

# A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

*Rev. Judy Emerson*

*“There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.”*

Isaiah 64:7-8

As we are now beginning the Season of Advent we sing hymns like “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” or “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. It can be confusing to read the scriptures during this time of year. Everyone else in the world is singing Christmas carols and preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. Yet our scriptures during Advent have nothing to do with a little baby.

Once again, we desperately want God to come among us, while at the same time we are fearful God may give us what we want and actually show up. In our scripture from Isaiah, we hear about the many mistakes the people have made in their faith practices, and yet they still call on God to come and be among them. I’m sure we can relate to this feeling as we have all fallen short in our faith practices time and again. This is a challenging thought for people of faith. We want to follow Christ, we want to do what we know is right, however, we are fearful of what these changes will mean in our lives. To follow God requires change and change is difficult.

This year, during the season of Advent, let us prayerfully read the scriptures of the season and figure out what changes are necessary in our lives. Let us fully examine our faith in order that we may determine how much we need and want Emmanuel, “God with us.” Our Advent preparations can better equip us for Christmas celebrations and help us to understand and implement the changes that are necessary for us to honestly walk as a child of the light.

May God give us strength to receive the gift of Advent in order that we may truly prepare for the birth of the Christ Child, God’s gift to us at Christmas; a gift that keeps on giving!

Wishing all a peace-filled Advent and Christmas Season in 2011 and looking forward to another year together in 2012 as the faithful community of Ebenezer United Methodist Church! We are blessed to be together in this journey of faith.

Peace,

*Rev. Judy*

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Saturday, December 24*

*Children's worship service 6:00 PM*

*Traditional worship service with music 8:00 PM*

*Candlelight worship service with music 10:00 PM*

*Sunday, December 25 we will have one worship service at 10:00 AM*

*No Sunday School*

*Sunday, January 1 we will have one worship service at 10:00 AM*

*No Sunday School*



## 2011 Christmas Families

It is the most wonderful time of the year and Ebenezer always works together to make it that way for families in need. The Christmas tree is up in the narthex with plenty of tags to choose to help provide a special Christmas for 8 families. Please choose one or more tags from the tree and write your name next to the number(s) chosen on the chart on the bulletin board. The gifts should NOT be wrapped and must be returned to church by December 11th with the tag attached. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Also, we will continue to collect food, paper goods and toiletries for the families. We would like to provide a ham for each family for their Christmas dinner. If you would like to purchase a ham, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Questions? See Sue Bergmann or Susan Brown.

Also, thank you so much for providing a full Thanksgiving dinner to these families.

## WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Wows had their monthly meeting on November 18, 2011 with seven members in attendance. Before the prayer part of our meeting we took care of the business of our Christmas dinner. Our dinner will be held at the Mt. Airy Inn, 1401 S. Main St. in Mt. Airy on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 6:30 PM. Any woman in our church who would like to attend is more than welcome and also you may bring a friend if you like. If you would like to take part in the gift exchange please bring a \$10.00 gift along with you. This is always an enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship with the ladies who work so faithfully in many ways in our church. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board and we look forward to a good time together as we enter into all the many ways we will celebrate the Christmas season and remember that Christ IS the reason for the season. Our Wows group extends our wishes to all for a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Also, a reminder to put the Women's Retreat on your 2012 calendar! The retreat will be held March 9 & 10 at Greenwood Hills in Pennsylvania.

## MISSIONS



Our church accomplished a lot in the missions area this fall! We collected approximately 35 coats, which were taken to Admiral Dry Cleaners in Westminster. They dry clean the coats free of charge and then take them to Shepherd Staff to be distributed to those who are in need. It is so nice to know that many people will be warmer this winter because of this effort.

We spent part of a day on October 8 working in the yard for a local elderly couple that was referred to us by Caring Carroll. Thank you to Kirsten Beck, Laura Spitalniak, Mark & Vicky Spitalniak, Buck Scott, Steve Bergmann, Joanne and Steve Davis, Jim Huff and Sandy Hudspeth for helping rake, move firewood, fix gutters, clean gutters and the roof, and clear and haul away several loads of branches. The homeowners were so pleased to have their yard looking so nice. We returned to rake leaves—a tremendous amount of leaves!!!—on Sunday, November 13 with several of the youth from our church. What a blessing it was to all work together and accomplish so much for folks that need some help. We are looking forward to other projects in 2012 and will have more information on these in the next newsletter.

# Youth Group

## Terrific Teens!

On Sunday November 13th several youth from Ebenezer assisted a local elderly couple by raking leaves! How fantastic are these youth for giving of their time! Great job Olivia, Maggie, Kathleen, Donnie, Laura, and Kristin! Special Thanks to Ms. Sue Bergmann for organizing the event, Mr. Buck Scott for transporting the leaves, Vicky & Mark Spitalniak and Matt Pollack for helping with leaf removal.

## Texting & Driving

Check out the youth bulletin board for picture of our trip to the Howard County Police training center. Youth met with Lt. Wagner to discuss the dangers of texting and driving. Many teens tested their driving skills in a driving simulator.

**Schedule: Sundry evening 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
November 27th	Thanksgiving Surprise	Not the same old Thanksgiving Dinner....
December 4th	Meeting	
December 11th	Christmas Scavenger Hunt	Don't be a Scrooge
December 18th	Christmas Party	Bring a \$10 gift for gift exchange

# A VIEW FROM THE PEW

by Ellie Baublitz

## MEET PAT AND RICHARD BUCHER

The Bucher family – Pat, Rich and their three children, Jimmie, Katie and Suzy – have been members of Ebenezer UMC since 1997 when they moved to the Mount Airy area and found the friendly little church led by then Pastor Gayle Annis-Forder. They had been members of Wesley Freedom UMC for 15 years, but Pastor Gayle and the congregation made them feel “immediately at home,” Pat said. “Jimmy and Suzy loved it at Ebenezer, so that completed our decision.” Suzy, then 10, sang in the junior choir for several years. Rich served on the Pastor-Parish Committee and Pat created the church’s first website, which she kept up for about four years.

“Rich and I have always felt surrounded by love and caring whenever we are at Ebenezer,” Pat said. “We were so sorry to see Gayle go – but who could have imagined that she would be replaced by someone as wonderful and extraordinary as Judy!”

Pat and Rich originally hail from Pleasantville, New York, where they attended the same elementary school. Pat moved away, but the couple met up in college while Pat was at Skidmore, an all-girls college, and Rich was at Colgate, an all-boys college. Rich was attending Skidmore on a semester exchange program and lived in the same dorm as Pat. They had their first date on Valentine’s Day 1970 when they saw the movie “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.” They married three years later.

Shortly after their marriage, the couple moved to the Baltimore area when Rich got a job teaching sociology at Baltimore City Community College, where he still is today. He has his Ph.D. from Howard University. Pat started her career teaching music, but stopped to be a stay-at-home mom for 14 years. During that time, she took courses in math and computers, earning a degree from Western Maryland College. For the last 20-someyears she has taught high school math in Montgomery County, but switched this year to teaching computer science at Gaithersburg Middle School.

In his spare time, Rich enjoys watching the Maryland Terps play, and writing; he has published two books with Pearson about diversity and cultural intelligence. He’s also into fitness. Pat loves her plants, knitting and her computer. But “what both of us enjoy the most is being with each other and being with our children (and their children)!” Pat said.

Jimmy, who turns 35 this month, lives in a group home for individuals with autism and works part-time at the Ellicott City Walmart. He also is active in Howard County’s Special Olympics swimming program. Rich has spoken of his son and the inspiration he provides the family when guest speaking at Ebenezer.

Katie, 31, has a degree in economics and finance from JMU, and worked as an analyst and consultant for Booz, Allen, Hamilton before deciding to stay home with her children – Tommy, 2 ½ and Aubrey, 1. She also teaches fitness classes in spinning, step aerobics and body pump. Her husband, Tom Hessen, is one of the heads of a Sterling, Va., company that creates accessible databases of videos for police departments across the U.S. and Canada. They live in Ashburn, Va.

Suzy, now 24, is also a JMU graduate and is program director for the Chemical Educational Foundation in Arlington, where she lives. The Foundation promotes the learning of chemistry concepts in middle schools nationwide. Both girls are active runners in D.C. area events.

## NEWSLETTER

If you would like to read your newsletter on the church website instead of having a print copy, please leave a note in the church office so we know to take your name off the newsletter mailing list. Thank you!



### Music with Monte

If you missed him at the UMYF  
Bonfire....  
Don't worry, he's back!!



Monte Leister will be bringing his "Jumpin Family Christmas Tour" to the 2011 Ebenezer Christmas Dinner on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to grab a ticket for an evening of fantastic food, fellowship, and a Christmas sing-a-long celebration!

<b><u>December</u></b>	
<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
Michael Torosky---12/3	Charlie & Barb Conaway—12/4/76
Andy Gauvin—12/9	Dave & Karen Gauvin—12/18
Amanda Brown—12/10	Curt & Cheryl Roelle---12/21/80
Eric Rapids---12/13/05	
Tim Stultz---12/19	
Kaylee Shipley---12/22/99	
Rebecca Estes—12/22	
Greg Kessinger—12/22	
Barb Conaway---12/29/57	
<b><u>January</u></b>	
Cindi Arnold—1/2	
Shaun Arnold—1/3	Jim & Nancy Lutz—1/8/05
Christy Kessinger—1/5	Dave & Jean Hedrick—1/9/82
Debbie Rivera—1/6/57	
Valerie Paulsgrove—1/20/86	
Steve Bergmann (jr.)—1/28/81	
Bob Biddinger--1/28/40	
Laura Shipley—1/30	
William Streaker—1/30	
Brian Middleton—1/31/81	

# Administrative Council Planning Meeting

January 21, 2012 9:00am-Noon

Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Proverbs 4:25-26 (NLT)

As strange as it sounds as I am writing this, two days before Thanksgiving, 2011 is almost history and 2012 is right around the corner! Very soon will come the time of year when we meet as a Church to celebrate the blessings of the past year, as well as look towards the future and the paths God has set forth for us. This meeting, probably more than any other throughout the year, is an opportunity to look at the various programs and ministries of our Church with an eye towards becoming the Church God desires. Together, we will explore ways in which we can more completely fulfill our mission to "To Proclaim God's Word, To Share God's Love and To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ". Has the Holy Spirit been tugging at your heart with an idea for a way that we as a Church can fill a need? This meeting is our chance to explore these opportunities for ministry together. During this time, we will also draft some measurable goals for our Congregation for the coming year as well as reviewing our progress on achieving the goals set forth in our long range plan drafted several years ago. Everyone on the Administrative Council is encouraged to attend as well as those who have an idea to share. We will begin at 9:00am with a "working breakfast" and commit to be completed by noon.

I am looking forward to meeting with you, Ken Middleton- Chairperson, Administrative Council

## HOLLY MART 2011



A great success and a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season! Over 300 visitors walked our halls, enjoyed the delicious food, browsed the beautiful vendor selections and took home some amazing crafts, baked goods and candies. We made approximately \$8500 from the big event and hope to pull in just a bit more as we sell the last of the craft items. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the church in our biggest fundraiser of the year! We even had several vendors tell us that our Holly Mart is the best event they attend every year - what a compliment! A year's worth of planning goes into this event and it would not be possible without the support of all the church members who donate their time, food, money and endless skills! Whether you attended as a volunteer or a shopper, we would love to hear your feedback and any ideas you have for next year. Please see Julie Partridge with any ideas you would like to share and these will be passed along to the 2012 committee. Get ready - 2012 is just around the corner!

~ December 2011 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Building Committee meeting 7:00 PM	2	3
4 2nd Sunday in Advent	5	6 Bible Study 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM	7 Choir practices 6:00 - 8:30 PM	8	9	10 Men's breakfast at church 8:30 AM
11 3rd Sunday in Advent	12	13 Bible Study 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM	14 Choir practices 6:00 - 8:30 PM	15 Women's dinner at Mt. Airy Inn at 6:30 PM	16	17
18 4th Sunday in Advent  Cold Weather Shelter	19	20 Brinton Woods 10:30 AM  Bible Study 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM	21 Choir practices 6:00 - 8:30 PM	22	23	24 Christmas Eve services 6, 8, and 10 PM
25 Christmas Worship at 10:00 AM  Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve

# January 2012

## Notes:

---

Jan 01 : New Year's Day

---

Jan 04: OWLS lunch at church  
12:00 PM

---

Jan 09: Feed My Sheep 10:30 AM

---

Jan 10: Stephen Ministry meeting  
7:00 PM

---

Jan 14: Men's breakfast at church  
8:30 AM

---

Jan 16 : Martin Luther King Day

---

Jan 17: Visit to Brinton Woods  
10:30 AM

---

Jan 19: Women's prayer group  
7:30 PM

---

Jan 21: Church planning day  
9 AM-12 PM

---

---

Every Wednesday: choir  
rehearsals from 6:00-8:30 PM

---

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



## **Annual Christmas Dinner**

**WHEN:** December 10, 2011

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** Winfield Fire Hall

**PRICES:** Adult - \$15.00  
11 & over - \$15.00  
3 to 10 years - \$7.50  
Infant to 1 year - Free

**Reservations required -**

**Contact - Sandy Wean                      410-875-2116**

**Or**

**Mazie Barnes                      410-875-2008**

**We will also be at church each Sunday to take your reservations. All reservations and money are due by December 4, 2011**