From the Pastor

Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

It's always exciting to stand at the beginning of a brand new year with all its possibilities and opportunities! I always feel like, no matter what happened the year before, you get a fresh start when the calendar turns to January 1st! As I look over my 2018 calendar, I see that it's already chocked full of great things ahead for the church. There will be new studies, new missions, new trips, new fellowship opportunities. But more important than all that, each day will be a brand new opportunity for each of us to grow closer to Jesus and stronger in our faith!

Scripture says, "New every morning are your mercies, O God," and that is so true. Every day God blesses us with his love, mercy and grace – and so much more! May we spend this new year responding to those gifts with ever-increasing faith and love for the One who loved us so much he sent His Son for us and our salvation!

I'm so blessed to be on the journey of faith with you, and look forward to seeing how God will work in us and through us in 2018!

January 2018

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MISSIONS OUTREACH

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

Missions News

Submitted by Joe Tanner, Chair

Jesus said: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples"

As of the writing of this Newsletter Article on December 14, 2017 our major winter mission, The Homeless Winter Shelter, has been cancelled. There was not enough support from the other churches in the area to provide the volunteers to run the shelter this winter so Meeting Ground had to cancel the program at least for this winter. No alternative, if there is to be one, has yet been announced. We are confident that EUMC would have been able to provide volunteers for its week but even we stepped down from doing two weeks to doing only one week due to lack of volunteers.

As we begin a new year, however, we are looking at a strong missions program. In addition to the financial support we provide for programs in Elkton, Cecil County, and actually around the world and all of our active programs listed in the December Newsletter, we are looking at some new things too. At our December meeting we discussed the possibility of active mission support for Houston and Puerto Rico in light of the hurricane devastation and we will look into the possibility of helping in those areas. We will again look at doing the "Flood Buckets" that were so successful and helpful in 2016. Still on our list is a mission trip to southern West Virginia to help with the flood cleanup from the flooding there in 2015. We will continue to show our love of God and our brothers and sisters locally and around the world by helping them however and where ever we can.

EUMC is a missions loving church!!

Missons Fiances:

Year to date at the end of November, Missions income was \$59,087 which was \$14,043 more than last year (includes added contributions to Costa Rica mission).

Mission expenses year to date at the end of October were \$61,359 which were \$23,682 more than last year (includes Costa Rica mission expenses).

Reflections on EUMC

Rick Ceresini

I joined Elkton United Methodist Church in the mid-1980's after being away from regular church attendance for about a decade. Now, after about 32 years I find myself in a similar situation – moving to a new town and looking for a church once again. The problem is that Elkton UMC is a hard act to follow. With great leadership from our pastor, and amazing leadership from so many gifted lay people as well, EUMC was always a place where a member's voice can be heard, your ideas can be shared, and your skills can be put to good service in the name of the Lord. I'm guessing that kind of a church environment is rarer than we imagine!

Please indulge me as I remember back over 30+ years in a church that really did become family to me. And yes, I'm naming names!

I have seen a few pastors come and go over the years – Dr. Mariotti, Rev. Warner, Gary Moore, Bill Hemphill, Karen Bunnell, George Leathrum, Don Hurst, and Ray Graham to name a few. We have been blessed in one way or another by each of them. I joined the church near the end of Dr. Mariotti's assignment, so I don't have many stories from that era. At that time I was mainly trying to stay out of the limelight (if you can believe that!) I came to service and went home afterward. But that pattern was to end very soon...

On several Sundays I would walk towards the back door only to pass Tom White on my way. He taught an adult Bible class in Room 1 in those days. Each week he would invite me to join the group, and each week I had a reason I had to go...until one Sunday when I didn't have to be anywhere special. Thanks to Tom's gentle and friendly persistence, I started my 30-year career in Sunday School. Sometimes I was a student, sometimes I was a leader, but always there was something to learn from other thoughtful and funny members of each class. I came to value those Sunday School meetings as a very special and precious time. Finally, I handed over the reins of my most recent class to a very capable Dot Elzroth. I can only hope that the group will miss my unique sense of humor, though relief is more likely the reaction I miss that group already!

Soon after Gary Moore came to pastor EUMC he asked if I might consider being chairman of the Administrative Board. He was asking the guy who was trying to blend into the shadows. I must have said no very poorly as I became the chair soon after. I knew nothing about how Methodist churches were organized, hadn't read the Discipline, and had no experience serving on any of our committees. I had no idea what I was doing, but Gary was a great help. I didn't mind asking for help since I assumed he had already asked every other adult member of the congregation before getting to me!

MISSIONS OUTREACH

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

One Sunday morning we were having a congregational meeting between services to talk about a major expenditure – maybe the new roof and steeple. After the 8:30 service Gary dashed into his office to type and print a quick agenda for the meeting that could be handed to folks as they entered. He put me on the agenda as the voice of the Board, and in his hurry listed me as "Rich" Ceresini. As I looked at the paper on the podium I looked out on the crowd and pointed out my name and said it must be a misprint as my mother always told us there are no rich Ceresinis! Thus began my life as a stand-up comic at EUMC. Much to everyone's chagrin, it has lasted all these years! I've elicited more groans from the congregation than can be counted. And I hold every one of them dear!

Somehow the church survived my first leadership role and I went on to serve on many other committees. My favorite role out of all of them was leading the Missions Committee. To say the least, the committee had lost its way. For one thing, it was a committee you got assigned to for life – or at least that's how the members felt. Meeting attendance was terrible and there was no real detectible goal or passion. So the first thing we did was to offer members the option to stay or leave, but with a maximum of 3 years of service being asked of them. Next we invited a variety of people with a variety of interests to join the committee. We also asked that we be able to share ten per cent of the church's budget as gifts through Missions. That took a while, but we got there. Missions work took me to Africa through the generosity of the congregation, it took an exploratory team (including George and Nancy Leathrum) to Kentucky where, among other places, we visited the church we still serve as a missions partner. We invited groups requesting funding to make presentations to the committee to feed our discussions and ultimate decisions. I said all along that being the missions chair is the best job in the church!

Another great passion of mine started in the 90's. Bill Hemphill was the first to lead a Disciple Bible Study at EUMC, and I was lucky to be in his first class of Disciple I. As an educational experience, Disciple Bible Study is probably the richest, deepest, and most lasting learning experience in my Christian walk. I went on to teach Disciple I several times, as well as Disciple II, III, and IV. Each group brought its own sense of understanding to the table, and in every case we learned so much from one another's interpretation of the Scriptures. It's as humbling a teaching experience as one can have. It was during Disciple I learned that I wasn't ever a teacher in those classes – just a leader who kept to the time table! I learned as much as anyone else in the room. And it was in Disciple that members of the congregation went from being friends to being more like family when we got to know one another so well.

Over the years I have been to annual conference, I have preached in this church and several others about missions, I was lay leader and even worship leader. I saw each of these as a way to serve God, and as such took them very seriously. But God has a sense of humor and allowed me to be me in more ways than I care to remember. Like the Sunday when I was reading a Bible passage which I had read from a different translation in preparation. The version at home used the word "crowd," but the Bible in the pulpit used the word "throng." I misread it as "thong," virtually undressing everyone at the sea of Galilee! (There are those who love remembering that story – you know who you are!) Or the time I was reverently reading my pastoral prayer during the service and changed "humility" to "humidity" – but kept on going, right through the chuckles from the congregation and the pastor behind me! I remember dear Bunny Fowler telling me how much she loved it when I was worship leader because she could hear everything I said so clearly. (Apparently, what I said wasn't quite as noteworthy!) Over the years I've done so many memorable things at church. Unfortunately, I don't remember any of the ones that turned out the way they were planned!

On a more serious note, I have to say that I've never been more personally touched and honored as I was with the congregation's acceptance of my coming out and marriage to my wonderful husband. At the open house we had after the wedding, we had no fewer than four Methodist pastors stop by (not bad for a denomination that is still on the fence regarding same-sex marriage), as well as so many members of the congregation. That kind of support and recognition is based on love and compassion that can be so rare in a cynical and divisive world. I'm sure Karen got an earful from those less tolerant of my situation (and I am grateful to her for her amazing support all the way through), but I'm confident in God's love for all his children, and am proud to be claimed by Him in every aspect of my life.

And that brings me to the present. Finding a church like EUMC is impossible! Now that we've moved to Florida permanently, I'm sure I will have to settle for something that's not quite the same. And I have a few more demands than I had in the 80's – I need a church that accepts me as I am, that has great sermons, has caring and compassionate members, and can live with my sense of humor! Maybe I'm setting my sights too high!

But, for now, I have great memories of people, places and events from my years at EUMC. God gave me a cherished gift when he led me through those doors for the first time. I give thanks for my 30-odd years there and for all of you whom I have worked with, studied with, worshipped with, ate with, laughed with, cried with, shared with, and grown in Christ with. Don't ever think this church is ordinary – it is not. It is special in so many ways! Thanks for letting me share those ways with you!

Keep in touch at mrc19701@gmail.com

EDUCATION AND EVENTS

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

Sunday School and Education News

Submitted by Katie Sparks, Director of Children and Education Ministries

Happy New Year!

It's a brand new year and that means time for New Year's Resolutions! How about making your resolution to learn more about the Lord? The education department has the perfect way to help you with this resolution every Sunday morning from 9:45- 10:45am; join a Sunday School class. We offer a variety of classes for every age group and interest and would love to have you join us! Nursery care is available for children who are too young to join a Sunday School class. There will be short term studies held throughout the year during the day and in the evenings so keep an eye on the bulletin, newsletter, and website to see what is being offered (childcare will be available if needed during these classes). If you have a study that you are interested in leading, please see Katie Sparks.

Christmas Pageant

The children did a great job performing the annual Christmas Pageant for a packed house last month. Thank you to all who came out to support them as they performed "Twas the Night Before" and to all the Sunday School teachers for their support during rehearsals.



Acolyte Sign-Ups

If your child is in kindergarten or a higher grade, we would love to have them join the acolyte team! If your child is interested in becoming an important part of the service in this way, please email Katie Sparks for more information. Katharine.gravatt@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

"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 News

Submitted by Sandy Wherry, Director of Youth Ministries

There are a few tickets left for the Youth Rally in Ocean City, MD, on January 5-7, 2018. If interested, please text Sandy at 443-309-0160.

Once we return to our regular schedule after the rally, there will be some changes happening for the winter....stay tuned!

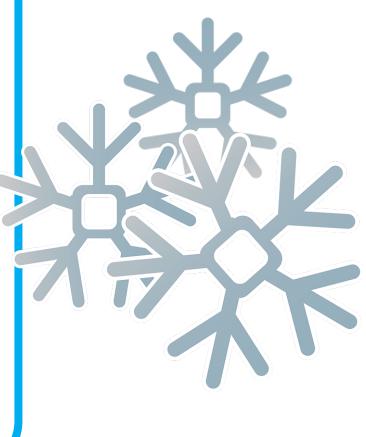
Girls Joining Boy Scouts?

Submitted by Jacob Rubinstein, Cub Scout Pack 443 Committee Chair

You might have heard that a few months ago, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced that they are opening the Cub Scout program (K - 5th grade) to girls starting in 2018 and the Boy Scout program in 2019. Why, you might ask? What about the Girl Scouts? Well, this change is not really related to Girl Scouts, but is in response to lots of families with both sons and daughters. Their daughters have expressed desires to do the things they see their brothers doing. So BSA responded, and now your local Cub Scout Pack 443 is starting to look at how we can incorporate girls into our program.

This is a big change, and it affects you, whether you have a son already in Scouts, a daughter interested in joining, or just the fact that a member of your congregation is involved. There are still a lot of questions yet to be answered, and many details to be figured out. BSA has a lot of information available at: http://www.scoutingnewsroom.org/family-scouting/. But as part of your community, we welcome your questions and feedback. Please contact our committee chair Jacob at cubs.443@gmail.com, or our cubmaster Mike at 443cubmaster@gmail.com with any specific Cub Scout questions or comments you have on this major change.

В Ε Ε Ε F Е Ν 0 S Е 0 0 С Н D D U S 0 Е R Ε С В Ν 0 С 0 Н Ν S В D Е Ν Т E N NWWE CSK **ANTENNA** PINE NEEDLE SPIKE DART **DECIMAL** ANTLER POINTER STICK STAPLE **ARGUMENT FINGER** PYRAMID STAR FISH HOOK **STYLUS ARROW** BACKGAMMON BOARD **FORK** RHINOCEROS HORN **SWORD BALLPEN** ICE PICK ROCKET THORN **BFAK ICICLE SCALPEL** THUMBTACK BIRD TALON 1AVFI IN SCISSORS TOOTHPICK SEWING NEEDLE COMPASS **KNIFE** TRIANGLE CONE SHARK TOOTH TRIDENT NAIL CORKSCREW NOSE SHERIFF'S BADGE VULCAN EAR WOODEN STAKE CRAYON **PENCIL**



CHURCH NEWS

"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7

Finance News

Submitted by Bill Ferringer, Chairman

The financial position of EUMC through November is negative (\$11,880).

Income is down from last year by \$12,568 which is due primarily to Offering Income which is down from last year by \$12,640.

Expenses are down from last year by \$1,143.

Income through November was \$371,376. Offering income was \$346,786. Rental Income was \$17,225. Youth income was \$1,579. Other Income totaled \$5,786.

Total expenses through November were \$383,256. The major components of the expenses are:

- 1. Apportionments and District Office \$48,477
- 2. Pastor and Associate Pastor Expenses \$104,130
- 3. Staff Expenses \$129,033
- 4. Council on Ministry expenses \$23,258
- 5. Utilities \$19,208
- 6. Insurance \$8,959
- 7. Copier Expenses \$10,554
- 8. New Air Conditioner for office \$2,300
- 9. Property Taxes (Rental Property) \$2,518
- 10. Other Building Expenses \$16,013
- 11. Parsonage Expenses \$6,864
- 12. General and office expenses \$11,942

The Building Fund received \$68,367. Total balance on hand is \$192,258. We need a total of \$235,000 plus \$9,400 per year for interest to repay the loans.

As I always say, Elkton United Methodist Church continues to be an exciting place to be and is "A place to know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others." And everyone is important.

Finance News Submitted by Bill Ferringer, Chair		
	NOVEMBER MONTH	NOVEMBER YTD
Income General Ministry & Trustees Operational	31,154	371,376
Expenses General Ministry & Trustees Operational	34,882	383,256
Net Income/(Loss) General Ministry & Trustees Operational	(3,728)	(11,880)

Trustees News

Submitted by Ray Whiteoak, Chair

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank members, Bill Alphin and Tom Williams, whose terms ended in December, for their help in maintaining the church facilities over the last three years. We also welcome new members; Phil Czarnecki, Linda Renshaw and Paul Humphrey who will serve new three-year terms.

Some of the major activities during the month of December were replacing the parking lot door, repairing the lighting in front of the church and obtaining information for repairing the electronic sign at the High Street entrance. Also, the back steps at our rental property were replaced. Next spring the back porch of the rental property will need to be completely replaced.

We are always looking for volunteers to help do some repairs around the church and locate and organize church building documents. If you are interested, please contact a board member.

Attention On-Line Givers!

Don't forget that if you changed the amount you're giving from 2017 to 2018, you'll need to go to the church website, click on the on-line giving site, and follow the directions for changing the amount there. If you don't, Vanco will still follow the directions you gave for 2017. Questions? Call the church office.

Initial Offering

If you use offering envelopes, you'll notice that the first envelope is marked "Initial Offering." This money goes to cover the cost of the offering envelopes themselves. We suggest an offering of \$5.00.

Welcome New Church Treasurer

Laurie Ruth is joining the church staff as our new Church Treasurer. Laurie follows in the footsteps of interim-treasurer Lee Collins, who provided a great transition from long-time treasurer Bill Vassalotti. Laurie recently retired from her years of working at the Tower Hill School in Wilmington. Welcome Laurie – we're glad to have you on board!

On-Line Giving

The first of a new year is a great time to switch to on-line giving. On-line giving is a quick and easy way to give your offering, and it's also very helpful to the church. Your offering comes in on a regular basis, even when worship might be cancelled due to bad weather. To sign-up for on-line giving, go to the church website, elktonumc.org, click on the on-line giving link, and you'll be directed through the sign-up process. Questions? Call the church office.

CHURCHINEWS

"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7

Prayers for New Church Leaders

Please welcome and pray for the following persons who are assuming positions of leadership in our church for the coming year:

Mike Foster, new Chairperson of the Missions Committee

Ellen and Rich Gruebel, new Co-Chairpersons of the Stewardship Committee

Yet to be named – a new Worship Committee Chairperson

Buddy Camors, Anne Humphrey and Marsha Perrine – new at-large members of the Administrative Council

Snow Days

Just a reminder that in the event that we experience bad weather to such an extent that worship needs to be cancelled, the announcement of cancellation will be posted on our church's website (elktonumc.org) and the church's Facebook page. If you do not have computer access, you can call 410-398-4440 for that information as well. Or, if you have a computer but know of friends in the church without computer access, be a good friend, and give that person a call to let them know of the services being cancelled. Let's hope we don't have to worry about any of this this year!

Did you Know our Church Offers Yoga Classes?

Our church offers chair yoga – which is a form of yoga where participants either sit in a chair or stand using a chair for balance. It has all the same benefits of regular yoga, where participants are actually on the floor, but it's easier for those with balance or other medical issues. The next six week session of chair yoga will begin on Wednesday, January 10th at 5 pm. The classes last for one hour, and the cost for the six week session is \$50. To sign up, or for more information, please email the class instructor, Alison McKenica Sprague at a.mckenica@gmail.com. If you're interested, sign up quickly because the class is limited in size to no more than 15 people.

To Your Health!

Just a reminder that, although the following are not activities of our church officially, they do take place in our building, and all are welcome to take part. NARANON is a support group for family members of those battling addiction, and they meet in Room 1 on Tuesday nights at 7 pm. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS is a group for those battling alcohol addiction and they meet in Room 1 on Thursday nights at 8 pm. WEIGHT WATCHERS (which is a paid program) meets in Weldin Hall on Thursdays at 12:30 pm. Finally, the Cecil County Senior Center sponsors a "Shine" dance class in Weldin Hall on Tuesdays from 1-2 pm starting January 16th – there is no cost to participate. You can sign up through the Senior Center. So there are lots of ways taking place right here at EUMC to improve your health and wellness in 2018!

Another Successful Cookie Walk!

Submitted by Dot Eltzroth, UMW Secretary

Friday, December 8, saw a steady stream of bakers bringing fresh, home-baked cookies to Weldin Hall. Thousands of cookies, all colors, all varieties, shapes and sizes – the smell of butter and sugar and spices was heavenly! And then on Saturday morning, cookie shoppers were lined up waiting for the doors to open at 9. More than once a buyer was heard to say, "Gonna need another box!" Even with snowfall arriving at midmorning, there were lots of buyers! And, of course, on Sunday morning, many in the congregation purchased boxed cookies, bringing the 17th annual Cookie Walk event to a close.

Thank you to the many, many bakers; your generous contribution of cookies is phenomenal. Thank you to all the volunteers that worked Friday and Saturday; what an outstanding team. Thank you to all the buyers; your enthusiastic support is wonderful. Together, we created a fun weekend for a lot of folks getting ready to celebrate Christmas.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP

"May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life..." PSALM 128:5



Music Ministries

Submitted by Sharon Williams, Organist/Coordinator of Music Ministries

Thank you to all our talented musicians who helped to make our Advent and Christmas worship services so special. Your time and talent did not go unnoticed.

Playing our new organ for Christmas was the best gift I could have ever imagined. Once again, thank you to all our church family and friends for our organ and for making a dream come true. We are truly blessed.

Happy New Year to all of you!

Holy Communion

Don't forget that Holy Communion is not only offered on the first Sunday of every month during morning worship, but it's also celebrated every Wednesday night in the Chapel at 6:15 pm. All are invited and welcome to take part!

Martin Luther King Program

The pastor and members of Wrights AME Church invite you to attend their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m. in their sanctuary. The church is located on Booth Street (directly behind our church). The MLK program is always wonderful and lively, and it's a great way to celebrate with people from throughout our community.

With Deepest Sympathy

Bill Bedwell
Pauline Eaton
Fay Farley
Mildred "Mickey" McCormick

Advent/Christmas Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who played a part in making our Advent/Christmas celebrations so wonderful!

- -To Krista Gilmore and Anne & Paul Humphrey for beautifully decorating the sanctuary!
- -To all of our Sunday morning personnel the ushers, greeters, acolytes, Welcome Center personnel, hosts/hostesses of hospitality hour, counting team members, hall monitors, nursery volunteers, Knights in Shining Armour you helped make everything run smoothly and made everyone feel welcome!
- -To all who helped lead worship Worship Leaders, Gospel Readers, Communion Stewards and Communion Servers – you added so much to our worship together!
- -To our fabulous musicians, who offered such wonderful, uplifting music and helped us make a joyful noise together! Thanks especially to your leaders Sharon, Steve, Paul and Susan!
- -To the children and youth of our Sunday School who offered us such a wonderful Christmas pageant – and to Katie Sparks and all their leaders who made it happen!
- -To those who wrote the wonderful words for this year's Advent devotional and to Sandy Lavelle for putting it all together you helped lead us faithfully through the season!
- -To all who gave so generously to the many giving opportunities throughout Advent through your giving you touched so many people college students, those without homes, those with incarcerated parents, the Boy Scouts, children in need throughout the world and more thank you!
- -To our wonderful church staff, for whom the season adds a tremendous amount of work – thank you for doing it without complaint and for making everything run smoothly!
- -Finally, to all who attended worship and special events during Advent and Christmas you being here made a difference!

FELLOWSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." II Corinthians

Calling all Men

Don't forget that on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 am the Men's Breakfast takes place at the Elkton Diner on Route 40. All men of the church are invited to take part in this time of food, fellowship and discussion of a new topic every month. No sign-up is necessary, just show up at 6:30 ready to eat breakfast and have fun! The breakfast is usually over in an hour.

Classic Christians' January Meeting

Due to the Women's and Men's Retreats in January, and the fact that so many members of the Classic Christians participate in them, there will be no meeting of the Classic Christians in January. Stay tuned for information about the February meeting, and the calendar for all of 2018. It will be coming to Classic Christians via email soon!

Ruth-Sarah Circle Thank You!!

We thank each of you for your mitten tree donations of warm clothing to the needy children of Cecil County. We delivered 522 hats, gloves, scarves, socks and underwear to the Help Center the first week in December to be distributed to needy families in the Elkton area.

Thank you all for helping us make a warmer winter possible for those in need.

- Betty Budrow and Nancy McCardell, Co-Chairpersons

Thank you for your support of our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!! EUMC delivered 49 shoeboxes for 2017! These shoebox gifts reach more than 12 million children in over 100 countries. Each gift box represents an opportunity for the churches delivering the boxes to share the Gospel and the true meaning of Christmas with the children receiving your gifts and learning that Jesus Christ gives them new hope for the future.

On behalf of children around the world the UMW thanks you again for joining together in this ministry and God Bless each of you.

- Nancy Stubbs, Secretary

On the Road Again!

The Classic Christians will be hitting the road again for a spring bus trip! This year they'll be heading off to the Norfolk VA area for a wonderful few days of events including a massed performance of military bands, a NATO parade of nations, a tour of the Norfolk Naval Base (among other things). Dates of the trip are Thursday, April 26th through Sunday, April 29th. Cost is \$550 person/double occupancy. Flyers about the trip and a sign-up sheet are on the table across from the Welcome Center. Sign up soon if you're interested – this trip is sure to sell out!

Women's Retreat 2018

The annual Women's Retreat is just around the corner! It takes place Friday, January 12th – Sunday, January 14th at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, MD. The theme of this year's retreat is "Ordinary Women/Extraordinary Deeds!" All women who have registered are reminded that you can check into the hotel anytime after 3 pm on Friday the 12th, and the first session begins at 7:30 pm Friday in the ballroom. (Friday night dinner is on your own.)

Evangelism/Membership News

Submitted by Lorraine Dryden Jones, Chair

1Chronicles 16:11-12 Look to the Lord and His strength: seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced. (NIV)

Whew, December was quite a month! With all the things going on at church and gatherings with family and friends, it is truly a busy, wonderful time. Before I go any further, I want to thank everyone who gave so generously of their time and money for all of our events this past year. YOU made them really great. I have a wonderful committee but without all of your support, our events wouldn't mean much. So, THANK YOU ALL for helping us bring God into our community.

Our committee is actively working on our biggest event of the year, the Joy of Faith weekend. As I mentioned last month it will take place February 3rd and 4th. The weekend will start Saturday morning with several prayer breakfasts. We will have two motivational speakers. Kevin Reilly will be our guest speaker Saturday at 7pm in the Sanctuary following our dinner, and Dickie Noles will be our guest speaker at both services Sunday morning. We will again have the dinner in Weldin Hall at 5pm. The tickets for the dinner will be on sale after both services for three weeks prior to the Joy of Faith weekend. We look forward to another great event this year!

January Birthdays

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and ask to seek him in his temple." Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

1/1	Katherine Sparks	1/11	Carol Zervas	1/21	Ted McDowell
1/2	Sandra Lavelle	1/12	Al Bacon	1/21	Joanna Melvin
1/2	Rita Norman	1/12	William Carroll	1/21	Scott Williams
1/3	Lynn Dech	1/12	Anne Humphrey	1/23	MaryAnn Schmidt
1/3	Michael Foster	1/13	Jenna Chambers	1/23	Jonathan Stauffer
1/4	Chuck Keithley	1/13	Sheila Hendricks	1/24	Henrietta Boyce-Egner
1/4	Neta Runyon	1/14	Edward Dalrymple	1/24	Nancy Fetterolf
1/5	Kaitlyn Czarnecki	1/15	• -	1/25	Charlie Campbell
1/7	Betty Budrow	1/15	Anthony Cimorosi	1/27	Autumn Henry
1/7	Ivan Mehosky	1/15	Jennifer Slayman	1/28	Taylor Cimorosi
1/8	Joseph Slayman	1/17	Buddy Camors	1/28	Susan Gifford
1/9	Lea Gochnauer	1/18	Peggy Ann Marking	1/28	Gretchen O'Neal
1/9	Herbert Perry	1/18	Noah Noll	1/29	Michael Strunk
1/10	Nicole Stauffer	1/19	Betty Deibert	1/29	Mary Werner
1/11	Bob Cameron	1/19	Carrie Olewine	1/31	David Miller
1/11	Bobby Heath	1/21	Alan Foskey		
1/10 1/11	Nicole Stauffer Bob Cameron	1/19 1/19	Betty Deibert Carrie Olewine	1/29	Mary Werner

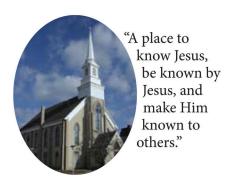
January Anniversaries

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genisis 2:24 (NKJV)

- 1/2 Maynard & Mary Lou Shaw
- 1/21 Robert & Virginia Selner
- 1/26 Kenneth & Rebecca Gilliard
- 1/26 Charles & Alice Holland
- 1/30 David & Sandy Wherry

January	
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Year's Day!	2:30 PM Nursing Home	3 9:00 AM AARP Traning	4 12:30 PM Weight Watchers	S Youth Rally in	6 Youth Rally in
	Office Closed	Visitation (Betty Budrow's Team) 6:30 PM Women's Retreat Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg.	9:00 AM Disciple Class 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6:30 PM Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	Ocean City MD 9:00 AM AARP Training	Ocean City MD
7	∞	6	10	11	12	13
Communion 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	9:00 AM AARP Training 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Evangelism/ Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Communications Committee Meeting 6:30 PM CCCS Board Mtg. 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg. 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal	9:00 AM Disciple Class 10:45 AM Tele-Care Committee Meeting 12:00 PM Ruth-Sarah Circle Meeting 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Cub Scout Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	12:30 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Dorcas Circle 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	Women's Retreat in Ocean City MD 9:00 AM AARP Training	Women's Retreat in Ocean City MD
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Blood Pressure Screenings 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Youth Group	Office Closed – MLK Holiday 9:00 AM AARP Training 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	1:00 PM Shine Dance Class 6:00 PM God & Me Class (Cub Scouts) 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg. 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal	6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 PM AARP Training 9:00 AM Disciple Class 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	12:30 PM Weight Watchers 8:00 PM AA Meeting	Men's Retreat at Camp Pecometh 9:00 AM AARP Training	Men's Retreat at Camp Pecometh
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Youth Group	9:00 AM AARP Training 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	1:00 PM Shine Dance Class 6:00 PM God & Me Class (Cub Scouts) 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg. 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal	9:00 PM AARP Training 9:00 AM Disciple Class 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	12:30 PM Weight Watchers 3:00 PM Meeting Ground Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	9:00 AM AARP Training 5:00-9:00 PM – Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (WH)	8:00 AM-12:00 PM – Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (WH)
28	29	30	31			
8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Youth Group	9:00 AM AARP Training 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	1:00 PM Shine Dance Class 6:00 PM God & Me Class (Cub Scouts) 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg.	9:00 PM AARP Training 9:00 AM Disciple Class 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir			



Elkton United Methodist Church

219 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Senior Pastor......Rev. Karen F. Bunnell Associate Pastor of Visitation Ministries.....Rev. Ray Graham Children & Education Ministries Director.....Katie Sparks Youth Ministries Director.....Sandy Wherry Organist/Coordinator of Music Ministries.....Sharon Williams Adult Choir Director.....Steven Gilmore Adult Handbell Director.....Paul Deemer Children's Choir Director......Susan Starrett **Nursery Care** Professional......Yolanda Gomez Treasurer.....Lee Collins Secretary.....Kay Mortimer Sextons.....Sylvia Honesty & Donna Horgan

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 afternoon 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Contact Information

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

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - Noon 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. <u>Friday</u> 8:00 a.m. - Noon

