



The Circuit Rider

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church



Lenten Observances, 2011

Pancake Supper, March 8, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Our 2011 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be **Tuesday, March 8, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Clyde Draughn will once again be preparing our delicious meal and our ASP team will be serving you. All proceeds will help send our youth on their mission trip this summer. Tickets will be available after church services on February 27 and March 6.

Ash Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Our Lenten season will begin with the traditional service including choral music, congregational prayers and singing, reading and reflection on Holy Scripture, and the Imposition of Ashes. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name.

Wednesday Evening Soup and Prayer



Beginning March 16, each Wednesday between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week (5 Wednesdays) will be a Soup and Salad Supper in Fellowship Hall from 6:00-

6:45 p.m. (provided by UMW Circles) followed by a Prayer Service in the Sanctuary from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

The Wednesday Prayer services will include singing, silence, reading of scripture, lighting candles, and prayers.

Daily Devotional Booklets

Devotional booklets, including daily scripture passage, reflection, and prayers, will be available for your use through the season of Lent. The booklets will be available in the narthex beginning Sunday, March 6.

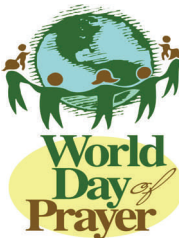
Easter Flowers

Flowers may be ordered beginning March 27 through Sunday, April 17. Watch the April newsletter for additional details.

Holy Week Preview

Palm/Passion Sunday	April 17
Maundy Thursday Worship	April 21
Prayer Vigil	April 21-22
Good Friday Worship	April 22
Easter Celebration	April 24
<i>Sunrise Communion – 6:30 a.m.</i>	
<i>Breakfast – 7:15 a.m.</i>	
<i>Worship – 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.</i>	

World Day of Prayer is March 4



On Friday, March 4, we will be celebrating World Day of Prayer with people around the world. This year's theme is "How many loaves have you?" and is brought to us by the women of Chile. We will have Meditation Stations set up from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We invite you to stop by on your own time table and join us for a time of prayer, reflection and meditation.

March 2011

Volume 48, Issue 2

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Opportunities to Help:

- Little Nursery and Preschool Nursery (Every Sunday)
- Bowie Food Pantry Donations (March 20)



"Lent is a time to reflect on our lives, make a good examination of conscience, draw near to God and ask forgiveness, and renew our commitment to live as God's resurrection people."

Rev. Ginger's Pastoral Ponderings

In a conversation last week with a new acquaintance, I mentioned that I had begun to work on preparations for the Lenten Season. My new friend seemed puzzled and then asked, "What do you have to prepare? What to give up?" For many folks, Lent is all about that question, "What am I giving up?" However, the season is about much more than that. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. Lent is a time to reflect on our lives, make a good examination of conscience, draw near to God and ask forgiveness, and renew our commitment to live as God's resurrection people. As one scholar puts it, "In remembering the mystery of our redemption in Christ through the seasons of Lent and Easter, we are formed in the pattern of his death and resurrection and his life-giving Spirit." (*The New Handbook of the Christian Year*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.)

The lectionary readings for this year draw heavily on stories from the Gospel according to John. The stories are encounter stories—beginning with Jesus' encounter with Satan in the wilderness and continuing with other folks encountering Jesus: Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and the sisters of Lazarus—Mary and Martha. These stories inspired the thematic thread that will be woven throughout our worship life this Lent: *Encounters with Jesus*. Our Sunday worship during the season will include weekly prayers of confession, words of grace, and acts of reconciliation (passing the peace) to begin our service. The Gospel story will be preached each week with the following topics:

- March 13: "Opening Encounter" Matthew 4:1-11
- March 20: "Encountering Jesus in our Questions" John 3:1-17
- March 27: "Encountering Jesus Where We Are" John 4:5-42
- April 3: "Encountering Jesus in the Dark" John 9:1-41
- April 10: "Encountering Jesus in our Grief" John 11:1-45

My hope and prayer is that you will find here at St. Matthew's resources to observe a holy Lent, that you will be supported in your spiritual journey, that you will be given help as you seek to have your own encounter with Jesus, and that you will arrive on Easter morning filled with joy and a deepened sense of the great mystery and gift of Christ because of the journey we have made together throughout Lent. You will find many resources toward these ends in this issue of the *Circuit Rider*. Perhaps, by attending to even one spiritual practice—whether that is participation in a class, a Wednesday prayer service, a daily devotion, or an outreach project—you may come to understand that the practice of "giving something up for Lent" is only one aspect of a true Lenten observance. For those who would like to practice a fast (voluntary abstinence from a particular thing) during the season, I encourage you to remember that fasting is cleansing for both body and spirit, reminds us of our dependence upon God for all things, and places us in solidarity with those who go without every day. As spiritual practices go, it's not a bad one for those who are looking to have an encounter with Jesus...

Blessings to you all as we begin the Lenten journey,
Ginger+



UMW Meetings

An invitation to attend any of the circle meetings is extended to all women. For specific information, please contact Christin Vare.

EXECUTIVE Board: Sunday, February 27, at noon in Fellowship Hall.

AGAPE Circle: Thursday, March 3, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Joanne Haworth. Please read chapter 5 of our study book.

EVENING Circle: will not meet in March – those interested in attending “Empty Bowls” (see article below) will meet in the church parking lot at 5:00 p.m. Please call JoEllen Thompson if you plan to attend and/or are willing to drive.

SUSANNA WESLEY Circle: Wednesday, March 16, at the church. We will host the supper and attend the Lenten Service.

MARTHA Circle: Friday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m. at the church in the Parlor (Room 102). We will discuss Chapter 12 of our study book, *Living Above Worry and Stress*. **Babysitting is available during this circle** – call Linda Harbaugh.

KOINONIA Circle: Monday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the church in the Parlor. **Babysitting is available during this circle.**

Open Invitation to “Empty Bowls”

“Empty Bowls” is an annual fundraiser for S.O.M.E., a non-profit organization that helps feed and clothe the poor and homeless of our nation’s capital. The event will be **Tuesday, March 15, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 3630 Quesada St. NW, DC.

For a \$20 donation, you can select a handmade pottery bowl to fill with soup donated by local businesses. Anyone is welcome to attend. If you want to carpool, call JoEllen Thompson. We will leave St. Matthew's at 5:00 p.m. For more information, go to www.some.org

Used Book Sale April 3 and 10

Don't forget the UMW Used Book Sale on April 3 and April 10 after each service. Bring your good, readable books (including the books you purchased and read last year!) – but please, no textbooks, yellowed paperbacks or old cookbooks. You can leave your books in the coatroom bins any time after March 6. The books you donate are considered non-cash contributions and are tax deductible. The proceeds go toward various UMW mission projects.

See you at the sale on April 3 at 9:30 a.m.



“An invitation to attend any of the circle meetings is extended to all women.”



Donated books can be left in the coatroom after March 6

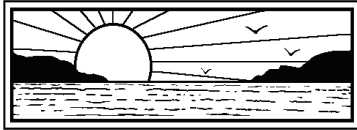
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Articles are due by the 15th of each month. Please e-mail articles to the above address or submit to church office. *Please call to verify our receipt of any faxed or e-mailed articles.*



Shirley's Reflections

"The American Psychological Association has noted that violent games can increase children's aggression."

I Love You, but I Can't Always Give You What You Ask For

I was surprised when I heard on the news today that Miley Cyrus' dad had regrets about some of his parenting. However, I feel for this dad who apparently was wearing blinders and couldn't see the ramifications of his permissive, starlet-grooming parenting style. It is difficult as a parent to always see the situations wherein values we hold aren't being supported by the decisions we make with our offspring.

I am concerned that we parents and grandparents have fallen into the trap of asking our offspring, "What do you want for Christmas?" "What do you want for your birthday?" and then turning ourselves inside-out to fulfill that child's desires. We may take pleasure in giving children things and experiences for which kids plead. We do realize much of what our offspring want is being shaped by television ads and their friends' toys. Kids seem infatuated with the many animated games they can play on their DS, their Wii consoles, and their parents' cell phones. However, many of these games are violent, and the quicker a kid demonstrates violence, the bigger winner that player becomes.

Parents can say not to worry, it's just a game and kids know it's a game. However, it is known by educators and parents that children learn by playing. What are our children learning through these shooting and destructive games? I asked a preschooler who's enthralled with Super Mario, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" He replied, "A boxer." I was surprised and queried why he wanted to be a boxer. "So I can hit people." Much as I dislike boxing because of the permanent damage that can be done to the participants, boxing is tame compared to being a shooter in the Wii game, "Call of Duty." Super Mario is victorious when he's quick to destroy his enemy. The American Psychological Association has noted that violent games can increase children's aggression. According to the National Institute on Media and Family, "Just when teens are wiring the circuits for self-control, responsibility and relationships that they will carry with them into adulthood, violent games activate their anger center while dampening the brain's 'conscience.'" Are we sowing seeds of anger and aggressive behavior when we indulge our children and grandchildren with the violent games they request?

I no longer like to go to Toys R Us in pursuit of a boy's gift. The shelves are packed with play figures and games of violence. The message is that boys (sometimes girls) have fun when they can destroy, shoot, and kill people in their play time. If our kids like action, why not encourage more games of skiing, running, gymnastics, martial arts as well as the popular sports – baseball, basketball, soccer, and lacrosse? It is time for us parents and grandparents to say "no" to the purchase of any game of violence. We can offer our offspring other alternatives than the destructive and violent forms of entertainment that can be purchased. Why should we allow our offspring to watch TV shows that don't support our Christian values? In our church school lessons we are encouraged to play games that demonstrate Christian actions with our students because children learn by playing. But what are we permitting our kids to play at home? I believe we can be more assertive in explaining why we don't purchase violent games, and we can model that amusement time can be fun without being destructive or violent.

– Shirley Klotz Bickel, © 2011



Youth News

– Jen McClurg, Youth Director

Our Middle Schoolers did a fantastic job leading us in service on February 27 and we are so proud of them and their UMYF Counselors who shepherded them through the process! In March, our Middle Schoolers will be hosting a Parent Appreciation night, doing a Spring Sing mission project, and investigating "If the Shoe Fits."

If you are a parent of a seventh grader who did not receive a letter about

confirmation, please contact Jen McClurg at jenmcclurg@gmail.com or 301-262-1408.

Our High Schoolers will be serving our Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 8, and continuing with dinner theater practice. March 27 will be our ASP paperwork night. The High School ASP team would also like to thank you for your support of the Medieval Feast, another one of our ASP fundraisers.



All youth in 6th-12th grade are welcome

ASP Fundraising – THANK YOU!

A big THANK YOU from the youth of St. Matthew's for all of your support as we fundraise for our ASP Summer Mission trip. We are hoping to raise about \$12,000 to fully fund our trip and we couldn't do it without your generous support. So far, we are more than halfway there and we have paid our deposit to hold our spot!

Young Adults Meet for Lunch

All young adults are invited to join us for lunch on **Sunday, March 13**, after the 11:00 service for our Second Sunday gathering! For additional information, contact Jen McClurg at 301-262-1408 or jenmcclurg@gmail.com.

Young Women Invited to Bake

The United Methodist Women cordially invite all middle and high school girls to participate in a cookie baking event at the church on Monday, April 25 (Easter Monday) from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. While baking a variety of cookies to share with their families and others, this promises to be an afternoon of fun and fellowship!

Personal invitations will be made to each girl at St. Matthew's in March. For additional information, please contact Christin Vare.

Mark your calendar for this fun event!

"Cultivating Our Family Faith" Class

"Cultivating Our Family Faith: Helping Our Children Grow" is a Lenten course for parents and grandparents that will meet on Sundays at 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. **beginning March 6 and ending April 3.** What are our children's thoughts about Jesus? the Holy Spirit? the church? death? and prayer? Be sure to come to the first session when you will hear recorded conversations with our church school children about such topics of faith. Ensuing classes will enable us to consider: Do our children grasp what we believe?

Presentation and discussion leader: Shirley Bickel; Meeting place: Room 125.



This Lenten course is designed for parents and grandparents



*Come to the show for a rootin'
tootin' good time!*

“Annie Get Your Gun” Opens 3/18

Before Annie gets her gun – make sure you get your ticket for our next rootin’-tootin’ theatrical offering for you! There’s no business like show business for our Theatre Troupe and we’ve been working hard in preparation for our upcoming show, “Annie Get Your Gun.” We have some great songs rehearsed, so you need to come and see what this is all about.

Show dates are: Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 20, at 3:00 p.m.; Friday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 27, at 3:00 p.m. Ticket prices are still \$5.00 a person ahead of time and \$7.00 at the door.

New Adult Class Begins February 27

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Christian pastor and martyr of World War II, and his book, The Cost of Discipleship, will be the subject of a new adult class beginning Sunday, February 27, at 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., the church school hour.

Leader: Jim Wiedman Room 126.

New Procedures for Altar Flowers

Effective immediately, new envelopes are in use for flower donations. A separate form will be used to submit dedications of altar flowers. Please complete the form and enclose it with your check in the new envelopes. Both the envelope and the form can be found in the narthex.

A Note on Worship During Lent

In a different article in this issue of the Circuit Rider, Reverend Ginger has discussed the fellowship and worship opportunities that will take place on Wednesdays, Sundays and during Holy Week to prepare us for the experience of the Resurrection on Easter morning.

The Worship Committee has decided to try a small change in the way we share our announcements for upcoming events, needs for individuals or the community or any other important news. On Sunday mornings, each of the services will begin with a member of the Worship Committee leading the announcement period. At the conclusion of the announcements, Isaac will begin the Prelude. Announcements will begin promptly at 8:30 and 11:00.

You may make your announcements yourself or, if you wish the leader to make the announcement for you, you may contact Reverend Ginger at the church or Gene Saderholm, Chair of the Worship Committee. The change will begin on the first Sunday in Lent (March 13).

Only announcements will be moved to the beginning of service; joys and concerns, followed by prayer, will continue to be shared during the Worship Service.

– Gene Saderholm, Worship Committee



Please note that the correct email address for Sharon Heidenreich, our Office Administrator, is sharon.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net.



Next Mission Central Trip is March 10

Our next mission trip to Mission Central will be on Thursday, March 10th—Here’s another opportunity for you to join us on a short trip to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA. We need drivers and many volunteers to go and help other volunteers and staff of Mission Central assemble, verify, and pack UMCOR Kits, sort donated clothing, unload the packed truck of supplies, or help them out wherever needed. There’s an easy job for everyone no matter what your age, gender, skill, or strength. Many UMCOR kits and clothing are still badly needed in Haiti. There are also supplies to be sent to disaster sites and missions in the US and other countries. We will meet in the

Church parking lot at 8:30 am; carpool two hours to Mechanicsburg; volunteer until 4:00 pm; and return to Bowie by 6:00 pm. Please call Bob Fuller or e-mail him before Friday, March 4, to obtain more information or to let him know that you can join our wonderful team.

Supplies Needed for Our Mission Central Trip on March 10: Our team of volunteers will be driving up to Mechanicsburg, PA on Thursday, March 10, with a fully loaded truck of badly needed supplies and UMCOR Kits for Haiti and other disaster areas. Items that are needed are listed to the right.

Items Needed at Mission Central:

- Computers, copiers, printers, phones, mice, keyboards, monitors (under 17" diagonal);
- Clothing (in good condition), shoes, and coats;
- Small home use medical equipment (i.e., walkers, crutches, canes, wheelchairs);
- Furniture, kitchen items, small appliances, stereos, books, bicycles, & toys (No TVs).

A True Coffee Achievement

St. Matthew’s will be embarking on a project with the Equal Exchange Coffee and Tea Program, also known as “Fair Trade.” Founded in 1986, Equal Exchange is a worker owned co-operative. The program allows small-scale farmers to be paid Fair Trade prices above the market value for their crops, enabling them to invest in community projects, educational programs and worker training. It also helps the rural communities the farming families live in to thrive. Unlike profit-driven corporations that have created food systems that threaten your health, Equal Exchange is committed to sustainable farming methods that are earth friendly through reforestation, resource conservation and organic practices. Our own Book of Discipline states: “ ...buying ‘Fair Trade Certified’ products is one sure way consumers can use their purchasing power to make a contribution to the common good. The International Standards of Fair Trade are based on ensuring livable wages for small

farmers and their families...consumers should seek out companies who encourage expanded cooperation in the Fair Trade market.” A portion of our purchases will also be donated to UMCOR.

Please visit the Equal Exchange coffee committee in Fellowship Hall following each service on February 27 to find out how you can participate. Until then, if you wish to find out more about Equal Exchange, visit www.equalexchange.coop and www.SmallFarmersBigChange.coop.

– Rick Vare





The Environment Group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Focus on Voluntary Simplicity

Some people think environmentalists believe in living a restricted life, abandoning pleasures, progress, and partying – no we don't! They often think environmentally conscious people look on the dark side of life, stressing pollution, unsafe food, damage to the earth, and destruction of wildlife. Yes, we do. In the 70's I was proud of those showing concern for nature, wanting to rid the earth of pesticides and caring about healthy food. I've always been a tree hugger, sinking into sadness at the sight of new development. But the last few decades have brought the earth to many tipping points. The whole ecosystem is feeling the effects of increased population,

extreme consumerism, overuse of water from poor irrigation and production of meat, air pollution, from burning more and more fossil fuels. Changes needed in the 70's were not too hard to do. What we see now are exponential effects of our rise to live "better" and "have" more.

Silence on the subject plays into the hands of those who wish to take advantage and those who prefer not to be the stewards God intended us to be.

Join us in the series on Voluntary Simplicity – 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in room 226.

– Blessings, Elizabeth Buckner

Appalachia Service Project Visits

St. Matthew's was honored to host 63 college students and 6 ASP staff members from Friday, January 14 - Sunday, January 16 for ASP Staff Applicants and Training. They had all applied to ASP to work as Staff at the various centers throughout Appalachia. They had interviews, sat through meetings, attended training sessions and had a lot of fun. This was the first time we have hosted these wonderful people and I believe it was a success.

assisted in serving and cleaning up. Everyone, at some time, thanked me for the great meals and for the variety of foods offered.

Hopefully, this will become an annual event and we will see the leaders of our country's future expanding their knowledge base and interpersonal relationships.

– Pat Clunies



They used Fellowship Hall as their meeting/dining area; they took over the second floor of the Wesley Wing for sleeping accommodations and most of the first floor of the Wesley Wing for interview rooms. The best part was they put everything back the way it was and cleaned up after themselves.

They all raved about the accommodations and, especially, the food provided. Thank you everyone who supplied food and/or

Paper Recycling

Paper recycling is up and running again! Please remember to bring in your junk mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and any other paper items to be recycled. (**NO** cardboard!) You can put it in the green and yellow dumpster in our parking lot. This is a great opportunity for you to be good stewards of the earth **and** help our ASP team raise funds for their mission trip.



Foote Family House Restoration

Our Joint Task Force has reached the point where it's time to form work teams and begin the repair work needed for the Foote family house in Old Bowie. We have created a "Job Catalog" with pictures of 27 areas of focus for participation by small or large teams. The plan has been laid out to do all electrical and plumbing work first, then, proceed to the specific jobs identified. Our work began on February 21 and will continue through May.

What our Task Force needs from St. Matthew's are helping hands to get the work done and monetary donations to help with the cost of some supplies and materials. There is a sign-up sheet in the Alcove of the Narthex titled, "**Foote Family Restoration Team.**" Please consider signing up to help. Helping hands and loving hearts are in need; skilled team leaders will be there to guide and assist. Monetary donations can be made payable to the church, marking "**Foote Family Fund Code #210**" on your checks and giving envelopes.

Actual work dates will be determined once you sign up indicating your availability and areas of interest. From there, our Task Force leaders can determine how much labor and

operating funds are available to do specific jobs on specific dates, and will contact you. Volunteers are needed for painting, cleaning, and to help install wallboard, flooring, appliances, cabinets, toilets, a bathtub and sinks. Copies of the Job Catalog are available at the sign-up clipboard.

Community organizations that have indicated their interest in helping include several faith organizations of the Bowie Interfaith Clergy Group, the Bowie Knights of Columbus, Greater Mt. Nebo AME Church, and the Bowie Garden Club. In addition, UMVIM participation is expected to include several United Methodist churches in our local area.

Our Task Force has already helped this family accomplish many life changes, yet they still have a long road to travel. Creating better living conditions will be a giant step forward for them on their road to recovery. Our love, generosity and care have brought this family out of deep despair. Let's continue the journey with them. Sign up to help or give what you can to help us make "**Christian Love in Action**" visible once again.

--Irene Schneider, Chair, Missions



Life Changes

Deaths:

Web Lard (a longtime member of St. Matthew's), husband of Ginny;

Carl Solo, stepfather of Sharon Heidenreich;

Joseph McEwan, father of Pat Bond.

Births:

Emma Rose Wallbank, daughter of Derek and Eeda, their first child, born on Valentine's Day.



The Baltimore-Washington Conference has two wonderful locations for summer camp – West River and Manidokan.

Summer Camping Options for Kids

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church offers a full summer of wonderful one-week residential camp programs for kids in grades 3 through 12. All camps have a Christian Education focus. The staff is well-trained and the sites are inspected and certified by the state of Maryland.

Manidokan is 20 miles west of Frederick, near Harper’s Ferry, and West River is 20 miles south of Annapolis.

West River offers a well-rounded Discovery camp program for all ages (one to attend with grandparents!), sailing camp for older kids (and even a family weekend), a bike trip camp, and special “Camp Awesome” weeks for middle and high schoolers.

Manidokan offers Adventure Camps for all ages as well as special camp weeks such as River Adventure, Mission

Possible, The Best Week Ever, Wet n Wild, Science Camp, Late Night, and Horseback Riding. A camp for the Deaf is also available.

Both camps have “mini-weeks” for first time campers which run for only three nights instead of five.

If help is needed to cover the cost of camp, camperships are available. A Campership is a financial scholarship for campers to enable them to attend one of the Baltimore-Washington Conference Summer Camp Programs. Applications are accepted beginning March 1st.

Camp details and registration forms are online at www.bwccampsandretreats.com or call 800-922-6795 to request a brochure be mailed to you. If you would like to ask questions about the camp experience at either location, feel free to call Lorri Meadows.

UMW 2011 Officers, Budget

President	Christin Vare
Vice President	Pattie Klein
Treasurer	Mary Lou Billings
Secretary	Dare Draughn
Nominations Chair	Jane Anderson
Spiritual Growth	Linda Cooper
Social Action	Margie Dague
Communications	Lorri Meadows
Mission Education & Interpretation	Pattie Klein
Membership Nurture & Outreach	Thelma Harvey
Kitchen Coordinator	Marty Bridgewater
Social Coordinator	Karen Hastings
Members-at-Large	June Mathis
	Jody Rudd
	Irene Schneider

<u>Income</u>	
Fundraisers	\$ 3,400
Pledges	<u>4,000</u>
Total Income	\$ 7,400
<u>Expenses</u>	
District Pledge	\$ 2,050
Local Church (<i>memorials, etc.</i>)	200
Operating Expenses (<i>programs, stamps, babysitting, etc.</i>)	575
Missions (<i>Youth Mission Project, Conf. Projects, EEC Scholarships, Housing Corp, VIM, Epworth House, Susanna Wesley House, Maryland Bible Society, BOCC Aux., Wesley Student Suppers</i>)	<u>4,575</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 7,400



Report from Our Trustees

The 9-member board of trustees is continually challenged to keep all of our buildings and mechanical systems in top-notch condition. Our most recent big project was preparing our house on Marne Lane for a new renter. The previous renter left after 8 years. In order to find a new renter ASAP and get top dollar for rent, it must be in excellent condition. A long list of things needed to be done--painting, cleaning, repairing, updating, replacing carpet, new blinds, lighting fixtures, vents, smoke detectors, etc, in order to meet today's rental standards. Some work was performed by contracts, but trustees devoted many hours getting it ready for someone to move in. Looks like a new house inside now.

We are always on the alert to find ways to save money. Towards this end we approved a contract with a company to take care of our grounds this year costing about \$975 less than we paid in 2010. We also approved a contract for electricity at \$.70 per KwH. Last year we paid \$.81. Finally, we avoided calling pricey contractors because board members fixed plumbing and electrical problems in the church, painted fire lane curbs yellow, dealt with water problem leaking through our flat roofs and underground water

drainage problems, reversed the swinging doors in the narthex as required by the fire department, and dealt with back-up battery problems in our fire alarm system.

Our old phone system has now been replaced with one that has new features including seven mailboxes for privacy messages, and at no additional costs.

But trustees cannot maintain their reputation if they fail to find ways to spend money! So, we approved \$1200 to upgrade our kitchen to meet ever increasing food safety requirements. We also purchased a room air conditioner for the kitchen. The trustees also approved contracts to paint inside Marne Lane house, lay a carpet, and conduct various repairs. Finally we considered, but tabled, proposals to purchase a defibrillator in case someone has a heart attack while in our buildings, to purchase a mobile chair for handicapped persons in a staircase, and to terrace the playground to solve the problem of wood chip erosion. Together these proposals would cost about \$8,000.

We welcome any comments you may have and your attendance at our 4th Tuesday monthly meetings.

—Howard Waterworth
Trustees Chair



Trustees REPORT

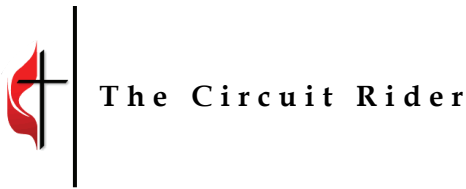
Conference Offers College Scholarships

Now is the time to apply for a college scholarship from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Scholarships are for undergraduate students enrolled fulltime in an accredited college or university in the United States.

Applicants must be members of a United Methodist church in the Baltimore-

Washington Conference. Applicants must submit: a completed application; completed student and pastor's statements, and their most recent official transcript, preferably for Fall 2010.

For deadlines and complete details, go to www.bwcumc.org/content/college-scholarships.



St. Matthew's United
Methodist Church

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Bowie, Maryland 20715-1898
Phone: 301-262-1408
E-mail: churchoffice@stmatthews-bowie.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
STMATTHEWS-BOWIE.ORG

Address Service Requested

**Time Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly**



March 9
7:30 p.m.



Wednesday Evenings
Soup (6:00 p.m.)
and Prayer (7:00 p.m.)

Lectionary Readings for March

These are the Scripture Readings, one or more of which is read each Sunday. The sermon will be based on one of the readings. Reading ahead of time will help you prepare for worship.

March 6 - Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

March 9 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 1:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 13 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 20 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 27 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42