

The Messenger

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410.465.4995



O Church Arise

"When faced with trials on every side we know the outcome is secure, and Christ will have the prize for which he died, and inheritance of nations." – O Church Arise by Keith Getty

Reflecting on the past couple of years, our nation has faced many trials. We saw riots in Ferguson and Baltimore. We witnessed the election of a controversial President. The religious community struggles with decline and how to reach the younger generations. This represents three significant issues we are faced with in society – race, religion, and politics.

What is the church's role in a society struggling to make sense of these three big issues? Maybe you are struggling personally on how to face these concerns in your own life. We tend not to think we are racist or religiously judgmental or politically incorrect. But, could we be and not know it? Could we possibly see the speck in someone else's eye easier than the log in our own?

The church has always been called to take the high road and to show others the way of the high road. Before Michelle Obama said, "When they go low, we go high," Jesus said this:

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. – Matthew 7:13-14

The high road is also the narrow road Jesus pointed people to. It is the easy road to allow religious, racial, and political judgmentalism to take over society. It is easy to post negative and judgmental opinions and blogs on social media. It is easy to demonize those who look different and think differently than we do. It is easy to complain and protest without offering an alternative way of living. That is the road that will destroy us personally and as a society.

The church is to take the high road which is the narrow road. The church is to lead the way in taking the high road. This starts with the narrow road that leads us to

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INVEST IN AMAZING CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Congratulations and thank you from the Stewardship and Invest in Amazing Campaign teams– the 2017-2020 Capital Campaign pledge total so far is \$2,697,587 with several weeks left to go before a final total will be announced. If you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so. Through prayer and with God's help, we may well hit our aggressive \$2.8 million target which will allow us to significantly pay down extra principal on our debt over the next three years. Your generosity is amazing!

As you know, simultaneous to the capital campaign, pledge cards for the annual operating fund were also being collected and totaled. The current total for the operating campaign is \$1,267,162. The target is \$1.6 million so that we can increase our annual operating budget in the coming year to fully support the missions and ministries planned, and to fund some key projects, including a badly needed technology refresh and Spirit Center projectors and screens. It is not too late to pledge support for such projects and our ministry expenses for the coming year. The Generous Together campaign (2014-2017) just ended on June 30. Together, we finished strong and met our goal of \$2.6 million. This is great! Your giving allowed us to pay additional principal of \$818,754 beyond the required payments. This is truly amazing. Thank you.

This year, the hope is to "elevate" how each of us is involved spiritually as well as financially in God's work. "Invest in Amazing" encompasses our spiritual growth and the commission to share the

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God and personal holiness. Then from a healed soul comes a social holiness. Personal and social holiness is living in a way that reveals the narrow road that few chose, but can also lead to life. It is a hard road, but it is a better road than the one we typically find ourselves on. Sometimes God asks us to do the hard things because it is how we grow holy. God asks us to do what is best, not what is easiest.

That hard road may start with looking at the darkness that lurks within our own hearts—those assumptions and judgements we make about others. It may require us to change our thinking about privileges, class, affiliations, and religious membership. It may require us to bite our tongues and listen to others. It may require us to work with others to put forth an alternative plan that reflects the kingdom of God.

The church needs to show the world a different way. The church needs to rise up above the easy road of judgmental attitudes that surround us. The church needs to put forth an alternative way of being and leading in society. We lead with grace and truth. We lead with Jesus.

“Arise, shine for your light has come Arise, shine for the Risen Son. Lift your eyes, we are His radiant bride Arise, o church arise!” - O Church Arise by Keith Getty

***Grace & Peace,
Pastor Matt***

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“Good News” of Jesus Christ and root people in His life-giving message. Being present and serving, praying with and for all, giving generously of our time and treasures, and witnessing to God’s glory and amazing grace are all a part of what Glen Mar and the Church are about. Every gift of your time and talent



contributes to God’s work through Glen Mar, changing lives forever. Please do not underestimate your part in God’s plan, however small it might seem to be in your mind.

Many great stories were shared through the campaign; and several stories are posted in the Gathering Place of supporting each other in times of need. Yes, Glen Mar is about this; and we are transforming lives with God’s help. There are amazing life-changing stories to share within Glen Mar. Through God’s love, amazing grace, and mercy, there is more, much more to come—for you, for the church, for the community, and in the world as we grow more like Christ and as followers. What is your story? We want to hear it! Thanks for your faithfulness and thanks to God—there is an amazing future ahead.

The Changing Nature of Caring Ministries

By Marti Windram

While going through a box of my grandmother’s papers, I came upon the handwritten bill from the hospital in Greensburg, PA, where my mother was born in 1927. Her two-week stay following an uncomplicated delivery cost \$97 total, with all the charges for the doctor, (a GP, not an obstetrician), nursing care, meals, and follow-up all rolled into a single invoice. According to data from Castlight Health, a healthcare benefits information company, the national average for a routine delivery is now \$8,775, and can range as high as \$15,420, if you live in Northern California! In addition, the invoices will come from numerous different sources, including the hospital, the pharmacy, the obstetrician, the anesthesiologist, the pediatrician, the labor and delivery

room, and all the other numerous contacts that occurred during the process of bringing a new life into the world.

I can’t imagine staying in the hospital for two weeks after having a baby, and there isn’t a practical reason I can think of to be confined for so long. This is just one example of how health care has radically changed in a relatively short period of time. Cardiac procedures that used to require major surgery and a long convalescence are now minimally invasive and performed on an outpatient basis. As Minister for Congregational Care and for the pastors who care for members of their congregations, the amount of time we spend making hospital calls has been greatly reduced, because quite frankly, hardly anyone remains in the hospital long enough for us to visit!

So the nature of caring has changed from sitting at a hospital bedside to

providing prayer support before a procedure and a follow-up presence for someone at home or in rehab. Yet the personal connection between congregational care and individual members of our church family remains a priority at Glen Mar. How we as staff and Caring Ministers stay informed about the joys and concerns of those in our care depends largely on individuals, family members, and friends who share when prayers and presence are needed or requested. It is a great privilege to enter into the life of a person under care in some of the most intimate and vulnerable times of human experience, and in blessed contrast, we are often able to cradle a newborn and rejoice in God’s miracle of new life. In Matthew 25: 35-40, Jesus calls us blessed when we minister to those who are ill, who are in need, who are in prison, who are hungry or thirsty.

Connecting People to Christ *By Andy Lunt, Pastor Emeritus and Minister for Connection*

For many people, if not most, a relationship with Jesus begins with relationships with others. Some come to know and love the Lord through the example of parents or grandparents. For others, a relationship with a trusted friend, teacher or small group encourages faith in Christ. But in nearly every case other people provide an essential link in the process of growing in faith and becoming a disciple.

Recent studies have confirmed this. A study by the Gallup Organization concluded that for most people belonging comes before believing. In other words, the sense that we are known and cared for provides an environment in which our faith can take root and grow.

Conversations with many guests to Glen Mar and other churches confirm that what they are seeking most is a place where they can connect with others and feel “at home.” So what we’re coming to understand is that connecting with others is the best way to connect with Christ.

With that in mind, Pastor Matt has encouraged creation of a new ministry team. The Connection Ministry Team has begun working to help make Glen Mar the kind of place where it is easier for all to connect to Christ through connections with others.

One very important part of this process is represented by all those who serve every weekend as ushers, greeters, welcome center and parking ministry staff. When you serve in one of these roles be aware that you are providing an important link that may help someone grow closer to Christ in faith. And when you encounter any of these servants, remember that they play a part in Glen Mar’s vision to “root people in the life-giving message of Jesus.”

Important as these “official” roles are, more is needed to create the fertile environment in which faith can take root and grow. Each of us can be a link to faith for those we encounter—both at worship and throughout the week.

We still see people who are standing alone following worship in The Gathering Place. And, unfortunately, we still hear occasionally from a guest who reports that “no one talked to me.” If people get the feeling that no one cares about them, they can easily conclude that God doesn’t care for them either.

I know how important it is for us to catch up with friends and family members at worship. But, remembering your part in rooting people in the life-giving message of Jesus, try each week to reach out to those you don’t know. During the greeting time at the beginning of worship, try to greet at least one person you don’t know. If you see someone standing alone in The Gathering Place, try to engage them in conversation and, if possible, link them to someone with a similar background or interest.

By doing these things we can help people experience God’s love and grow in their connection to Christ.

Second Annual “Jewels for Hope,” November 11



Last year, the first “Jewels for Hope” event raised over \$8300 for HopeWorks (formerly the Domestic Violence Center). This agency provides a crisis shelter, transitional housing, advocacy services (24-hour hotline), counseling, legal assistance, and prevention education and community wellness programs. It has been in existence for 40 years and just last year alone, helped 1,229 clients with their various services. Not only did HopeWorks receive the benefit of the Jewels for Hope event,



many happy customers found terrific items for sale.

So Glen Mar congregation.... plans are underway for the second annual jewelry/scarf event on **November 11, 9:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m.** Once again we will be asking for donations of costume jewelry and scarves **September 23-October 22** (most of us have these items that we don’t wear anymore). The jewelry will be organized by color and bargain-priced for resale at our event on November 11. All of the proceeds will go to HopeWorks whose representatives will be at the event to share all the wonderful things that they do to help those in crisis.



Fall Program Updates for Children and Youth

Jump into fall September 10 as we kick off a new school year at Glen Mar. Sunday morning programs begin at 9:30 (all ages) and 11 a.m. (up through 5th grade), and families are invited to a “tailgate” style picnic at 5:00 p.m. 9:30 AM programs include Sprouts for children in kindergarten and younger, Pathfinders for kids in 1st through 5th grade, Bible in a Nutshell for 6th and 7th grade youth, Confirmation Class for 8th grade youth (starts September. 17 with a special pre-class session on September. 10), and Rooted for high school youth. At 11:00 a.m. children up through kindergarten can take part in Sprouts, while kids in 1st through 5th grade start in the Spirit Center with their families, then head downstairs for Kids’ Worship.

Family Tailgate Party

Come back **Sunday evening** for the Family Tailgate Picnic – food, games, a moon bounce, and more. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. In addition, there will be information sessions for parents of elementary age kids and middle and high school youth about plans for the year and how to get involved.

Sunday School Kick Off for Children

Sprouts are children in kindergarten and younger. Our nursery serves ages 5 weeks through 3 years during all worship services. Our Sunday school program is designed for older 3’s through kindergarten and is held in the Early Learning Center wing on the main level. New families are always welcome and registration cards are in the classroom.

Pathfinders Sunday mornings at 9:30 downstairs in the Kids’ wing (yellow hallway). Our doors are always open for new friends to join.



Confirmation 2018

Youth in 8th grade, along with older youth who have not yet been confirmed, are invited to take part in this year’s Confirmation Class. The class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and runs from September to May. In addition to learning all about being a Christian and a United Methodist, youth experience different ways to serve, grow, and worship Christian community. Interested youth and their parents should attend an orientation session on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, September 10 at 11:00 a.m. Contact Jen Rowell jen.rowell@glenmarumc.org for more information.



Middle and high school youth learned about friendship during Sunday morning “Rooted” program in July (Above)

Kids’ Worship Sunday morning during the 11:00 worship hour. Elementary-age kids join their families during the opening “praise” section; then are invited to attend their own special Kids’ worship downstairs in the Kids’ wing in room 145. Hands-on learning with lots of fun for all.

Bible Sunday October 8, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services Glen Mar presents “The New Adventure Bible” to all 3rd grade students.

Middle School Retreat – October 20-22

How do you know which direction to go? If you’re lost in the woods, you might use a compass to find your way. But in life, which way is “True North”? Sign up now to find out! This year’s Middle School Retreat is October 20-22 at West River Camp. This “not-to-miss” weekend will be filled with fun, friends, and faith, plus some orienteering, a campfire, a giant swing, and more. Cost is \$150 per person and the registration deadline is October 8. Contact Jen Rowell jen.rowell@glenmarumc.org to learn more.



Kick ball, mini-golf, a pool party, and even an Escape Room - there are weekly fun events for middle school youth to stay connected and meet new friends

Music Notes

**"Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise." Psalm 66:1-2**

There's always room in Glen Mar's Choirs/Ensembles! For more information, visit glenmarumc.org/worship/music-ministries/

Adult choirs/vocal ensembles

Sanctuary Choir: Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (prior to service)

Singers at 8:00: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Men's Choir: Seasonal, please visit our website www.glenmarumc.org

Women's Choir (Sisters in Song): 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Music Team

11:00 Music Team: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

5:00 Music Team: Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

Handbells

Covenant Ringers: Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Echoes of Joy: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Children's Music

Cherub Choir: Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Joyful Noise Singers: Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Joyful Noise Ringers: Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Youth Music

Voices of Praise: Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Youth Orchestra: To be announced

Christmas Cantata- additional voices are always welcomed to sing Christmas Cantata, Sunday December 17th at both 8:00 & 9:30 services. Rehearsals will begin on October 5 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Sophie Hong at sophie.hong@glenmarumc.org

This Thought Should be Music to Your Ears - Glen Mar Will Hold a Second Concert This Summer

By Connie Ballenger

While the exhilarating experience of hearing three superb performers – pianist Dr. Sophie Hong, violinist Dr. Ahreum Kim, and cellist Peter Kibbe – came and went on July 23 whether you heard it or not, another Glen Mar summer concert treat awaits.

It will be held on Thursday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center, and will feature selected scenes from the *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Donizetti and showcase a mix of favorite opera arias and duets. Performers are sopranos Molly Allen and Dr. Ji Eun Park, tenor Daniel Noone, and baritone Youngsoo An. Dr. Nicolas Catravas will accompany them on the piano.

Refreshments will be served during intermission. Childcare for preschool-age children and younger will be provided.

Biographies that include information about the musicians' impressive music

degrees, awards and past performances are available at www.glenmarumc.org/summerconcerts.

Glen Mar Music Director Sophie Hong arranged both summer concerts. She was thrilled that the audience was very "responsive" at the July 23 event and that it drew a huge crowd of 350 people, garnered rave reviews, and brought the audience to its feet.



That event featured spirited dance music from a variety of cultures and time periods.

With lights turned low throughout the Spirit Center, the performers sat at audience level in the front of the "concert hall," sometimes performing solo and at other times together in various combinations. The curtain on the stage behind and above them glowed with lights that switched colors periodically.

Glen Mar member Kathy Bulleri was impressed with the concert's "energy and variety."

"The Korean song touched my heart,"

said concert goer, Steve Rim, who does not attend Glen Mar. "I got tears."

"I liked the ragtime and honky-tonk," commented Mollie Kaufman, who also does not attend Glen Mar. "It was a nice surprise to hear the Broadway (music)."

After the audience expressed its collective approval via a standing ovation, Youngsoo An (Dr. Hong's husband) stormed into the front of the Spirit Center on a hoverboard, flamboyantly waving his arms, blowing kisses to the audience and singing opera. The ending of the July 23 concert was a precursor of things to come – Mr. An will be one of the performers at the August 17 event.

The concerts have two sponsors, Harry H. Witzke's Family Funeral Home and Lotte Plaza Market.

In addition, Glen Mar member Dixie Miliner made a donation in memory of her husband, Harry Miliner, who was a huge proponent of the music program at church. Mrs. Miliner called the July 23 concert "magnificent" and said that her husband heard it in heaven.

Dr. Hong plans to hold two concerts each summer as a gift to the community. A committee with Dr. Hong and seven others organizes the concerts.

Grassroots Partnerships Continue

Meals for Grassroots - *By Linda Hunt*

Grassroots operates a 33-bed emergency family shelter and an 18-bed men's shelter. In addition, Grassroots provides three meals daily to shelter residents from their on-site commercial kitchen. They rely heavily on community support to accomplish this. Glen Mar volunteers support Grassroots and "Serve the World" by preparing and delivering a dinner entrée once each month.

The Kitchen Manager at Grassroots has developed a monthly dinner menu to guide the many groups that prepare dinner for the shelter. Glen Mar provides an entrée of meatloaf on the 4th Tuesday each month. Each volunteer prepares two meatloaves in his or her own home, or buys the equivalent of two meatloaves, and takes them with one gallon of milk to the shelter on 6700 Freetown Road in Columbia. We do not stay and serve the meal.

For many years four Glen Mar volunteers each month have provided a total of 8 cooked meatloaves and 4 gallons of milk to serve 40 to 50 residents. However, increasingly the Grassroots shelter has been consistently over capacity and needs to provide meals for up to 60 residents. Our ministry now needs 5 volun-



teers each month to provide 10 cooked meatloaves and 5 gallons of milk.

Volunteers do not need to participate every month; a volunteer may choose to sign up to participate for a single month, every month, or anything in between.

For more information on joining the Glen Mar Grassroots Meals Ministry, contact Linda Hunt at raven10322@hotmail.com or 410-733-5255.

Additional information may be found on the Grassroots website: <http://www.grassrootscrisis.org/get-involved/make-a-meal/>. Contributions of money or Giant and BJ's gift cards for food supplies are also welcomed.

Glen Mar Golf Classic #6, a Big Success!

May 22, 2017 didn't start out as a sunny day, but ended in a spectacular way! Despite the rainy start, 122 golfers played and had a great time, culminating with a special George and Sally Dohner lunch. Unfortunately no one won the hole-in-one car (again) provided by Ourisman of Clarksville, but we ended up earning over \$38,600 for Grassroots. And Pastor Matt's four-some won first place—sweet!

Thank you to all who were sponsors of the event, who volunteered for the event, who planned the event, and who played in the event! Grassroots is very grateful for Glen Mar's ministry. The funds will go to helping those in need in Howard County.

Habitat for Humanity Update

By Adrienne Taylor

The Habitat For Humanity crew has enjoyed some variety in our work days this year. We continue our work on McCabe Avenue in Baltimore, and that's where you will usually find us on the second Saturday of the month.

This year we also had the opportunity to work on new construction Habitat homes instead of the usual rehab of old homes. We hung drywall in some lovely new row houses just south of the casino in Baltimore. In July, we enjoyed a day at the Columbia "ReStore" helping reorganize the store, load purchases and unload donations, and - ok - we shopped a bit too.

There are six Habitat For Humanity ReStores in our area, where you can donate or purchase goods. Funds raised help build and rehab homes through Habitat For Humanity. They sell donated furniture, appliances, cabinets, hardware, household goods and

more. Stock varies depending on what is donated, so stop by often to shop, and consider donating items to the Restores. If you like the Habitat mission but construction isn't your gift, they always need volunteers at the Restores. Check it out at habitatthesapeake.org. If you enjoy construction (or want to give it a try), join us on the second Saturday of the month to help us build dreams. Contact Adrienne Taylor to sign up or learn more, habitat@glenmarumc.org.



Mark Your Calendar

Ministry Connection August 28, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Join us for dinner (by George Dohner), at 6:30 followed by worship and meeting. For anyone serving in ministry at Glen Mar. A chance to worship and connect with others, learn what's happening in ministry at Glen Mar and hear about the upcoming ministry year. RSVP to Laura.dreibelbis@glenmarumc.org.

Fall Sermon Series "Uprising" begins September 9/10

The Small Group Resource Center in room 144 has several studies that could supplement the sermon series, either at home or in a small group. Please stop by to view the featured resources or contact smallgroupresources@glenmarumc.org. October and November series will be on community and "When God Says No: Divine Purpose."

Bowling, fun and fellowship!

The Glen Mar Bowling League starts September 8, 6:45 p.m. at Normandy Lanes. For more information, please contact Jamie Grace, 443.320.3403.

Lunch with the Pastors September 10 or November 12, 2:15 - 2:00 p.m. For anyone considering membership at Glen Mar. An informal gathering to meet the pastors, ask questions, learn more about the pathways to connection and membership.

RSVP to Laura Dreibelbis, laura.dreibelbis@glenmarumc.org. *Childcare is available upon request.*

Remembering When - Fire and Fall Prevention for adults 65+ Saturday, October 21, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Glen Mar

Presented by the Howard County Dept. of Fire and Rescue, this program includes a presentation which addresses safety in the home, fall prevention, and identification of common household hazards.

Don't forget to schedule rooms for the 2017/2018 Ministry Year!

Early submission is a great idea! Please remember to submit 48 hours prior to requesting a meeting. Should you request on the weekend, please allow for 48 hours after the weekend for processing. Please contact Corrina Watson, corrina.watson@glenmarumc.org. To submit a request, go to www.glenmarumc.org, click on My Glen Mar, then click on Facility Scheduling and complete the online form.

Relay Team Raises \$8,418, Plans a Concert this Fall

Angels for a Cure, Glen Mar's Relay For Life of Howard County team, raised \$8,418 during the last year for the American Cancer Society. Thanks to all who supported this team. The entire Relay, held June 10 at the Howard County Fairgrounds, raised more than \$60,000.

The team is planning to hold a concert in the fall. A date has not been finalized. Visit <http://glenmarumc.org/mission/local-outreach/angels-for-a-cure/> for the latest information.

If anyone is interested in joining this team, contact Connie Ballenger, [410-796-0290](tel:410-796-0290) or angelsforacure@glenmarumc.org.

Prepare for a Mountain-Top Experience *By Connie Ballenger*



With hills ranging from "manageable" to "you've got to be kidding me," and lots of gradients in between, the Glen Mar 5K and 1-Mile Walk could be considered the Mount Everest of 5Ks.

Previous participants have described the hills as "an unpleasant surprise" and "brutal." They've also mentioned that Hillsborough Road is well named.

Is running this 5K for everyone? Maybe so because there are plenty of non-serious runners (also known as mere mortals) who have completed it by walking all or part of it. There's no shame in that. Some people who have reputations as couch potatoes have completed it, although they did put

their reputations at risk.

For those not inclined toward negotiating mountainous terrain (pun intended), there's a much easier alternative – the 1-Mile Walk. It will be held on mostly level ground and will not be timed.

This event will be held on Saturday, September 30 and start promptly at 9 a.m. It will begin and end at Glen Mar.

5K participants can participate individually or in teams of at least three people.

Post-event refreshments will be available.

The event will raise money and food for the Howard County Food Bank. Over the last seven years, the number of people using this food bank has increased by 310 percent so the need to keep its shelves and refrigerators stocked is great.

Participants who register on or before September 25 will get a discount.

Visit <http://glenmarumc.org/gmcevents/5k/>.

Call Dave Eddy at 410.465.2976 for questions about joining the 5K Committee or to volunteer on event day. For information about sponsoring the event, call Connie Ballenger at 410.796.0290. Sponsorship commitments are due by August 31.



Friendly greetings abound as two participants complete their journey in last year's soggy event.

College and Career Prep Update *By John Stapleton*

Our partnership ministry in Baltimore City, the College and Career Prep program, is entering its 3rd year of service. We've celebrated high school graduations, college enrollments, and first job placements. We are starting a new round of college applications and financial aid requests. We are working with elementary and middle school youth on building the skills they will need later on - reading, math facts, writing, and other academic skills. Starting as early as possible is often very important. Here's a youth (pictured) reading her first sentences! In the last few months the light switch has really turned on for this young lady - she is proud of what she is doing and believes she can achieve.



We are also working to build resilience.

Why resilience?

The first studies on adverse childhood experiences actually were conducted in the affluent suburbs. But the problem is pervasive for our children in Baltimore City. Crystal Hardy-Flowers is a thirty year veteran social worker and director of the Little Flowers Early Childhood Development Center, which serves about 200 children and their families in Sandtown. Little Flowers provides classroom spaces each Tuesday evening for our College and Career Prep program. In 2014, the Baltimore Sun ran a Pulitzer Prize winning article on what Crystal has learned working with our children in Baltimore City: "[Crystal] understood something that her teachers did not. The kids were growing up ... where backyard police chases are common and sirens wake up kids like unwelcome alarm clocks at night. Almost every day, in some way, the kids were exposed to violence. ... Even as shootings, stabbings and murder trials grab the spotlight, violence in Baltimore is exacting another insidious, often invisible, toll - warping the health and development of the city's youngest residents. For every

child who is shot, provoking public outrage, there are hundreds of others who hear gunshots or see fights and stabbings in neighborhoods across the city. After the ambulances drive off and the crime scenes are cleared, many of these children are left with deep psychological wounds." <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-md-health-violence-121114-story.html#page=1>

Keep in mind that we are talking about our children, living just 15 minutes east of Glen Mar. Crystal instituted a train-

ing program at Little Flowers to teach her teachers (and Glen Mar volunteers) how to develop the social and emotional foundations that the children are often missing as they grow up. As Rita Pierson says:

"And we know why kids drop out, we know why kids don't learn. It's either poverty, low attendance, negative peer influences. We know why. But one of the things that we never discuss or we rarely discuss is the value and importance of human connection. Relationships. No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship ... Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best they can possibly be." To view this talk, go to www.ted.com and search for Rita Pierson, Every Kid Needs a Champion. Relationship building is at the center of what we do, our youth must trust us

before we can get out of the starting gate.

To help with attention, we provide snacks at our meetings, and we work on positive reinforcement for good behavior. When these things are in place, we can work on academics, life skills, and networking to prepare our youth for college and career. All the while we strive to be a positive constant to whom they can turn.

If you are interested in working with a child during the year (not every week but as often as you can), then you have all of the qualifications you need to help with this ministry. We pray for our children. Each Tuesday evening our youth rotate through stations reflecting the gifts and talents of our volunteers: reading, tutoring, math facts, puzzles, mindfulness, and of course relationship building. Some of our volunteers can't attend Tuesdays and instead provide "behind the scenes" essentials as their schedules permit. We also need volunteers to help transport our underserved city youth to and from Glen Mar worship and youth programs. If you would like to find out more or volunteer, please contact John Stapleton at 240-463-8620, jstapleton17@verizon.net.



Perhaps this is the moment for which you have been Created.



We Are One: Connected in Covenant *By Kathy Bulleri*

On May 30, 2017, when Bishop LaTrelle Easterling pronounced the 233rd session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference open, she made history as the first woman to lead the 159,000 members and 1,050 clergy who make up the 628 churches of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Six lay members and three clergy from Glen Mar attended.

Bishop Easterling projected the conference's theme, "We are One: Connected in Covenant," citing scripture from Ephesians 4:1-6 in her opening address. She came to the conference eight months ago and is looking forward to leading us in meaningful dialogue and as a covenantal community. She stated, "When United Methodists live in community, they realize that people who disagree with them are not the enemy. Rather, we see the enemies we face are poverty, addiction, hunger, the persecution of the poor, hate crimes, terrorism, the pillaging of public education and systemic injustice. As covenantal partners in mission and ministry, we need to rise up, we need to get up, we need to stand up and run down the road of justice together.... We are the body of Christ in this world." With such inspirational words ringing in

our ears, the laity and clergy joined together to address the business of the conference and approved the 2018 budget.

The conference discussed and voted on a boycott of Hewlett Packard products by Methodists and defeated a resolution suggesting that the Board of Pension and Mid-Atlantic Foundation refrain from investing in Hewlett Packard. Also passed were resolutions rejoining the Religious Coalition for reproductive rights (RCPC), and a relocation policy for retired clergy providing the same benefits as active clergy.

On Thursday afternoon, the laity was privileged to hear a message seeking the conference to commit itself to addressing racism during the Call to Action report, which outlined a **new conference-wide initiative on racial justice and reconciliation**. Jodi Cataldo (Director, Laity in Leadership at Discipleship Ministries) spoke to how this could be accomplished. As Christ charged his disciples to go forth, so Jodi noted that through discipleship God can lead us to make further disciples. God can use us just as we are. Through hospitality we can reach out and give others a sense of belonging. We can offer Christ to others and give them an opportunity to commit to Him. As we grow in faith, changes can happen in our community. Our commitment to God's word and engagement with others

can transform our communities. We are one body in Christ. We should look for prejudices and injustices and actively maintain communication. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christians can make changes even though we may not always agree. As Rick Warren stated in the Purpose Driven Life, "God expects unity, not uniformity, and we can walk arm-in-arm without seeing eye-to-eye on every issue."

The afternoon and evening proceeded with further messages. We said good-bye to members who have served the conference faithfully. We welcomed in new leaders. We heard inspirational Bible study from Rev. Steven Manskar who emphasized the unity of the church and how it plays out in community. We received information on new resources for the youth and on expanding the Hispanic Ministries program. The BWC raised \$330,740 to help build a health and wellness center at Africa University. Area Methodists reach out to the community in so many ways. We are blessed to have such an active, spirit-led laity working to offer all people the life-giving message of Jesus Christ.

For more information on the conference proceedings and to be inspired by the work of the conference go to <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/2017-baltimore-washington-annual-conference>.



About 380 children attended two separate sessions spanning two weeks in July.

SUMMER FUN AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



SERVING WHILE SHOPPING

Gift Card Ministry Purchase cards at face value and a percentage is redeemed back to Glen Mar at no cost to the shopper. Since March 2007, gift card purchases by Glen Mar families have generated nearly \$200,000 that have been used to reduce family mission trip costs, and provide scholarships for people to participate in mission trips. In addition, the proceeds have been donated to several other ministries in the community and for disaster relief and humanitarian aid. Stop by the gift table after 8:00 & 9:30 a.m. services to learn more.

Printer cartridge recycling program generates many hundreds of dollars of Staples vouchers for the Children's Ministry, VBS and Walk to Bethlehem. To earn vouchers you must purchase at least \$30 of ink at Staples once every six months (\$60 annually). The recycling will occur on your behalf, and when you receive your monthly Staples vouchers via email, forward them to Margaret Lang. Depending on your ink purchase volume you will receive a monthly voucher for \$20 or \$40. Contact Van Beall at sharethedream@prodigy.net with questions or to provide your name and phone number linked to your Staples account.

Giant Food Shoppers Generate Money for Inner City School The William Pinderhughes Elementary and Middle School located in the Sandtown neighborhood in Baltimore is one block from Glen Mar's ministry partner Ames Memorial United Methodist Church. The poverty rate for the 250+ children in grades pre-K-8 is approximately 98%. Because over 170 Glen Mar members have registered their Giant frequent shopper cards, Giant has sent the William Pinderhughes School a total of \$15,000 over the past four years. Not only is the school able to pay for extra activities and assist many of the children with essential school items, but also basic clothing items that many of the children lack. If you have registered in the past, thank you. You are automatically registered for next year. If you have not yet registered, please stop at the Gift Card table and request the form to provide your 12-digit Giant number.

Boxtops for Education benefits Hurley High School one of Glen Mar's long-term and vital mission trip partners in Hurley, VA. Because of the Box Top collection effort at Glen Mar, in the last eight years over \$3,700 has been sent to Hurley High from General Mills. This extra money is crucial and is used by school administrators to purchase school supplies for the many local children who cannot afford these essentials. Please continue to save Box Tops and deposit them in the bins near the kitchen and the Children's Ministry office on the first floor.

2017 Walk to Bethlehem - 10th Year, December 1, 2, & 3, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS:

It's never too early to sign up as a volunteer for Walk to Bethlehem. Early commitments help us organize, plan and improve the program. Volunteer today! Contact Margaret Lang, margaret.lang@glenmarumc.org

Acting jobs inside: You will be in a costume and interacting with the audience either in the market place or downstairs in the travelers' scene.

Acting outside in the scenes: Dressed in costume, these nonspeaking parts act out the story.

Behind the scenes support: Before, after or during the event. Jobs can be inside or outside, decorating or building. Support roles and behind-the-scenes help is very important and there is a lot of variety. Costumes not required for most of the behind-the-scenes support. Adults and youth are needed.

Centurions: This indoors and outdoors character directs traffic, welcomes visitors, chases beggars and thieves. Also, interacts with the visitors and, of course, is dressed in full costume.

Children: Part of the angel choir, or a shepherd (yes, with live sheep) or in the market place with their family. There are a few positions each night for beggars and thieves in the market place. Children need to have at least one parent present and involved with them at all times.

Entertainment: Musical entertainment in the chapel and this year we will have a stage under the outside tent for acts, dancing, singing and more (Inside or outside, costumes or not, youth and adults)

Guides: Lead groups of 20-30 visitors through Walk to Bethlehem. You will need to memorize a script and think fast on your feet for this interactive role. (Outside, costumes, adults)

Readers outside in the scenes: The scripts come from the Bible and you team up with the outside scene actors (outside, costumes, adults).

Youth: Lead shepherds, angels, market place with their families, entertainment in the chapel or outside under the tent. The inside and outside "Mary" characters are youth (inside or outside, costumes).

Mission Trip Reflections

By Bruce Leuthold

God calls us to serve his people in need. This summer, Glen Mar sent 15 people to Richwood WV, a town damaged by severe flooding a year ago. The group, hosted by Jordan Chapel UMC, went to serve those who did not have the means or flood insurance to make repairs to their homes and were spiritually touched by the faith of the homeowner families.

The first home was damaged by rushing foot-high wall of water that ran off the mountain. We repaired the back side of the house. We also removed and rebuilt a porch roof and railing. The second home, built six feet off the ground, was damaged by eight inches of water on the main floor. A new porch roof and railing were built. Since the ground settled after the flood, we shored up the foundational supports of the deck and sun room. We also replaced about half of the tin roof on the back side of their home. At the Fenwick Church, we fixed a window, bricked up a window, pulled a thousand staples out of the ceiling, and put up insulation in the fellowship hall. Below are some of the reflections from the trip.



Amy B. Our mission trips give me the opportunity to see God working in our project, but also in others. It is a joy to see the maturity in the Spirit in the adults, but especially in the youth. Seeing 8th graders grow into disciples and then to witness their amazing talents as young adults is so inspiring. What a joy to see how much growth has occurred over the years and to be a testament to the power of the spirit.

Chad S It's been several years since I'd been on a mission trip. Life got busy and that part of my life faded away. Being here in West Virginia working to help those in need alongside my fellow believers has reawakened a part of me. It's the most direct feeling of being God's hands and feet I've experienced. I connect with God in a lot of ways, but there's nothing that's anything like a mission trip. I look forward to another trip soon.

Dan K. Every day I was met by our homeowner who helped just as another team member. The only day he missed, he had picked up some day work. A man of faith; a man of character. A man after one week I was happy to call a friend. After some 18 mission trips or so, the first time I was anxious to hug this guy at the week's close. At the end, two Methodist, a Catholic and a Muslim prayed for each other. Why cannot the world be more like this!

God is calling us to serve, how will you answer the call?

VOLKSMARCH MINISTRY SEEKING NEW LEADERSHIP



Since 2006 Glen Mar's volksmarch ministry has organized walks in Maryland, Washington, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Volksmarching is a non-competitive social walking event. Each event usually has two distance options – 5 or 6 kilometers (3.1 or 3.7 miles) or a longer version (10 or 11 kilometers (6.2 or 6.8 miles). It is an easy and enjoyable way to chat with new and old friends, relax, see new cities or neighborhoods, discover new restaurants and have fun! The spring 2017 volksmarching season included the ministry's 60th successful walk.

The ministry has been led by Willa Brooks and Van Beall.

Their ministry leadership concluded on July 30 with a picnic at their home for three dozen current and former volksmarchers. For the ministry to continue, new leadership is required. If you are interested in becoming the ministry organizer, please contact Van Beall at sharethedream@prodigy.net.

To learn more about volksmarching, including how to locate a year-round walk (there are about 3000 year-round walks across the US), please visit www.ava.org and search by state.



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Pianist Estelle King

The Messenger Schedule

The schedule for The Messenger through Fall 2018 is listed below, along with due dates for submissions. We strive to be forward looking, to allow readers to involve themselves in ministry, but also to include a summary or highlights of recent, relevant events. Each edition will have an area of focus, but ministry announcements from the congregation are welcome at any time. Announcements are best, but if an article is submitted, please honor space limitations of 500 words (1/2 page, or less if pictures are included). Longer articles may be edited or returned to be shortened. Photos are encouraged! Please provide a caption or description. Please make every effort to honor the dates listed, as time is needed for assembly, layout, editing, and proofreading. Thanks for all your input!

November/December/January - Deadline is October 27

February/March/April - Deadline is January 26

May/June/July - Deadline is April 27

August/September/October - Deadline is July 27

**E-mail submissions to Laura Dreibelbis,
laura.dreibelbis@glenmarumc.org or leave a copy in her mailbox. Call or e-mail with any questions or ideas!**

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