



From the Pastor's Pen

Rev. Judy Emerson

For many years now the United Methodist Church has been in the midst of a research program seeking to determine the characteristics of a vital congregation and how to develop more vital churches. The study, entitled ***“A Call to Action,”*** was a very comprehensive study. Vital congregations can be described in many ways. I especially appreciate the way an acquaintance of mine, Scott Jones, who currently serves as the resident bishop of the Kansas Area of the United Methodist Church, described vital congregations when he wrote:

“The brief answer ...is that vital churches make disciples and transform the world. They help non-believers become active, faithful disciples. They help disciples grow in their faith toward sanctification. They are communities where disciples work at feeding the poor, housing the homeless and striving for justice.”

Although we may describe vital congregations in different ways, there are four key characteristics that they all share:

Effective pastoral leadership including
aspects of management, visioning and inspiration.

Multiple small groups and programs, including
opportunities for children and youth.

A mix of traditional and contemporary worship services.

High percentage of spiritually engaged laity who assume leadership roles.

I believe that the above characteristics of vital congregations provide a good framework for our ministry plan this fall. As we return to our regular routines at home, work and school, let's try some extraordinary things at church as we build on our strengths and strengthen our weaknesses. When the relaxing days of summer come to an end, it would be helpful for all of us to contemplate the ways in which Ebenezer UMC already exhibits the characteristics of a vital congregation. Please give some thought and prayer to things we can do together to develop or strengthen each. May God bless us as we faithfully follow where Christ leads and make disciples of Jesus Christ together!

Grace and Peace,

Judy 

CALL TO ACTION



"We need a cadre of mutually committed, collaborative, turn-around leaders ... This is not a time for leaders who are ambivalent, reluctant, or unwilling to walk forward with humility and courage."

- Bishop John R. Schol

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The Call to Action is a comprehensive initiative to create vitality in local churches and reshape The United Methodist Church.

The Council of Bishops characterizes the Call to Action, as "the first true priority" of the denomination for the next decade. "This initiative has the potential to revitalize every local church, no matter what its size, geography, theology or history," said Bishop John Schol. "Vital churches take risks and are forward leaning. The Call to Action provides a blueprint that can be customized for growth."

The Call, the bishop explained, is based on two reports, one that address the denomination's operations, and a second that reports on common factors found in all vital congregations. When implemented, the Call to Action is expected to remedy "the creeping crisis of relevancy" facing the church today.

As part of the Call to Action, local churches are being invited to **develop a Ministry Plan** that will help them grow in vitality and experience growth in five essential areas, which include increases in worship attendance, professions of faith, participating in small groups, mission engagement and giving.

The United Methodist Church Call to Action

16 Key Factors that enable churches to become more vital!

Engagement of disciples in small groups & the number of ministries for children and youth

1. Vital churches have more small groups for all ages.
2. Vital churches have more programs for children.
3. Vital churches have more programs for youth.

Lay leadership

4. Vital churches focus on increasing the effectiveness of lay leaders (understand their role and carrying these roles out effectively).
5. Vital churches have lay leaders who demonstrate a vital personal faith (regular worship, intentional spiritual growth, personal devotional life, and giving of financial resources).
6. Vital churches place an emphasis on rotating lay leadership in order to involve more people over time.
7. Vital churches call, equip, use and support more lay leaders than non vital churches. (Twenty percent or more of their worship attendees describe themselves as current or past leaders in their church).

Pastor

8. Vital pastors give attention to developing, coaching, and mentoring lay leadership to enable laity to increase their ability to carry out ministry.
9. Vital pastors use their influence to increase the participation of others in order to accomplish changes in the church.
10. Vital pastors motivate the congregation to set and achieve significant goals through effective leadership.
11. Vital pastors inspire the congregation through preaching.
12. Vital pastors, when they are serving effectively, stay for a longer period of time. (Short-term appointments of effective pastors decreases the vitality of a congregation).

Worship

13. Vital churches offer a mix of contemporary (newer forms of worship style) and traditional services.
14. Vital churches have preachers who tend to use more topical sermon series in traditional services.
15. Vital churches use more contemporary music (less blended music that includes traditional tunes) in contemporary services.
16. Vital churches use more multi-media in contemporary services (Some congregations in other parts of the world may have limited access or do not use multi-media to the same extent and therefore it may not be as important as it is in some cultures.)

(While the Call to Action study noted that vital churches give more to mission, some have noticed that other types of mission engagement and outreach are not listed as proven “drivers.” This is because, during the past, the church has not collected this data consistently across the denomination and therefore the research could not quantitatively substantiate mission engagement. But, in conversations with vital congregations, they report that this is an important aspect of their ministry.)

Worship Schedule

September 4, 2011

Labor Day Weekend

Rev. Judy returns from vacation



Last Sunday for One Service Only

Worship 10:00 AM

Communion



September 11, 2011

Return to our Fall Schedule

Worship 8:30 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Worship 11:00 AM



Brunch on the Move...

Our September brunch is postponed until October
due to a community event!



Next Brunch

Sunday, October 30, 2011

No Sunday School

One Worship Service Only 10:00 AM

Children's Church 10:00 AM

Brunch 11:00 AM

Children's Fall Festival and Costume Parade 12:00 Noon

Special Guest Preacher: Rev. Rick Gray, former Pastor of Ebenezer

Mark your calendars now - more details to follow!

Ebenezer U.M.C Children's Choirs

On Sun., August 7 at 4 pm we will celebrate another fantastic year of children's choir ministry at the home of Bill and Julie Jones.

It will be a fun pool party and potluck, so bring your swimsuit, towel, and a dish to share. Please R.S.V.P on the sign-up sheet in the hallway, or call Jen at 410-549-9180. Anyone who has sung with us this year, or plans to sing with us in the future is welcome, as are family members. We have 2 groups who sing twice a month, Cherubs, ages 4 and 5, and the Joyful Noise, composed of elementary age singers. We rehearse on Wed. nights, and we are always, always looking for new members. As there is no strict attendance policy, feel free to sing with us, even if you play a sport, and have to miss a few rehearsals. If you are interested in having your child join the group, please call me. I can fill you in on the details of time commitment, and what we cover in terms of musical concepts and repertoire. We have a lot of fun praising God. Hope to see you at our celebration!

Jen Klausmeyer, director

Choir Notes!



A reminder to all Chancel Choir members.

Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 7, 2011. As usual, we will sing, joke and begin preparation to be a part of the weekly worship experience.

***This is an invitation to any willing singers that we are a welcoming group who will be delighted to have you!
PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A MUSICAL COMMITMENT AS PART OF YOUR SERVICE TO EBENEZER!***

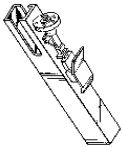
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE ME AFTER CHURCH.

LINDA

An UnBELLievable Opportunity! Handbells and Handchimes



The Glory Bound Ringers handbell choir is for middle, high school students and adults. It would really be wonderful to have some of our teenagers involved in this music ministry. The group will rehearse on **Wednesdays from 6:45PM to 7:30PM beginning September 7** with a minimum of 8 members – 11 would be ideal. You do not need musical experience to become a member of this choir; there are ways to make reading your music very easy. Our songs of faith will be rung on the 2nd Sunday of each month during the 11:00AM worship service. Sign-up sheet is located on the narthex bulletin board. Please join us!



Chimes choir is for children in grades 3 through 5. No musical experience is necessary. While ringing spiritual songs, your children will learn to recognize and use all the information on their sheet music such as note values, dynamics, accidentals, and time signatures. The group will meet on **Wednesdays from 6:00PM to 6:30PM beginning September 7**. Weekly attendance is required to participate in this group. Sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

Please contact Dolly Hardesty for more information (410) 875-5454.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

**Our annual Charge Conference will be held on
Sunday, October 16th starting at 3:30 PM at Wesley Freedom UMC.**

All members of the Administrative Council should attend and all church members are welcome.

The following folks are members of Ebenezer who have not attended in quite awhile. We have tried to reach them concerning their membership and have not been successful. They will be removed from our church membership rolls at our Charge Conference if we can't locate them. If you have an address for any of these listed below, please write it down and leave it in the church office.

Misty Nicole Davis, Jennifer Lynn Davis

Tom Laur, Pat Regan-Laur, Jesse Regan-Laur



SUNDAY SCHOOL 2011-2012

Sunday school will begin on September 11, 2011 from 9:45-10:45am. Also on that Sunday, at both services, children in the 3rd grade will receive their new Bibles. If you have a child in the 3rd grade **please** be sure that they attend one of the services that day.

The grade school children will meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month in the Sanctuary with Lori Rapids, Jen Klausmeyer and their Sunday school teachers. At that time we will celebrate birthdays for the month and learn fun songs together.

Finally, as always we are in need of substitutes for our dedicated Sunday school teachers, there will be a sign up sheet available soon.

Thank you,

Lori Rapids



There will be a quick Sunday school teacher meeting in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service on September



<u>August</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
Laura Holt---8/4	Susan & Jim Brown - 8/2/91
Susan Brown---8/8	Jim & Doris Leary---8/12
Chris Will---8/9	Billy & Bonnie Zavona---8/14/91
Jim Lutz---8/10	Ron & Linda Bange---8/29
Stefanie Wells---8/10	Tony & Sharon Torosky---8/29/64
Ally Kessinger---8/14	
Sammy Jaharias---8/25	
Brian Rapids---8/25/72	
Linda Bennett---8/25	
SEPTEMBER	
Jim Huff---9/1	
Brittany Bergmann---9/2/84	
David Rapids---9/3/02	
Lisa Piecewicz---9/7/73	
Nancy Huff---9/18	
Ruth Bennett---9/21	
Randy Paulsgrove---9/22/83	
Ken Middleton---9/24/57	
Heidi Davis---9/29	

Holly Mart Craft Days

August Thursday 4 - 11- 18 - 25 9:30am

September Thursday 1- 8- 15- 22- 29 9:30 am

"Come for as long as you are able. We usually have a short break for a BYO lunch and stop around 2."

If you have been drying flowers\ greens for our note card project, please bring what you have to church and place them in the back part of the social hall. We need to see how we are doing on quantity.

If you have not been drying flowers yet but have some flowers blooming around your home and you would like to still dry some, just tuck them in your phone book and they may be ready to use when we do the project or get a start for next year.

We also need clean cardboard ½ gal. juice or milk containers for our bird feeder project. We will put a container in the kitchen to deposit them in when you come to church.

Thanks in advance for your help and donations of time and supplies.

Michelle Dahl and Linda Bennett

WOMEN OF THE WORD PRAYER GROUP NEWS

We hope that everyone is having a good summer. Please remember that the Wows do not meet as a group during the summer but we do keep up on prayers requests we see on e-mail or hear about by phone and from the Sunday bulletin, so if you need prayer for something or someone let us know. We will resume our monthly meetings in September so mark your calendars now for Thursday September 15th to come and pray with us. We wish everyone the rest of a good summer and certainly safe travel for anyone who will be on the roads to their destinations. God's blessings on our entire congregation from the Wows!

~UMYF~



Who's ready for a Rockin' good year?

UMYF is for Youth in grades 6-12. Be sure to join us for the annual Kick-off Bonfire! This year the bonfire will be a kick-off to the fall activities so bring your friends and family and be ready to have a great time.



This year's schedule is packed with some new adventures and suggestions are always welcome. Don't worry the classic events will be hanging around – spam sculptures, ultimate pumpkin carving, and Candy Olympics! Oh and it's never too early to start assembling the unbeatable team for the Amazing Race.

Check the Youth bulletin board in the hallway for pictures from last year and sign-up sheets for this year.

Parents please look for times to sign-up to be a parent helper, or provide snack!

Please contact me with any questions:

Melissa Pollack

410-375-8104

umyfgirl@comcast.net

find us on facebook – UMYF Ebenezer UMC



If you would like to be included in weekly email updates please let me know!

Date	Event	Location
September 11	Kick-off Bonfire	Hill behind Church
September 18	Meeting – Tie Dye	Church
September 25	Meeting	Melissa's House
October 2	Meeting	Church
October 9	Movie Night	Jones' House
October 16	Meeting	Church
October 23	Pumpkin Carving	Church
October 30	Help with Fall Fest	Church

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

BY ELLIE BAUBLITZ

MEET OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

VIVIAN MCCARTHY

Vivian McCarthy is Ebenezer's District Superintendent who attends our annual Charge Conference and handles general church matters for the Central Maryland District of the United Methodist Church. She was first appointed District Superintendent in 2007 for the Washington West District, which became the Central Maryland District in 2008 and included Ebenezer. There are 78 churches in Vivian's district.

The District Superintendent is an extension of the Office of the Bishop, a supervisory position, as well as a resource office for the individual churches, Vivian explained. The District Superintendent, in addition to handling legal and property matters for the conference in her area, also works with the area discipleship guides as a coach to local pastors, helping them with issues, visioning and general church functions.

Vivian was recently appointed regional team leader for the Central Maryland and Greater Washington, D.C. districts, which includes leading all the guides for those churches and the D.C. district superintendent, as well as being responsible for the budget, personnel and strategy.

Vivian grew up in Baltimore, graduating from Eastern High School, then Western Maryland College summa cum laude and Wesley Theological Seminary magna cum laude. Her family was active in Brooklyn Heights UMC in Brooklyn Park, Anne Arundel County, and she was UMYF president in high school. She actually met her future husband Richard in elementary school, but they didn't start dating until his senior prom. He was president of Brooklyn UMC's UMYF in South Baltimore and the pair went to Youth Assembly together.

"I have literally been part of the Methodist and now United Methodist Church since I was born," Vivian said. "The congregation was my family, and they all had a hand in making me who I am today." After she began playing the organ at age 12 and was asked to fill in for her church organist who was going on vacation, "I felt God calling me when I was a teen, but I thought my call was to live as a Christian teacher and musician both in the church and out," Vivian said.

She later worked as a Director of Music and Christian Education, which led to more formal training and entering seminary to become a pastor. She served at Rodgers Forge UMC from 1987 until 1994, when then-Bishop Joseph Yeakel appointed her as an Associate Council Director for the conference, working in Christian Education, Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Camping and

Outdoor Ministry, and leadership development and worship. In 2005, Vivian was appointed a Discipleship Guide.

Musically inclined, Vivian has also taught piano, voice and organ privately, as well as vocal music at Battle Monument School for developmentally disabled and seriously physically disabled children, and at the Shrine of the Little Flower Catholic School in Baltimore. She also was music director and organist at Brooklyn Heights UMC for about 10 years while she and Richard lived next door to me in Brooklyn Park! For several of those years, she also was choir director for the Arundel Singers, a community choir that performed beautiful concerts under her leadership.

Vivian's kids, Erin and Dennis, and my kids played together. Erin is a high school math teacher at a specialty arts-centered school in Hagerstown. Dennis, a computer tech like his father, is married to Annie Laurie, a loan counselor for a credit union; they're buying a house in Dundalk. Vivian and Richard live not far from Ebenezer in Glenwood, Howard County.

Vivian said she doesn't have much time to do a lot of music now, but enjoys reading, traveling and doing needlework.

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Holly Mart Mtg 7:00 PM	3	4 Craft Day @ Church 9:30 AM	5	6
7 Worship Service 10:00 AM	8 Feed My Sheep 10:30 AM	9	10	11 Craft Day @ Church 9:30 AM	12	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 AM	15	16 Visit to Brinton Woods 10:30 AM	17	18 Craft Day @ Church 9:30 AM	19	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 AM	22	23	24	25 Craft Day @ Church 9:30 AM	26	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 AM	29 Administrative Council 7:30 PM	30	31			

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 Craft day @ Church 9:30 AM	2	3
4 Worship Service 10:00 AM	5 Labor Day Lay Leadership Mtg 7:00 PM	6 Endowment Committee Mtg 7:00 PM	7	8 Craft day @ Church 9:30 AM Finance Committee Mtg 7:00 PM	9	10 Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM
11 Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 AM	12 Feed My Sheep 10:30 AM Trustees Mtg 7:00 PM	13 Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	14	15 Craft day @ Church 9:30 AM Women's prayer group 7:30 PM	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 AM	19 Staff/Parish Committee Mtg 7:00 PM	20 Visit to Brinton Woods 10:30 AM	21	22 Craft day @ Church 9:30 AM	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 AM	26	27 Brunch Committee Mtg 6:30 PM	28	29 Craft day @ Church 9:30 AM	30 Men's retreat @ Manidokan	