
- Dec. 8 Theresa Timity
- Dec. 15, 22, 29 Open



**POINSETTIA ORDER**

In order to beautify the church during the Christmas season, we are again offer the opportunity for you to purchase poinsettias.

Please use this form to place your order.

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ (Deadline is December 9<sup>th</sup>)

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED: \_\_\_\_\_ PRICE: \$10.00 EACH

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

(Place your order in the offering plate, bring or mail to the church by the deadline above. Please make checks payable to Emmanuel U. M. C. and mark it "Christmas Decoration").

**\*If you ordered more than one color and are leaving one for a shut-in, please let us know what color you are leaving.**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_



# November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 12 noon UMW General Meeting
3 9 & 11:15 am Worship  10:15 am Sunday School  12:30 pm Confirmation Class	4	5 7 pm ESOL	6 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	7 7 pm Chancel Choir	8	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
10 9 & 11:15am Wor- ship 10:15am Sunday School Second Sunday Lunch 12:30 Confirmation Class 1 pm Youth Fellow- ship 1:30 pm – UMW Exec Meeting	11 12:30 pm Beltsville Women's Club 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depres- sion/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting	12 10 am Prayer Fellowship  7 pm ESOL	13 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	14 7 pm Chancel Choir	15 11 am Community Place Café  7 pm Friday Live	16
17 9 & 11:15 am Worship  10:15 am Sunday School	18 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	19 7 pm ESOL Party	20 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 noon Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters in Spirit	21 7 pm Chancel Choir	22	23 Food Prep
24 9 & 11:15 am Wor- ship 10:15 am Sunday School 1 pm Youth Fellowship 1 pm Food Distribution	25 7 pm Church Council  7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	26 10 am Prayer Fellowship  7 pm Thanksgiving Service	27 Church Office Closes at 12 Noon	28 3 pm Community Thanksgiving Dinner 	29 Church Office Closed	30

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