

MESSIAH'S Saddle Bags

April / May / June 2010

Messiah United Methodist Church

Taneytown, Maryland



April / May / June 2010

We are coming up to some exciting dates in the church year—Palm Sunday, Holy

Week, Easter, Ascension Day, and Pentecost Sunday. These will help us to relive the events of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ as we seek to experience some of the sorrowful passion of Jesus and his glorious resurrection. May we die to sin and rise to newness of life with Christ. I hope each of you will make a serious effort to be present for these events of Holy Week. These are days of obligation for us as Disciples of Christ and days of expectancy to receive from God what God has in store for us. Can we not walk with our Lord and watch with him during Holy Week?

I attended a stimulating continuing education event at the Ecumenical Institute of Theology of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore led by Brian McLaren. It was on the Emerging Church and Worship. He held up a model of the local church based on a convergence of many different traditions of the church. It consists of four elements—*the liturgical, the evangelical, the charismatic,* and *the social action dimensions*. I thought to myself that is what I would like Messiah Church to look like: a church that values (1) the liturgical life—church tradition, ancient prayers, the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, the symbols, the banners, the prayer postures of the church through the centuries, liturgical prayers and extemporaneous prayers; (2) the social action approach—an emphasis on social justice, local and global mission, a welcoming church to all races and conditions of people, volunteerin-mission projects; (3) the evangelical—the importance of Bible study in small groups, preaching the Bible and the message of salvation, the call for conversion through faith in Jesus Christ, the sharing of testimonies of what God has been doing in our lives; (4) and the charismatic—the experience of the filling of the Holy Spirit, the rediscovery of the spiritual gifts, ministries based on the spiritual gifts, joyful and spirit-led worship, guidance and direction by the Lord, and an openness to the spontaneous in worship and envisioning. I wanted to pass on how much this vision resonated with me and excited me. I think God is taking us in some exciting new directions. I am encouraged by the way people are coming forth and helping out with various projects and activities in the church. There seems to be a new excitement among many over the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit in our midst. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, advocated the convergence of these four elements of the Christian life. We may define them somewhat differently from the way he did, but he valued the ancient ways of the early church and the Anglican tradition, working for slavery reform and a greater voice for women in the church, a strong emphasis upon evangelism and Bible study in small groups, and a belief in the inner witness of the Holy Spirit and the use of lay people in ministry using their spiritual gifts. Perhaps if we can recover these elements again we may experience a Pentecost in our day.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Palm and Passion Sunday, March 28

Come for Messiah Church's 10:15 A.M. worship service with the waving of palm branches, marching down the aisles, the observance of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the remembrance of the Passion and Death of Jesus.

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Come for the 7:00 P.M. service that will include a Dramatic Reading regarding the Lord's Supper and Passover,

the Remembrance of the Anointing of Jesus by Mary of Bethany, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Stripping of the Altar, the Veneration of the Holy Cross, the Tenebrae (Extinguishing of Lights) with the reading of the Passion narrative from Mark's Gospel and the singing of Passion Hymns relating to the



crucifixion. The Chancel Choir will present an anthem. This service remembers the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples in fulfillment of the Jewish Passover and looks in advance to his passion and crucifixion. Please note the change in time.

Good Friday, April 2, the Caring and Sharing Ministries Seven Last Words of Jesus Service

We shall journey from church to church to hear preaching on the Seven Last Words given by different area pastors. This will take place from 12 noon until 3:00 P.M. Messiah Church will host the 1:00 to 1:25 P.M. segment of this service with preaching on the third word from the cross.

Here is the schedule:

12:00 noon Trinity Lutheran Church, the Rev. Lloyd Fuss

12:30 P.M.	Taneytown Presby- terian Church, the Rev. Art Thomas
1:00 P.M.	Messiah United Methodist Church, the Rev. Steve Ostendorf-Snell
1:30 P.M.	St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Rev. Josh Semovosky
2:00 P.M.	Grace United Church of Christ, the Rev. Jim Hosey
2:30 P.M.	Trinity Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jerry Fuss

Easter Eve, April 3, 2:00 P.M.

Messiah Church conducts the Lorien Nursing Home

service. Pastor Art would appreciate any help with this service, which is being held the day *before* Easter since so many have Easter family gatherings after church.



Easter, April 4

Messiah Church Hosts a Children's Easter Musical Drama at 9:00 А.м.

Easter Worship Service at 10:15 A.M. with a sermon on the resurrection by the Rev. Dr. Arthur D. Thomas, Jr, Easter anthems, and Holy Communion.

Come and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the grave and our hope of everlasting life and the reality of the Risen Christ in our daily lives.

United Methodist Men's Meeting Easter Monday, April 5, 7:30 P.M.

Lay Leadership Development Committee, Sunday, April 11 after church

Prodigal Worship Conference, Frederick, Maryland, April 13, 7:30 A.M. at Trinity United Methodist Church. This will be attended by Pastor Art Thomas, Jane King (Evangelism), Lois Ann Smith and Ginny Hoy (Worship). Pastor Art will be one of the speakers at this conference.

Potluck Dinner/Movie Night Sunday, April 18, 5:00 P.M.

Come and see the movie *"Fireproof,*" a very moving movie concerning a couple that had serious marriage problems but were able through God's grace to save their marriage. This movie has been touching the hearts of many people. For information, contact Marilyn Stonesifer.

Thirty Hour Fast for World Vision Hunger Relief by the United Methodist Youth

Friday, April 23 at 5:00 P.M. through April 24.

Christmas in April Volunteer in Mission Workday Saturday, April 24.

The Messiah United Methodist Men and Youth will participate this year, working on repairs to a selected home. All are invited to assist with this project.

Youth Sunday, April 25th and Visitation Sunday

The Youth Group of Messiah United Methodist Church will led the worship and be inviting friends to this special event. All are welcome to this service and the reception afterwards.

Lorien Nursing Home Service Sunday, May 2, 2:00 P.M.

United Methodist Women's Mother/Child Banquet at the Brethren Center Dining Room in New Windsor will be held on Saturday, May 8 at

5:30 P.M. Any are invited including any women without children. The cost is \$16.75 (for adults, ages 12 and older), \$8.50 (for children ages 6–11) and free for children 5 years and under. For tickets, contact Brenda Clapsad-dle at 410-756-9277 or any member of the United Methodist Women. The menu includes baked chicken and stuffing, fruit cup, spinach salad, twice baked potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls, assorted cheese cake.

Mother's Day, Sunday May 9, 10:15 A.M. service. All mothers will be honored.

Ascension Sunday May 16, 10:15 A.M. service.

Celebrate the ascension of Christ into heaven.



Pentecost Sunday, May 23

Wear red to church and celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit and the Birthday of the

Church.

Trinity Sunday, May 30



Baltimore-Washington Conference, June 2–4

In Baltimore attended by Pastor Art Thomas and Lay Member of the Annual Conference, Dick Lowry.

Lorien Nursing Home Sunday, June 6, 2:00 P.M.

The Circuit Ryders Praise Band will lead us in a special worship service on Sunday, June 6 from 3:00-4:15 P.M. at Messiah United Methodist Church.

This twelve-piece band and praise team consists of vocalists as well as those who play guitar, drums, keyboard, percussion, flute, and piano. In addition Messiah Church will provide music by its Joyful Noise Choir under the direction of its new choir director Ann Bradley. Randy Wertz is the leader of this praise band. Please come and bring a friend with you. Youth and all ages may find this a refreshing time to sing along with the band and worship the Lord.









Father's Day, June 20 Breakfast (?)

Father's Day At a time to be announced. At the worship service fathers will be honored.

Often the **summer schedule** begins on June 20 with Church Services at 9:30 A.M. and the dis-continuation of Sunday School for the Summer months. Watch for details. The Church Council has not yet ruled on this.

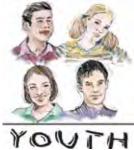
Ireland Trip Led by Pastor Art Thomas

Members and friends of Messiah Church are cordially invited to accompany Pastor Art Thomas on a trip to Ireland, August 2–9, 2010. He is leading this on behalf of the Ecumenical Institute of Theology in Baltimore. The tour will include visits to the Cliffs of Moher, Limerick, Bunratty Castle, Gallurus Oratory, Dingle Peninsula, Dunberg Fort, Connemara Region, Kylemore Abbey, Knock, Drumsna, Armaugh, Downpatrick, Faughart, Clonmacnoise, Glendalough, and Dublin. The trip will emphasize Celtic Spirituality and Art. The cost including airfare and two meals a day is \$2,896.00. The deadline for the final payment is April 19th. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Art for a brochure at 410-756-6092.

Jeff Danovich, Messiah Church's new Coordinator of Youth Activities is Announced

Jeff Danovich will assist Messiah's youth advisors Kelly Stitely and Miki Wilson. He brings with him a vast experience of working with youth as Program Director of the Frederick County Boys and Girls Clubs (2006–2007) and as a member of the program staff of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, Delaware(1993–2002). Besides

this, he has served as Legal Team Leader of the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion of the United States Army Reserve in Mosul, Iraq. He was born in Norwood, Massachusetts and grew up in Newark, Delaware.



Jeff, along with his wife Leslie and their eleven-year-old son Ryan Alves, ten-year-old son Nikolas Alves, threeyear-old daughter Rose Danovich, and two-year-old son Jack Danovich, live at 543 Trevanion Terrace, Taneytown. His home phone is 410-756-6093. His cell phone is 240-687-6307.

As Program Director of the Frederick County Boys and Girls Club of Frederick, MD Jeff:

- Directed the day-to-day operations of all Frederick County Boys' and Girls' Clubs, including scheduling staff, implementing daily activities, booking facilities, processing payroll, and communicating with parents regarding status of member program participation.
- Designed after-school tutorial programs, physical and recreational activities, and high impact learning opportunities for all sites
- Put together daily activity schedule that consisted of educational, physical, and recreational activities
- Worked with Frederick County Public School staff and administration on use of their buildings
- Recruited guest speakers to discuss topics such as education, careers, health, and sports/recreation .
- Collaborated with local businesses and parents to recruit volunteers for Boys' and Girls' Club.

Our Discipler guide the Rev. William Chaney was the area director while Jeff was serving as program director. Jeff came to us through the recommendation of Rev. Chaney.

Jeff said that working with youth gives him a chance to influence the future directly. He enjoys children and youth, since it brings out the kid in him. We welcome him to our church community.

Website Note

Travis Medley, Holly South's friend, is working to help Pastor Art in revising and updating the Messiah Church website. Any help with this will be appreciated.

Coffee Hour

In PA, we have an expensive requirement for our cars called an inspection that costs us a fee and the price of repairs if needed. As a Christian, I know that attitude



is everything so I attempt to see the failed inspection as a blessing—like the new tires are keeping us safe but then I mutter, I would have purchased them later—when I had the extra money—but would I have really bought them or would I have driven on bald tires?—would I have acted too late?

Our church got its inspection by BWC and we were given a wake-up call, but thankfully, we were also given a loving spiritual mentor to help us repair. By being at all of the opportunities where Reverend William Chaney has led our meetings, I have grown from hopeless to hope and from anger to eager. I have come to realize that this failed inspection gave us an opportunity before it was too late.

A new idea for Coffee Hour was born at our Lay Leadership Development Committee when we were trying to fill vacant positions, one of which was Coffee Hour Coordinator. I volunteered to be the coordinator because I had done it before and because the new idea needed to start the next Sunday, so someone had to take charge. Although Pastor Art gave the green light to try it, I did not want the Pastor to be blamed if the congregation did not like the new concept, so I asked to be the scapegoat by being the coordinator.

But no scapegoat has been needed because everyone seems to enjoy that Coffee Hour is now being offered in the Narthex from 9:45–10:10 and immediately after Sunday worship. Lay Leadership wanted to try it for Lent through Easter Sunday, hoping that other committees would volunteer for other Sundays. Our purpose for the change was to give an opportunity for connection—connecting more powerfully with our Lord through connecting with each other.

I will be asking Church Council for its support of this change for 2010. We wish the Narthex Coffee Hour to be kept very simple with a beverage and a treat. No coffee should be taken into the sanctuary.

Evangelism is hosting two Coffee Hour receptions on March 21 and April 25 with a "Go Fish" mission, as well as refreshment and fellowship, after church in Fellowship Hall.

-Christie Piavis, Coffee Hour Coordinator

"Go Fish!"

In Matt. 4:19, Jesus tells his disciples that they will be "fishers of



men" in bringing people to a relationship with God. As we are Jesus' present disciples in the world, we too are called to be "fishers of men." Join the Evangelism Committee in their effort to grow our church by bringing a Friend (or two) to the worship on April 25th. There will be a reception downstairs following the service. Let's hope we have a "big catch!" –JANE KING

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Unfortunately, our committee has not been able to meet in Jan. and Feb. due to inclement weather. Our meeting in March was abridged due to the Praise Band Worship and the Lorien Home worship both on that Sunday afternoon.

Our only order of business was to discuss the job descriptions of the Youth Advisors and the Director of Youth Activities. Miki Wilson, Kelly Stitley, and Pastor Art had worked on the job descriptions. Our committee modified some language, but we thought the writing was excellent in showing how all jobs were connected and to what and to whom each is accountable. The tasks for these youth positions seem huge, so we must remember that these positions are voluntary and not paid positions. We feel very blessed that God has given us servants: Kelly, Miki, and Jeff to work with our young people.

Because my daughter Megan had evening activities at school, I was unable to attend Church Council, so that Pastor Art presented this new position.

I will do my best to report accurately to our congregation, but we all must remember that SPRC works under the promise that all matters are confidential.

> —Christie Piavis, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

Connor Strong, the grandson of Ed and Brenda Miller, won first place in his weight class in the Maryland State Wrestling Competitions. CONGRATULATIONS!



Church Council

On February 26th, Council members and congregants participated in an all day session designed to help us clarify the purpose and direction of this congregation. Rev. William Chaney led us through several exercises to identify our understanding of our congregation as it is now, how it is perceived by members and by those in the community; and then worked with us to define the type of congregation we want to become. He also reminded us that whatever we came up with needed to be easy to remember and transferable into action. We began by selecting words (such as family) that describe our church now, then moved to choosing words (such as community) describing what we are to become. Rev. Chaney helped us by providing information about today's culture and how disconnected the average mainline congregation is from the society in which our children and grandchildren live and interact.

After breaking into small groups and much discussion and activity, we came together again to share the phrases we each had developed to identify the purpose of this congregation. We then took the common elements of each phrase, worked them a little more, and came up with:

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S LOVE

We agreed that this phrase capture's our purpose. There is still much work to be done as we plan our next steps to carry out this purpose and you will be hearing more in the weeks following Easter.

-Mary Buzby, Church Council Chair

United Methodist Men

During one of the worship services in February, Dale Hoehn, UMM past president, was honored and present-

ed with a gift certificate for his many years of service as president. UMM conducted the

worship service at

MEN'S GROUP

Lorien Nursing Home, Sunday, March 7. The service included prayers, hymn singing, scripture reading, and communion. The highlight of this service was the puppet ministry performed by Dick Lowry, Bryan Lowry, Linda Gilbert, and a Lorien volunteer staff member.

On Saturday, April 24, we plan to participate again this year in Christmas in April. UMM invites our youth, youth leaders, and anyone else in the church to join them in working on repairs to a selected time. Watch for upcoming details.

Our next meeting is Monday, April 5, 7:30 PM. All men are invited.

-Ed Miller, UMM President

Sub Sale

We would like to thank everyone at Messiah church



for the wonderful support of the sub sales for the selling, buying, making, and delivering of the subs. As this was our first year handling this effort, we did have

a few bumps along the way but someone was always there to help us.

We sold 1,723 Subs and made a profit of \$3,779.27! (Total sub sales for Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., March). THANKS TO EVERYONE & God bless!!! MIKI & GINNY

Thanks! Blood Donors / March 17, 2010

Bill Hoy, Nancy Weller, Gary Dupel, Joe James, Roger Diehl, John Moran, Wilson Speak, Al Patterson, Steve Koeppen, Marilyn Stonesifer, and Bill Stonesifer



Paschal Candle

This large, white candle is an ancient symbol for Christ, the light of the world. The candle contains a cross and/or an Alpha and Omega to symbolize that Jesus is eternal and always present with his people. Also called the Easter candle, it plays a prominent role during Easter vigils and celebrations. Some churches also use the candle during baptisms and funerals.

SPRC is Like a Bridge

"SPRC is the unit in a local church where staff and congregational interests come together to focus on the mission of the church."

Our SPRC team consists of Pastor Art, Dick Lowry, Ray Coppenhaver, Linda Warehime, Donna Smith, Diane Kicas, Joyce Green, Christie Piavis, Paul Lynch, Andy Herring, Miki Wilson, Mary Buzby.

A tip from our Guidelines booklet recommends that members of the SPRC create a one-on-one relationship with various staff members, just to ask "how it's going"? In this way, SPRC can be proactive and perhaps "nip a problem in the bud."

At our next meeting, I hope that each of us will select a staff partner. We will also look at some of the other skill building for SPRC members.

> —Christie Piavis, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

Easter isn't over

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, "All this work and it'll all be over so soon." Sorry, but they're wrong.

Easter as a celebration of the return of spring, the Easter of the Easter Bunny and colored eggs and candy, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over by Easter Monday, not to come around again until next year.

But the true Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, is never over. Easter is the reminder and the celebration of a continuing fact: Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow and forever. Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now. Easter isn't over ever!

Our Easter outlook

During World War II, when the Blitz was at its worst in London, theologian Leslie Weatherhead said there had been no loss of life among the Christians there, despite many Christians having been killed there. People who believe in the risen Lord have true life in him, no matter their earthly trials and circumstances. Because God raised his Son from the dead, Christians are assured of immortality in Christ. Eternal life is ours, thanks to the empty tomb. For people who believe in an ever-living Lord, every Sunday is resurrection Sunday.



Weep no more!

In John 20:13–15 (NRSV), the same question is repeated twice. The angels ask Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 13). And then Jesus asks Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 15).

On Easter Sunday, perhaps it's still the question before us: "Why are we weeping?" Why is there still such anguish in the world? Why are we laboring on, burdened and living as though there has been no resurrection?

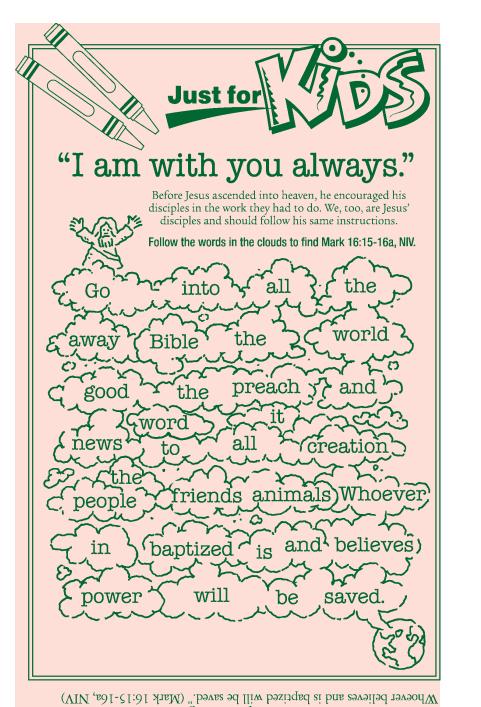
Weep no more! Christ has risen!

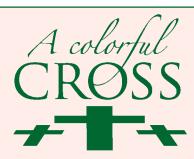
Eye of God

This symbol represents our "all-seeing" God, who is present everywhere and is always watching over us. ("The eyes of the Lord are in every place," Proverbs 15:3, NRSV.) The eye is inside an



equilateral triangle, which is associated with the Holy Trinity.





Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

What you need:

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
 Pencil
 - Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

What you do:

- 1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
- 2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
- 3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
- 4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the tissue paper squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
- 5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.

Answer: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Up but not away

Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place 40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 13.

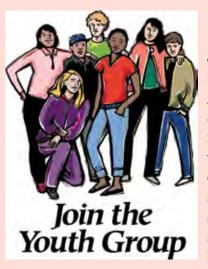
According to Luke, Jesus led his friends to a Jerusalem suburb called Bethany. While on a small mountain, he blessed his friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

The ascension was such a momentous occasion that af-

ter Jesus disappeared, his followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52, NRSV).

Because Christ had promised to be with his followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew he would be with them as Spirit. Jesus' body was up and away, but spiritually he was still and always would be their companion.

Youth News



s you know the youth attended Rock 2010 in Ocean City, MD in January. We all had an awesome and wonderful experience. Youths were jumping up and down, hands raised, singing praise and worship songs, and thousands of teens were hugging each other,

some with tears in their eyes, in realization of Christ's perfect, unconditional love. There were about 4,000 youth standing, including *all* of our youth!

This year's theme, "The Light Knight," was echoed by the musical group Unsearchable Riches' song "Let Your Light Shine," and 1 John 1:5—"God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

Guest speaker Stephen Gallaher told us, "God is at work shaping and molding you to be children of light. He will speak life into a hurting soul—and he will speak life into yours." He spoke and the youth listened and heard. He encouraged the youth to become a community of faith, to think about what they truly believe and to put more emphasis on what they *can do* rather then what they *can't*.

We had group devotions about each day's messages in which all of our youth openly participated. We got a picture with our Bishop John Schol as a group, which we have been blessed to be able to do for several years now. On Sunday morning we all had Communion together, where an offering of \$28,550 was raised for the Haiti earthquake relief.

We are all looking forward to keeping the light bright and attending ROCK 2011 next year. Thank you for all of you thoughts and prayers for our youth. Also thank you to all those who donated funds and food for the trip.

We have sodas and water for sale in refrigerator downstairs for a small price or donation. There is a tin on counter marked youth. Thank you for your support.

₩→ We will be having a Youth Sunday on April 25th, 2010.

Please come and support the youth. It is a "Go Fish" Sunday, too, so maybe that someone you invite to Messiah could be a youth.

✤→ Previously we collected the soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald



House. There wasn't anyone to take them to the location, so I as Youth Leader, have volunteered to take them where they need to go. There is a box located in the back of the church to put them in. If you have any questions please see me, Miki. Thanks.

→ Did you know that 25,000 kids under age 5 will die today? Most of them die because of hunger, poverty, and disease. Of these children, 13,000 will die just from causes related to hunger—that's one child every seven seconds! But it doesn't *have* to be this way. World hunger is totally, absolutely, 100% preventable. This is why we are going to do our part and take the challenge of fasting for 30 hours to raise money to help save lives through World Vision. Every \$30.00 we raise can feed and care for a child for a month. The youth will be fasting at the church on April 23–24. We will be start-



ing the fast at 11:00 A.M. on Friday. I know the kids are in school and some are at work, but the fasting is for 30 hours. We will be arriving at church around 5 P.M. on Fri., and staying over-

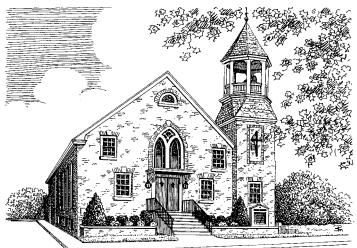
night at the church, with a dinner to conclude the fast on Sat. evening. This will be a time for our youth to raise money for those in need, to bring them closer to Jesus, and to unite them with each other.

Please help us support the youth in this fight against hunger. You can see any youth member to make a donation. Thank you!

⇒ Please keep our youth group in your thoughts and prayers.

Thanks for all of your support, Kelly & Miki

Messiah United Methodist Church 25 Middle Street Taneytown, MD 21787



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Taneytown, Maryland

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Messiah United Methodist Church

Office Phone: 410-756-6085 Pastor's Study: 410-756-6092

REGULAR SCHEDULE Sunday School for All Ages 9:00 A.M. Worship at 10:15 A.M

Visit us on the web at: http://www.emmitsburg.net/messiah



or email Pastor Art Thomas at:

athomas@qis.net

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or

Put in the newsletter box in the church narthex. Articles must be received by the 15th of the month preceding the next quarterly newsletter.



Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and... honor and glory and praise!" Revelation 5:12. NIV