

From the Pastor

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

This may seem like strange timing, but I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped in any way with our Christmas celebrations. Since we didn't have a whole January newsletter, I wasn't able to write my usual thank you article, but I have not forgotten all the people who worked so hard to make our Christmas so special.

I particularly want to thank the children who did such a fabulous job with their Christmas program – it was unbelievably wonderful! Those kids memorized hundreds of lines and performed so beautifully! Thanks to them all and to Susie Smith for her taking on that mammoth project! I also want to thank all the musicians who added so very much to our worship. The choirs, handbell choir, brass, organ – everyone – made such a joyful noise, and made our Christmas Eve particularly joyful!

It takes so many people to make all the things happen in our church that happen, and I am so glad that so many are so willing to share their gifts, talents, time and most of all love. I am blessed to be in ministry with you, and I look forward to all the things that lie ahead for us.

Joy of Faith Weekend

By Bettie Murray

Joy of Faith and the Philadelphia Phillies – sounds like a winning combination! If you have ever wanted the inside scoop about how God has inspired the 2008 World Champions/2009 National League Champions to victory, mark your calendar for the weekend of February 6th and 7th.

Elkton United Methodist Church will be hosting the Joy of Faith weekend with special guest speaker, Richard Sparling, Chaplain for the Philadelphia Phillies. Chaplain Sparling's ministry is directed toward players, coaches, managers and their wives, umpires, front office, and ballpark staff. In addition to serving as chapel leader to the Phillies, he is presently the Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Baseball Chapel, an international ministry recognized by Major and Minor League Baseball and is responsible for the appointment and oversight of all team chapel leaders. Rich has a degree in biblical studies and a masters in sports administration and was ordained in 1981.

The Joy of Faith weekend will begin with prayer breakfasts on Saturday, February 6th, at 9:00 a.m. Sign-ups for the breakfasts will be via the bulletin on

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February 2010

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Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

Proverbs 10:12

Time to Pass the Newsletter Baton!

By Sheila Boulden

It's hard to believe that it's been 3 years since I volunteered to design our monthly newsletter, and this is the first article I've written! I have really enjoyed creating the newsletter but after the May issue, I'll be letting go of this responsibility. I will still be maintaining our church's web site though and hope to unveil an enhanced design as soon as possible.

Since someone needs to take over responsibility for the newsletter, the Communications Committee is encouraging anyone who is interested to contact Rev. Bunnell. The newsletter can be produced with any software that you are comfortable using (Publisher, Quark, InDesign, etc.). It can also be produced as a team effort.

It has been a privilege and an honor to work with both the present and past members of the Communications Committee, the EUMC staff, and the many volunteers who contribute, edit, and proofread articles for the newsletter. I truly appreciate all that you do (especially Rich Juergens for all of the beautiful photos that he sent me to use in the newsletter and on the web site!).

Someone is always willing to step forward to fill a need in our church, and I know it will be no different this time. I hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity!

In Search of Acolytes

Our current acolytes are getting older and are moving on to different responsibilities in our church. Being an acolyte is a great way to become a part of our church family. As an acolyte, you will probably serve about once every 6 weeks and you can choose either the 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service.

You need to be responsible and show up for your scheduled service, or please contact someone to either replace you or switch with you. Rev. Bunnell and the ushers really depend on you to show up so the service runs smoothly. If there is a time when the appointed acolyte doesn't show up, we'd appreciate it if you are at the service to volunteer to fill in. We'd love to have you join our acolyte family. Please call Barb Pinder for the 8:30 a.m. service at (410) 398-5369 or Denise Cimirosi for the 11:00 a.m. service at (410) 920-3181.

Stewardship Campaign Results

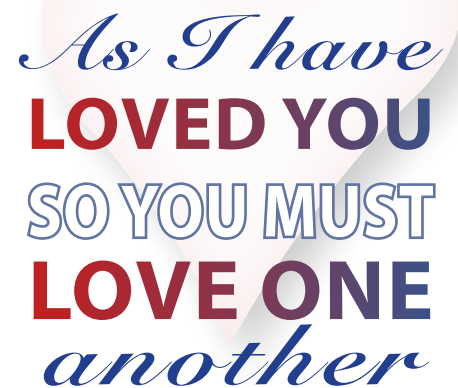
By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

Many, many thanks to all who made a financial pledge to Christ through our church for the year 2010. The Finance Committee is delighted to report that the pledges for 2010 increased from the pledges for 2009! That says so much about the love and commitment of the people of our church! Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support. It enables us to be the Church God has called us to be – a place where people come to know Jesus, be known by Him, and make Him known to others!

Special Offering to Help Haiti Earthquake Victims

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

Thank you for your generous response to the people of Haiti in this time of terrible tragedy following the earthquake that struck their land. If you weren't able to contribute, it's not too late to do so. Simply make your check out to Elkton UMC and write UMCOR or Haiti on the memo line, and put it in the offering plate or send it into the office. Every dollar helps!



As I have
LOVED YOU
SO YOU MUST
LOVE ONE
another

The 2nd Annual Men's Gathering – Real Men Love God!

By Michael Petkewec

Each man often has to take on the role of "Superman" by being a great son, father, husband, employee, volunteer, and last but not least, "a man of God". Men are supposed to do all of this often without showing emotion and to "grin and bear it." But sometimes these roles take a toll and the "S" fades on the man's chest and he needs support and to be renewed! God is there for every man (and woman for that matter), and it is okay to lean on God when needed, and it is also okay for a man to feel love for his God giving him praise and thanksgiving. This relationship with the Lord can be a sustaining source when times are tough.

This year's annual men's gathering will focus on this sustaining relationship. It will be a time and place where "real men love God" and come together for music, fun, relaxation, fellowship, good food, and worship. The gathering will be at Camp Pecometh in Centreville, Maryland, on March 5-7, 2010, with check-in from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. The cost for the weekend-long event is \$75 and includes all meals, activities, and dormitory style accommodations. There are a couple rooms with single beds available in case they are needed, but they went very fast last year!

The event is non-denominational and all Christian men throughout the region are invited. The Core Guidance Team planning the gathering is comprised of members of several area churches and include the Rev. Don Hurst, Dave Pugh, Bob Gilmore, Ed Sprague, Bill Fazio, Mike Noll, Ted Deboda, and Gerry Treese. Churches who are currently working with the Core Guidance Team are Elkton United Methodist Church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Elkton Presbyterian Church, and Providence United Methodist Church.

Registration forms will be available in the church bulletin, on the church web site, and across from Rev. Bunnell's office. Forms may be returned to EUMC, Attention: EUMC Men's Gathering, 219 East Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921, or dropped off at the church office. Please make checks payable to Elkton United Methodist Church. For more information contact Michael Petkewec at (301) 367-8267 or Rev. Don Hurst at EUMC. See you there!

Joy of Faith Weekend

(continued from page 1)

January 24th and January 31st or on the bulletin board in the hospitality hallway.

Saturday evening's festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a catered banquet provided by our own Gerry Treese. Tickets will be sold for the dinner on January 24th and January 31st. The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children, with a \$30 limit for a family. At 7:00 p.m. Chaplain Sparling will share his experiences and insights to the group in the sanctuary.

Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. will again feature Chaplain Sparling as guest preacher. Don't miss this chance to express your joy of faith and your love of sports—a winning combination!

Growth Task Force

By Joe Tanner

On January 11, 2010, the Town Planning Commission gave final approval for the site plan for the new addition. Some recent events will require changes to the parking lot, and there is still civil engineering and architectural work to be done before official packages will be sent out to bid. Preliminary informal estimates for the project from general contractors are providing numbers that are 15% to 20% higher than our original estimates. We will be working to determine how we can get the higher cost items back in line with the original planning numbers. We are also investigating financing options.

Music Ministries

*By Sharon Williams,
Coordinator of Music Ministries*

Thanks to all the musicians who participated in our Christmas Eve services – the children's choir, the senior choir, the bell choir, soloist and brass. Every one of you did a fabulous job!

If you think you may be interested in joining any of our choirs, check the church calendar or Sunday bulletin for dates and times of rehearsals or contact me at (410) 392-3242. We are always looking for new people to be a part of our music program.

MISSIONS OUTREACH

"He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy." PROVERBS 14:21

Did You Know...

...Nadine Allen, Kelly Biles, Betty Boudrow, Margie Campbell, Jane Cebula, Glenna DeRose, Irene Dunlap, Mary Mannering, Jim Melvin, Helen Meyers, Doris Stanton and Doris Walton connect with our members and friends who otherwise might not be able to stay in relationship with our church.

...their connections are made by phoning, sending notes, and visiting home-bound, hospitalized, nursing homes and transitionally impaired members and friends.

...they help and pray for one another and their care receivers at regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

...you may get more information, volunteer or make suggestions of members and friends needing to stay connected to our church by contacting Rev. Don Hurst, who ministers with this devoted team of EUMC's telecare ministers.

From the United Methodist Women

By Nancy Stubbs

Thank you so much everyone who participated in the following UMW activities:

Operation Christmas Child: We delivered 15 from Ruth-Sarah Circle, 6 from Dorcas Circle and 23 more from other church members for a total of 44 shoeboxes from EUMC. Nearly 8 million shoe box gifts were distributed to children in over 100 countries.

Fall Fellowship Breakfast: We served 97 church members and their families. We also say a big thank-you to Gerry Treese for running the kitchen and adding omelets to this year's menu.

Cookie Walk: Thanks to those who volunteered and baked 355 dozen or 4,260 cookies, thanks to all who helped us with Friday evening set-up and Saturday's sale, and a big thank you to each of you who came out and bought the cookies!

Mitten Tree: Everyone who donated warm gloves, scarves and hats, contributed to the Help Center's goal to make people right here in Elkton a little warmer this winter.



Housecleaning for Cancer Patients

CLEANING FOR A REASON is a newly formed non-profit organization that partners with area cleaning services to offer free professional housecleaning and maid services to improve the lives of women undergoing treatment **for any type of cancer**. While there are no cleaning partners currently listed for the Elkton area, Newark and Wilmington are included.

For additional information, visit [www.cleaningforareason.org/] and pass this information along to other women.

Blood pressure screenings



Available on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the parish nurse office!

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

will be available for purchase after each worship service on the **second Sunday** of each month:

February 14th

YOUTH GROUP YOUNG ADULTS

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." PSALM 25:5

Youth Group News

By Sandy Wherry

The youth group wishes to thank all the adults who made the Youth Rally possible: Cindy and John Fetterolf, Sandy Lavelle, Veronica Marshall and Terri Lokey. I also want to thank the young adults who helped with the music and discussions: Amanda and Andrew Fetterolf, Peter Lokey, Brett Pinder, and Bek Wherry. We had one of the best years in Ocean City! Ask the youth about Justin Lookadoo, our speaker with ADD; Joe Castillo, the interpretive scripture sand artist; the music with Group 1 Crew and Starfield; and Bishop Violet Fisher's fiery remarks on Sunday (she was just powerful!). If you haven't joined the youth group yet, come out and join us on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Young Adult News

By Sandy Wherry

Everyone, couples, single or married, between the ages of 19 and 40 is invited to enjoy a catered dinner we've called "The Wedding Feast" on Friday, February 12th, at 6:00 p.m. This will be our third year, so come and be our guests, relax and enjoy some time alone with your "honey." This year, as in the past, we will have dinner as well as babysitters for the children. Just sign up on the sheet outside Rev. Bunnell's office, so we'll know how much to prepare. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Youth Bells

By Deb Ingram

Due to lack of enough sign-ups, the youth bell choirs will not be formed this spring. Our apologies to those who expressed interest; we will try again in a future year!



GUESS WHO!

This compassionate spokesperson warms the hearts of the homeless.

(answer on page 6)

Baptisms

We welcome our newest baptized friends into the Universal Body of Christ!

Upcoming baptism dates

March 14th

April 18th

May 9th (Mother's Day)

June 20th (Father's Day)

To schedule a baptism, call Rev. Bunnell at (410) 398-0933.



On the 1st Sunday of each month, the Missions Committee will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Help Center. Please bring donations to the welcome center area on **February 7th**!

Anyone who donated cookies for the UMW Cookie Walk can pick up their containers in the church kitchen!

Boy Scout Sunday

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

We will celebrate Boy Scout Sunday on February 21st as members of our Boy Scout Troop 443 and Cub Pack 443 help lead in worship as readers, ushers and greeters. They'll also be offering their annual pancake breakfast, so come early and enjoy! We're delighted to be partners with these great Scouts and look forward each year to hearing from them and welcoming them as they come to share with us.

Lenten Lunch and Learn

Rev. Bunnell will again offer a Lenten Lunch and Learn class during the season of Lent. The first class will take place on Wednesday, February 24th, in Weldin Hall from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. You're invited to bring a bag lunch (beverages and desserts will be provided). The class will run for five weeks, each Wednesday at noon. A sign-up sheet will be on the table across from Rev. Bunnell's office.

Lent Begins on February 17th

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Lent marks the journey of Jesus to the cross at Calvary. It is a time of contemplation and reflection, and we'll mark the first day of the season with our Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Come for this service of prayer, ashes and communion – begin your journey through Lent in worship.

Rotating Homeless Shelter

By Terri Lokey

During the week of January 18th, EUMC once again hosted the Rotating Homeless Shelter. We housed and fed an average of 25 men, women and one child each night for a week at the First Assembly of God. A huge thank-you goes out to Faye Camors, who took the lead as site supervisor, and the many, many volunteers who provided meals, food and paper good donations, and spent time with the homeless during the week. Bonds of friendship are formed during this week, and many games of Nertz, chess, and dominos are played. There are still many ways to support the homeless and the work of Meeting Ground. Volunteers and cereal and milk donations are always welcome for breakfasts during the week at the Mary Randall Center. See Terri Lokey if you want more information.

Solution to Cryptogram

(from back page)

"So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her."

Genesis 29:20

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

(from back page)

L	P	X	Y	H	S	I	F	L	E	S	N	U	Y	T
U	R	E	L	B	M	U	H	C	C	U	H	U	L	R
F	O	L	K	G	N	I	V	O	L	O	L	J	D	U
T	T	H	A	L	W	D	B	M	U	Y	Q	Z	N	S
C	E	O	V	I	N	J	S	P	I	O	B	C	E	T
E	C	P	Q	I	C	S	F	A	J	J	O	M	I	I
P	T	E	K	D	E	I	U	S	U	N	E	F	R	N
S	I	F	Z	L	D	Q	F	S	D	M	Q	D	F	G
E	V	U	F	C	H	A	R	I	T	A	B	L	E	N
R	E	L	T	X	I	O	T	O	R	I	Y	D	J	I
N	E	W	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	C	Z	B	V	V
S	D	C	K	Z	O	E	P	A	I	L	A	N	N	I
W	X	H	O	N	E	S	T	T	Y	C	X	S	C	G
C	A	K	A	W	C	I	M	E	R	C	I	F	U	L
R	O	L	E	C	N	A	R	E	V	E	S	R	E	P

"Guess Who" Answer



The little heart warmer is Terri Lokey!

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

“Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.” 1 PETER 3:8

Change in Communion Dates

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

Because of a few scheduling conflicts, the date communion is celebrated will change occasionally over the next few months. In February, we'll celebrate communion on the second Sunday of the month, February 14th, (since the first Sunday is part of the Joy of Faith weekend). In April, we'll have communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, in commemoration of the Last Supper, and we will not have communion on the first Sunday of April, which is Easter.

“Unsung Heroes” to Be Recognized

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

The Stewardship Committee invites you to make a special effort to be present in worship on Sunday, February 14th, as it is the day we will celebrate some “unsung heroes” in our midst. We've been doing this for several years now, and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize those who go above and beyond the call of duty in Christian love and service. Many thanks to all who submitted names for our consideration! Come and see who this year's unsung heroes are on Valentine's Day in worship!

Pre-Retirees and Retirees Class

By Rev. Don Hurst, Associate Pastor of Visitation Ministries

Pre-retirees and retirees interested in dealing with the challenges of growing older in positive, meaningful, helpful, and even exciting ways are encouraged to sign up to attend “10 Gospel Promises for Later Life” led by Don Hurst on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon from February 4th through April 15th (no session on Maundy Thursday, April 1st). You may sign up across the hall from Rev. Bunnell's office.

Plate Dates

By Andee McKenica

Our next plate date will be learning to make pasta and Italian wedding soup with Rick Ceresini on Saturday, February 13th at McKenica's (183 W. Branch Circle, North East MD). Preparation will need to get started in the afternoon. We'll get in touch with you before the class for definite times. We'll be making a complete dinner for \$10 per plate. Please join us for Rick's secret family recipes! Look for the sign-up sheet across from Karen's office.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

By Rev. George Leathrum

We are now in the dead of winter, but spring is coming and the days are getting longer. Be sure to set the alarm on the third Wednesday of the month to arrive at 6:30 a.m. at the Elkton Diner to enjoy breakfast and conversation with other men of the church. After a time for devotions and fellowship, we are on our way by 7:30 a.m. See you there.

February 17	April 21
March 17	May 19

Classic Christians

By Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

This month's Classic Christians' (50+) meeting is on a different date than usual (due to a lack of space on their regular meeting night!). They will meet on Friday, February 26th, at 6:30 p.m. in Weldin Hall for a potluck dinner and movie night. The movie will be “Bucket List.” A sign-up sheet is on the table across from Rev. Bunnell's office.



“A place to know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others.”

Elkton United Methodist Church
 219 East Main Street
 Elkton, MD 21921

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CONTACT INFORMATION

219 East Main Street
 Elkton, MD 21921
 (410) 398-0933
 Email: eumc@comcast.net
 Web site: www.elktonumc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m. - Noon

SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES)

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

8:00 a.m. - Noon
 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. - Noon

WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Room 1)

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor Karen F. Bunnell
 Associate Pastor of
 Visitation Ministries Don Hurst
 Children & Education
 Ministries Director Melinda Grablis
 Youth & Young Adults
 Ministries Director Sandy Wherry
 Organist/Coordinator of
 Music Ministries Sharon Williams
 Adult Choir Director Steven Gilmore
 Adult Handbell Director Paul Deemer
 Children/Youth
 Handbell Director Deb Ingram
 Children’s Choir Director . . . Nicole Stauffer
 Nursery Care
 Professionals Mary Ann Schmidt
 Yolanda Gomez
 Treasurer William Vassalotti
 Secretary Kay Mortimer
 Sexton Donald Ewing

CHRISTIAN LOVE

(solution is on page 6)

CHARITABLE
 COMPASSIONATE
 FRIENDLY
 GIVING
 HONEST
 HOPEFUL
 HUMBLE
 JOYOUS
 KIND
 LOVING
 MERCIFUL
 PATIENT
 PERSEVERANCE
 PROTECTIVE
 RESPECTFUL
 SACRIFICIAL
 SELFLESS
 TRUSTING
 UNCONDITIONAL
 UNSELFISH

L	P	X	Y	H	S	I	F	L	E	S	N	U	Y	T
U	R	E	L	B	M	U	H	C	C	U	H	U	L	R
F	O	L	K	G	N	I	V	O	L	O	L	J	D	U
T	T	H	A	L	W	D	B	M	U	Y	Q	Z	N	S
C	E	O	V	I	N	J	S	P	I	O	B	C	E	T
E	C	P	Q	I	C	S	F	A	J	J	O	M	I	I
P	T	E	K	D	E	I	U	S	U	N	E	F	R	N
S	I	F	Z	L	D	Q	F	S	D	M	Q	D	F	G
E	V	U	F	C	H	A	R	I	T	A	B	L	E	N
R	E	L	T	X	I	O	T	O	R	I	Y	D	J	I
N	E	W	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	C	Z	B	V	V
S	D	C	K	Z	O	E	P	A	I	L	A	N	N	I
W	X	H	O	N	E	S	T	T	Y	C	X	S	C	G
C	A	K	A	W	C	I	M	E	R	C	I	F	U	L
R	O	L	E	C	N	A	R	E	V	E	S	R	E	P

Bible Verse Cryptogram

(solution is on page 6)

“DS BRGSH DXLT XI DXTXY ZXRLD AS QXA LRG PXJ, HMA
 APXZ DXXWXI JFEX SYJZ R VXO IRZD AS PFW HXGRMDX
 SV PFD JSTX VSL PXL.”