



Mount Zion United Methodist Church

The Printer

July 2017 Edition



Our Mission

Touching
Lives
for
Jesus Christ

Our Core Values

To be a
Loving
Christian
Community.
Providing
opportunities
for worship,
spiritual
growth,
and service.

Our Vision

Love,
Grow,
Serve

Dear friends of Mt Zion,

As I write this article, it is the first day of summer, a new season. Entering a new season means anticipating doing new things; such as enjoying summer picnics, planning family vacations, taking trips to the beach and spending more time outside. It's a time of re-creation and relaxation. It's a time to witness the growth of life all around us as flowers bloom, gardens grow and the landscape turns lush and green.

This is a new season for Mt. Zion. I greatly anticipate coming to lead you and work with you as we participate in a shared ministry. It is my hope and prayer that this season of transition will be one of deepening growth in God's love and an outward growth in our discipleship.

I have come to recognize and honor how God is working in and through you. A Chinese proverb states, "*The loftiest towers rise from the ground.*" I have already heard so many good stories about the wonderful work you are doing. I know that you are able to do these things because you are grounded in God's Word and undergirded by God's grace. I am confident that together we will do great and lofty things because we stand on '*holy ground*'.

Transitions bring anxiety and uncertainty. I have ended my past appointment and now begin a new one. And yet, I am well aware that by centering only on endings and beginnings we can lose sight of the present. Robert Frost wrote: "*Ends and beginnings - there is no such things. There are only middles.*" In applying Frost's wisdom to the journey of faith, we find ourselves right in the middle of what God is already doing in us and in the world.

So let us celebrate and honor the past, engage in the work of the present, and prepare for a future that is yet to be, but one full of promise because the future is in God's hands.

Grace & Peace,
Gary

12430 Scaggsville Rd • Highland, MD 20777 • 301-854-2324 • 410-531-5173

(301) 854-2326 (fax) office@mtzionhighland.com

Check us out on the web: www.mtzionhighland.com

Rev. Gary Sheeld-James
Senior Pastor

Rev. Tammi D. Brantley
Executive/Youth Pastor

Jena J. Meredith
Director of Children's Ministries

Mark Dubbs
Director of Music

Deb Papavizas
Organist

Chris Fox
Keyboard/Children's Choir Director

Belinda G. Norton
Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Mark J. Blough
Facilities Manager

Moéa G. Fletcher
Administrative Assistant

Chuck Plant
Office Assistant



Worship Spiritual Growth

Those Called to Serve and Lead Worship

	Service Times	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Frances Colvin	Elizabeth Blough	Jamie Humphreys & VBS kids	Jena Meredith
Counters	9:00	Andrea Smolen, Betty Ames			Roger Colvin, Larry Murdock	
	11:00	Rob Messerly, Chuck Norwood	Frank Lineberger, Patrick Saunderson	Evan Saunderson, Chris Maynard	Will Scott, Sam Hergert	
Greeters	9:00	Louise Sehman & Wayne Mullinix	Crystal Zimmerman & Lorene Brown	Carolyn & Lamont Baskett	Alice Ellis & Hilda & Lew Rodgers	
	11:00		Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson		
Liturgist	9:00	Jon Lindberg	Ellen McKinzie	Karyn Vice	Jon Lindberg	Steve Dennis
Projection	9:00	Jill Scott	Bonnie Luepkes	Jill Scott	Adam Johnson	Jill Scott
	11:00	Chuck Sehman	Adam Johnson	Carol Hill	Carol Hill	Chuck Sehman
Sound	9:00	Bill Ray	<i>Your Name Here</i>	<i>Why Not You?</i>	<i>Why Not You?</i>	
	11:00		Al Hill	Bill Ray	Bill Ray	
Usher Captains	9:00	Will Scott	Robert Morrison	John Maloney	John Maloney	Will Scott
	11:00	Gary & Patricia Heinz	Gary & Patricia Heinz	Gary & Patricia Heinz	Gary & Patricia Heinz	





Worship Spiritual Growth

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

BISHOP, WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL AREA

REV. ANTOINE C. LEVE *Assistant to the Bishop*

JONAS A. KING *Administrative Assistant to the Bishop*

June 2, 2017

Dear Mount Zion United Methodist Church:

It is with deep sincerity and enthusiasm that Bishop Easterling affirms her intention to appoint Rev. Gary Sheffield-James to Mount Zion United Methodist Church, in Highland, MD, beginning July 1, 2017. We are aware that Mount Zion has had both triumphs and challenges related to harmony and collaboration amongst members, and we are grateful for the work you have done with your former pastor to try to overcome this hurdle.

Together you and Rev. Sheffield-James will focus your time, attention, and gifts toward continuing to develop the Mount Zion community. We expect that you will work collaboratively with him to produce a fruitful ministry in which the congregation:

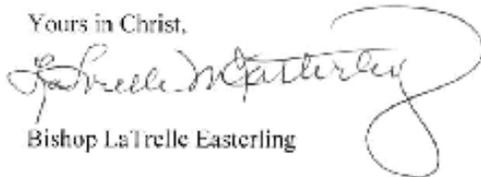
- continues to deepen its biblical and spiritual grounding, creating disciples who are committed to spiritual disciplines;
- reclaims our Wesleyan understanding of and commitment to evangelism and discipleship, with a goal of increasing its membership by 5% each year;
- seeks to find innovative ministry opportunities that serve the community in vital ways;
- fosters healing and harmony between members of the church;
- is committed to attending all official District and Conference gatherings including workshops, trainings, and conferences.

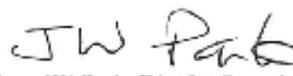
We hope you and Rev. Sheffield-James will be able to sing and live the words of the timeless hymn *A Charge to Keep I Have* from the United Methodist Hymnal;

*A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify, a never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill:
Oh, may it all my pow'rs engage to do my Master's will!*

Please do not hesitate to call the Central Maryland District office if you have any questions. We look forward to being your companions in this new journey. May God's extravagant grace be with you, your loved ones and your new congregation.

Yours in Christ,


Bishop LaTrelle Easterling


Rev. JW Park, District Superintendent

"Becoming fully alive in Christ and making a difference in a diverse and ever-changing world."

Maryland Office | 11711 East Market Place, Fulton, Maryland 20759 | phone: 410-293-7300 | fax: 301-498-2023
D.C. Office | 116 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 501, Washington D.C. 20002 | phone: 202-546-3110 | fax: 202-546-3186



Discipleship Spiritual Growth



BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE 233RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY MEMBER DELEGATE REPORT

The theme for the 233rd Annual Conference was *We Are One: Connected In Covenant*. The venue was the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. From Wednesday morning (May 31) through Friday night (June 2), clergy and lay delegates were enveloped in a display of oneness in love, worship, music and conference reports. Granted the main purpose of Annual Conference is to handle legislative matters, hear committee reports on ministry efforts over the past year, pass a budget and vote on questions that will be reported at General Conference. That was accomplished.

Wednesday morning offered several workshops focusing on Visioning for the local church and Missions. The afternoon Laity session featured representatives from several ministries including Young Adults (Ramon Jackson: The Young Adult Council has funds available for community engagement and activism), BWC Communications Director (Melissa Lauber), Lay Servant Ministries (Julie Flincham and Jo Chesson), Deaconess and Home Missionaries (Jane Grace: this new ministry team started in 2015 to provide assistance to the homebound), United Methodist Women (Elizabeth Mitchell Stimley: A Call to Community was the UMW theme), and United Methodist Men (Bill Wellers) to share a few highlights of the past year.

Panel speakers included Christie Latona, the BWC's newly appointed Director of Connectional Ministries, who explained that delegates to the General Conference voted unanimously to establish a Call for A Way Forward to address the question of how the Methodist church will receive people with differing sexual orientation because "when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer". Christy read several of the Social Principles from the Book of Discipline to underscore that this is not a liberal movement but rather "just what we as Methodists believe." She encouraged us to "get comfortable with being uncomfortable". To become the people of God we must be "responsible for learning from each other". "(A) Methodist acts as a role model, takes action when appropriate, and addresses others' behaviors when necessary." Christy invited us to take the implicit association test online: bwcumc.org/ministries/call-to-action-on-racial-justice

Jodi Cataldo of Discipleship Ministries was the keynote speaker for the Laity session. She reported, "You are God's plan. There is no Plan B. You are His hands and feet. Share your story."

Interesting statistics touted during Annual Conference: When a child attends church, 11% of families with one child coming to church will come to church; when a woman attends church, 35% of families will come to church; but when a man attends church, 98% of families will come to church.

Rev. Dr. Steve Maskaar led Bible study worship each morning. The scriptural text for both morning bible studies came from the Book of Ephesians, which is believed to be a letter of practical exhortation, addressed to several Christian communities. "It is a sign of hope and a rebuke to the authorities of the world that try to control our thinking and behavior." Here are tidbits I took away from Dr. Maskaar's instruction. "God wants us to be His poem for the world. All who are baptized are to be in Holy conference. Holy solitaires are just like Holy adulterers. Baptismal covenants maintain unity and peace. We cannot keep these promises on our own. To be perfected in love is to be a full grown Christian. In you, all of the families of earth will be blessed. Church does not exist for itself but rather to bring others into relationship (with God). If the church is the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit is the breath of the church. God gives us faith because He is relational. We are relational creatures. Faith is how God participates in this relationship. Faith is like wrestling with God, whose name is love. When you spend time with Christ, holiness rubs off on you (and we become) agents of God's mission in the world. Unity in Christ does not mean uniformity, (it means) we are united in love and mission. "

The particulars of the business conducted during the plenary session can be located on the BWC website, www.bwcumc.org please search 233rd Annual Conference. In addition, there will be official minutes posted online by the BWC Secretary.

I will give a general overview of what I observed and interesting highlights. One such highlight was Rev. Dr. Jim Miller's report from the Episcopacy that over \$330 million was collected for construction of a Sports complex at Africa University.

With respect to the Commission on a Way Forward concerning the impasse on sexual orientation, Bishop Latrelle Easterling asked the conference for forbearance and stated that we must be in circles of grace in the local church and to do so in love in order to move forward.

[continued on pages 5 & 6]

On Thursday morning, we were greeted by a message from Bishop Marian Budde, an Episcopalian bishop who spoke of agreements of greater unity between the BWC and the Episcopalian church.

Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministries (BOOM) reported there were no changes to evaluations for licenses and that one Deacon and seven men and women were being confirmed and admitted into ordained ministry.

Christy Latona, Director of Connectional Ministries, spoke about the need for a new vision for the United Methodist Church. She mentioned an online survey at bwcumc.org to help understand who we are.

Mrs. Delores Martin, Conference Lay Leader encouraged us to follow the ABCDs: Always Be in Covenant Discipleship.

Pam Bowen, Coordinator for the BWC Youth Council on Youth Ministry mentioned a "Mission of Peace" which will entail a 4 days in Cuba including a global conference on teen stress.

Two Constitutional amendments to be acted on were discussed. The results of the voting on these amendments were not reported during Annual Conference but will be reported back to the General Conference.

Four resolutions were brought before the assembled body for voting:

- 1) To amend the conference moving policy to treat pastors going into retirement to the same moving policy as those moving between appointments and thus keep retired pastors from having to spend as much out of pocket when they make the final move into private (retired) life. This was amended to be applicable to the 2017 retiring class of pastors. Yes 93.51% No 6.49% (I did not get the actual numbers.)
- 2) To avoid purchasing HP products by the church. Yes 396 No 318
- 3) To use stronger investment screens to divest the BWC of companies which make a profit on tobacco sales and alcohol sales. Presently, the Mid-Atlantic Foundation invests funds for the BWC and the desire is to send a message that none of our funds will be used to inflict harm on people. Yes 49.23% No 50.77%
- 4) To support the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC)- The RCRC addresses concerns about reproductive health decisions and how our faith informs those decisions. Six annual conferences have voted to become members of Religious Cooperation for Reproductive Training to help people with reproductive loss and questions. Yes 383 No 304

On Friday, Dr. Steve Maskaar continued his bible study on Ephesians 4:7 and 4:11-16. He started with a statement many of us already suspected: "God is a Methodist!" In support of this bold statement, Rev. Maskaar spoke about Social Holiness and the rationale of Methodism that Jesus united us by grace. To analogize, we are asked to think of God as the center of a circle. As we move closer to God, we move closer to each other. To move towards God, humans must move from the circumference of the circle. We need the support of others to grow in our Christian faith. Ephesians is considered the Constitution of Christianity, it instructs us "to increase our faith, confirm our hope and perfect us in love."

Reverend Richard H. Graham, Lutheran Bishop of the District of Columbia spoke to the assemblage on Friday morning. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) has synods instead of Conferences. The Lutheran church traces its beginnings to October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted The 95 Theses or Disputation on the Power of Indulgences on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Bishop Graham noted that Jesus calls us to live in connection with other Christians. That there are similarities between Lutherans and Methodists; but, in his father's opinion, "Methodists sing better!"

Back to business, in the plenary session, Rev. Ann Laprade reported for Stewardship that \$1.9 million has been collected in the "Imagine No Malaria" Campaign. This amount represents 92% of the goal (\$2.1 million). Although the campaign is finished, there are still funds coming in as churches meet their pledges. Stewardship proposes an increase of .3% in apportionments in the budget. The Benevolence factor is decreased slightly from the 2017 budget from 17.75% to 17.725% in 2018.

Jim Johnson, Chair of Equitable Compensation, proposed that the minimum salary be increased 2% to \$43,149 and the housing allowance remain unchanged at \$19,866.

Jack Day, Board of Pension and Health Benefits reported that in 2017 a Health Flex Exchange was started. A PPO plan was chosen by 119 (60%). 95% chose the Gold Plan. Costs were higher than anticipated and premiums will be increased. Full or three quarter time clergy are entitled to Pension and Health Benefit Plan coverage. Retirees (clergy, 65 or better) receive \$3,120 per year for a retiree and a spouse. Retiree medical benefits are close to being fully funded. Surviving spouse benefit is 85% of the pastor.

Reverend Dr. Clarence Brown reported that the BWC paid 100% of its apportionment for Africa University. He announced Africa University has graduated over 7000 men and women.

Ultimately, a \$18.4 million budget was adopted for 2018.

Reverend J. W. Park addressed the Annual Conference as Head of the Korean Delegation. In 2016, a Korean delegation of 5 clergy and 2 lay members was welcomed into the homes of several in late July and early August. This summer the BWC will

send a delegation to Korea.

Frederick District Superintendent Rev. Edgardo Rivera reported as a steward of the relationship with the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico, which began 2 years ago. Four churches in the Frederick District have sent people to Puerto Rico to be in relationship with people there. This summer the Frederick District will welcome a delegation from Puerto Rico. There will be another group going to Puerto Rico next year.

Cumberland District Superintendent Rev. Rob Pearson reported on the Mission Together Eurasia ministry with Roma People.

As Dean of the Bishop's Cabinet, Rev. J.W. Park introduced all of the District Superintendents and the District Administrative Assistants to the Annual conference.

Central Maryland	Rev. J. W. Park	DA	Katie Filano
Cumberland	Rev. Rob Pearson		Penny Gaver
Frederick	Rev. Edgardo Rivera		Tonia Bennett
D.C.	Rev. Gerard Green		Olivia Gross
Baltimore	Rev. Wanda Duckett		Christine Kumar
Baltimore Suburban	Rev. Ann LaPrade		John Gauthier
Annapolis	Rev. Evan Young		Willine Kamara
Washington East	Rev. Rebecca Iannicelli		Christol Medley

The video movie produced by the District Superintendents was one of the entertaining highlights of Annual Conference. In it each DS tells how he or she came to be a Methodist pastor. It was heart warming. The makeup of the Bishop's Council reflects the diversity of the Conference.

There were tense moments when Bishop Easterling reported that during the Clergy Session Rev. J. Phillip Wogaman surrendered his clergy credentials in a show of support for T.C. Morrow, a lesbian who was not approved for ordained ministry. T.C. Morrow sought ordination again this year but her status will remain that of certified candidate after a May 2017 Judicial Council ruling that Boards of Ordained Ministry (BoOM) are required to ask about a candidate's sexual practice as part of their examination. Rev. C. Anthony Hunt said the BWC's BoOM took that decision into account when it reached its decision not to recommend T.C. Morrow to the full clergy session. Wogaman, 85, has served as a delegate to General Conference 4 times, as senior pastor of Foundry UMC and as Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary stated, "I've had to ask myself 'How could I remain inside the association of clergy when someone like her (Morrow) must remain outside?... I have known her for many years. (Morrow is a member of Foundry UMC.) She is highly qualified. ...I really wanted the point to register that this is not just administrative decision making...This is very serious; it bears upon the character not just of the conference but the whole church...I beg all of you to remain within the circle, if you think as I do, let me be your representative (outside the circle)."

T. C Morrow also addressed the Annual Conference to say she was saddened by the BoOM's decision but she would continue to answer her calling.

In the final evening, Bishop Easterling initiated a new way to recognize pastors that were receiving new appointments. The Bishop chose to give each pastor his or her letter of appointment in a ceremony requiring each pastor to come onstage along with the new church's lay delegates. As the pastor was given an appointment letter, the lay delegates also received a letter from the Bishop and the District Superintendent setting goals and expectations of collaborative cooperation in evangelism and in disciple making.

A lot happens during Annual Conference. It is hard for one person to report everything. For more in depth information please go to the Baltimore Washington Conference website. www.bwcumc.org

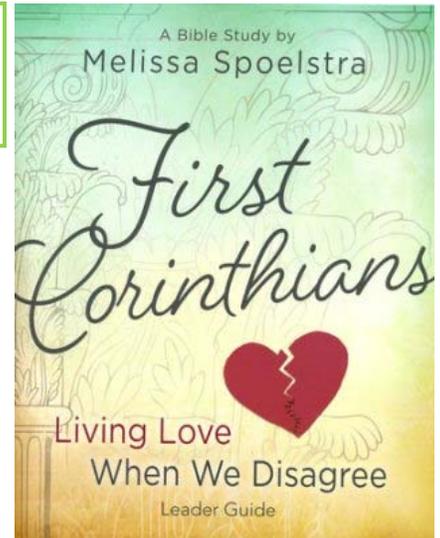
"Please also note that direct quotes attributed to Rev. J. Phillip Wogaman were taken from the UMConnection, Volume 28, Issue 06, June 2017."

Your servant and sister in Christ,
Bettye Ames
Lay Member to 233rd Annual Conference





Discipleship Spiritual Growth



Summer Small Group study in a whole new way!

Please join us to study the book of First Corinthians this summer – starting 7/17/2017. We will use

First Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree

by Melissa Spoelstra to direct the study.

This is an opportunity to look at our disagreements at home, at work, in the church; and find ways to work out our differences with grace and humility, always showing the love of Christ while still remaining true to what we believe. Based upon the 1st letter by the apostle Paul to the Corinthians, 1st Corinthians will provide the foundation to deal with differences and division through living and sharing the radical love of Jesus Christ.

There will be multiple ways for you to participate in this study and we hope you will be able to take advantage of one or more.

Mt Zion's Facebook page will include summary of the week's lessons for your review and further reading.

Check out https://www.facebook.com/pg/mtzionhighland/posts/?ref=page_internal

You may sign up for one of the Facebook groups to participate in communicating your thoughts on the lesson and read what others wish post.

You may wish to join the Drop-In class on Sunday mornings to review the videos and have face to face discussions with others in the class

Start your own group for face to fact meetings. You will be provided with leader's materials and DVDs for these sessions.

Participant books will be available during fellowship between services (Lemonade on the Lawn). Donations will be collected to offset the costs of the books. Or order online at <https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9781501801686/first-corinthians-womens-bible-study-participant-book/?pr=9743460>

We look forward to your participation in this study. As Mt Zion moves forward in this time of transition, this study will help us to "Let all that you do be done in love" (1st Corinthians 16:14).



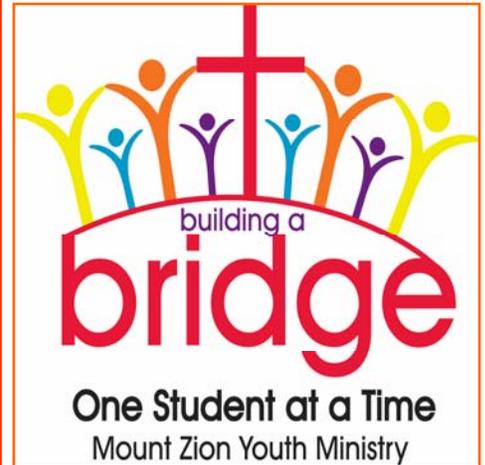
Discipleship Spiritual Growth

Youth Ministry

- Sunday Morning Youth Gathering ~ 10:10 am
- Students 6th - 12th Grade in Youth Center
- Youth Choir Rehearsal ~ Sundays at 5 pm
- Youth Ministry ~ Sundays at 6:15 pm in the Youth Center
- Confirmation ~ Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Youth Center

Upcoming Activities

- June 25-July 1-Camp Hope
- July 2 – Camp Hope Sunday
- July 9-30 – Combined Sunday School
- August – No Sunday School or Youth Group
- September 9-10 – Back 2 Sunday School and Youth Ministry Retreat & Kick-off



Children’s Ministry



PLEASE HELP! IF YOU ARE NOT HELPING WITH VBS WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING;

Needed for VBS - Beach/backyard canopies/shade structures for the Friday picnic!! Please email Jena Meredith

Snacks for the volunteers!! Please take finger foods/snacks VBS week (7/17-21) to the kitchen to be used during the week.

DECORATORS NEEDED SATURDAY JULY 15TH AT 1:00 FOR A FEW HOURS! THE MORE HELP WE HAVE THE FASTER WE CAN GET THIS DONE!

Due to Scout Sunday School there will be no Kid's Zone at the 9:00 service July 2nd. We plan to have KZ at the 11:00 service on 7/9 and 7/16 and 7/23.

Vacation Bible School
at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
12430 Scaggsville Rd. Highland, MD 20777

MAKER FUN FACTORY
Created by GOD
Built for a Purpose

July 17th-21st - 9am to noon
with a picnic on the 21st at noon

Registration begins May 1st- June 25th
(or until VBS is full)
at mtzionhighland.com

Cost is \$45 per child but the fee is waived if you volunteer to help.
Contact Jena Meredith
jenameredith@hotmail.com
if you wish to help

Ages 4 - 5th grade



Discipleship Spiritual Growth



MtZ Library News -

Business first (sorry!), then new library news.

1. **ALL** library items (books, videos, etc.) **MUST** have a check-out card completed when items are removed from the library, even if they are used by staff, Sunday School teachers, and others within the walls of Mt. Zion UMC. When done with the items, return them to the **Green Return Bin** on the library desk. Right in front of the Return Bin is a the wooden tray for the check-out cards — Curious about how to fill it out? Solved: a Sample Check-out Card is adhered to the bottom of the tray.
2. The **GIVING SHELF experiment is ending**. Shelf space is needed for the growing collection. Perhaps a more public space can be found in the church for these books and expanded to include book exchanges between the congregation. If you have an interest in helping with this effort contact me.
3. As suspected many Children's videos are **MISSING**: Hermie (HE-01), VeggieTales: Larry-Boy and the Fib... (VEG-06), Larry-Boy and the Rumor Weed... (VEG-08), King George and the Ducky (VEG-14), The Wonderful World of Auto-... (VEG-22), Minnesota Cuke & ...Samson's Hairbrush (VEG-26), Sheerluck Holmes... (VEG-28), Lessons from the Sock Drawer (VEG-35), Minnesota Cuke & ... Noah's Umbrella (VEG-36), It's a Meaningful Life (VEG-40), and Sweetpea Beauty (VEG-41). Additionally, Fireproof (FAM-01) a Family DVD is missing.
4. Thanks to whoever returned Angel Sister (813 GAB). All other books listed in May & June Pointers remain missing, and there are more to add: Take Two (KIN (ATL-02)) and Halfway to Forever (KIN (FF-03)). Please note: Hobbit Lessons: A Map for Life's Unexpected Journeys (823.91209 BRO) is missing, not The Christian World of The Hobbit.
5. **Please** communicate with me—for donations (don't leave items in Return Bin), extended loan periods, recommendations, really anything concerning the library. Use the library email below, or if you don't email I am in the new directory. **I look forward to hearing from you!**

Now for the new news. Over 15 new fiction books will be on the shelves soon, as well as many new non-fiction. The shelf read of the Adult section and the Children/Youth videos is complete. And as soon as all of the new books are cataloged, a new paper version of the catalog will be printed and placed in the binder in the library. By the end of the summer, hopefully, a searchable pdf will be up on MtZ's website. I look forward to writing about the books, and not library business, in August — It is way more fun! Happy reading!

—Robin Emrich, Librarian
email: library@mtzionhighland.com



UMW
Picnic
2017
at
Crystal's
House





Discipleship Spiritual Growth



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON UMC CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS

Mission u, sponsored by the BWC's United Methodist Women and Board of Global Ministries will be held July 28-30 at the Bethesda Marriott, at 5151 Pooks Hill Road in Bethesda. This year's sessions will focus on living as covenant community, climate justice, and United Methodist missionary communities. A youth school, which covers the same themes is also offered. .

New Study Guide: The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools, in support of the Commission on a Way Forward, have released a new study guide, "The Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness." The study guide offers United Methodists an opportunity to facilitate constructive conversations around a cultural and ecclesial flashpoint -human sexuality. The concept for the study guide originates from an Academic Theological Colloquy that shares its name and was held at Candler School of Theology in March 2017. "The Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness" study guide is available on Cokebury.com and Amazon.com. Translations in French, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese will be available on the GBHEM website at the end of May. For more information on the Colloquy, visit www.gbhem.org/colloquy.

The BWC's Early Childhood Educators Conference will be held Thursday, Aug. 10, from 7:30 am. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's UMC, 4 Wallace Manor Road in Edgewater. The theme of the conference, is "Shaping Hearts and Changing Lives." The cost is \$55. [Learn more and register.](#)

MDiv Scholarship for United Methodists: St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute in Baltimore will award one full-tuition scholarship to a selected United Methodist applicant for its new MDiv Partnership program with Lancaster Theological Seminary. The scholarship will cover tuition costs for the 12 courses (36 credits) taken at the Ecumenical Institute (to begin in Fall 2017). [Learn more.](#)

Called to be an Earthkeeper? Is God calling you to a vocation of caring for God's creation? Would you like to be one of 500 Earthkeepers working to create a more just and sustainable world? Training classes are forming in August and October. An online brochure has details. If you are interested in learning more about the BWC cohort, contact Mike Koob .

An Academic Way Forward: The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools will co-host an academic theological colloquy, "Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness." The colloquy, planned in support of the Commission on a Way Forward, will take place November 12-15 at the Boston School of Theology at Boston University. The board has also published a new study guide, "The Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness," which is available on Amazon.com.

The Foundation on Evangelism recognizes one clergy person each year as the Distinguished Evangelist of the Year for The United Methodist Church. The award comes with a grant for future ministries. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 15. [Learn more and download a nominations form at Foundation for Evangelism.org.](#)





Mt. Zion UMM Upcoming Events 2017:

- August 18, Baltimore Orioles vs Los Angeles Angels at Camden Yards 7 pm
- November 10-12 Mt. Zion UMM Men's Retreat, Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centerville Md



**We served 98 families (427 people) on
Saturday, June 17.
Thank you to everyone who served in any
capacity to make it all happen.**

UMW Honors Rod Barr for more than 20 years of Mission Service at Mt. Zion.



Above Rod is helping at a Rebuild Together in Howard County. He has helped organize, work and cook on countless VIM trips to the Midwest, the Carolinas, and Mississippi. He has been the driving force between recent Winter Cold Weather Shelters, including keeping them open extra days for late cold spells. He kept Rt. 1 meals going when he took over that committee. He has contributed time, talents and a freezer to the Food Pantry. And these are only the highlights. Thank you to Rod Barr for his continued care of our neighbors, near and far, and his gentle prayers and pushes to get Mt. Zion into active caring, too.



Who We Are:

The United Methodist Men (UMM) of Mt. Zion

What We Are:

A group of men that have come together to assist those in need – elderly; shut-ins; etc. that need assistance “around the house”

What Assistance Can We Provide :

Yard Work - mowing, trimming (yards, hedges), maintenance, etc.

Fixin’ of Stuff – light painting, repairs inside/outside the house, etc.

What do you really need help with?
(hint...just email us)

How Do I Contact the UMMen@Work Team:

Contact **Bryan Meredith** and we will go from there to ensure that needs are met.



Pointer...

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- Page 2 - Sunday Worship Schedule
- Page 3 - Appointment letter from Bishop Easterling
- Page 4 - 6 - Lay Member Report for
2017 BWC Annual Conference
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[August Pointer Deadline - Mon., July 24]

Editors Note:

Pages 4 - 6 contain Bettye Ames extensive report on the 2017 BWC Annual Conference. As someone who has attended many Annual Conferences, I recommend that all Methodists read this report and recognize how the United Methodist Church works to Love, Grow and Serve the local and world community. Please thank Bettye for her service.

Sue Ball