



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### November 2013

*We share our experiences of God’s Kingdom with all, through our faith, love, fellowship, and service. It is our vision to have everyone actively involved in worship that enriches, ministries that empower, and evangelism that embraces all.*

#### Pastor’s Corner

Dear Church,

Greetings! As I sat to write this article and looked back, it seemed to me that October went by more quickly than I first thought. But thanks be to God and to dedicated members of the congregation (the 20% who do 80% of the work that needs to be done at and for God through the church) we accomplished a lot together: we sent a Volunteers in Mission Team (VIM) to West Virginia to work on homes, initiated an experimental alternative worship service on non-Communion Sundays, trimmed trees and cleared the Meditation Garden of overgrown bushes, continued our Pumpkin Carving tradition to the delight of the children and the adults who accompanied them, launched our Stewardship Campaign with the hope that each of you will prayerfully and seriously consider increasing your financial giving for 2014, pickled more beets, and had our Charge Conference without a hitch! All these we accomplished in addition to the regular ministries we carry out each month.

As we approach November, we continue to trust God to help us carry out the tasks and responsibilities we have been charged with as a congregation. Among these are our ministries of outreach to the neighborhood we’re in at Eastport, the city and the county. These include the Thanksgiving Baskets ministry that Kevin and Sally Hight are spearheading and the Winter Relief Homeless Shelter headed by Jim Wilcox, Jackie Cunningham and Jill Peddicord. Your active participation in these outreach ministries in the name of Jesus is sought as usual. Overnight companions for the men are especially needed.

In last month’s newsletter, I ended the Pastor’s Corner by asking you to - *Remember sisters and brothers: what and where the church will be in the*

*future depends a lot on your active involvement in its life now. Today, I say it again. And I pray that the Holy Spirit works through your mind and heart and convinces you of this truth this time around. God, through the church, needs you. Step up to the plate, please, with your prayer, presence, gifts and witness as promised at your baptism. Thank you very much. Grace & Peace,*  
~Pastor MaAn



#### October Mission Trip

On Wednesday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, six members of our church, Paulette Schwallenberg, Anne Owen, Jackie Cunningham, Vern Renshaw, Jeff Bauchman and Eric Smaridge headed to Guyan Valley Appalachia Service Project in Brenton, WV. In Brenton we joined Calvary UMC and six other churches to begin our home repair. Warmer, safer and drier is the motto of ASP. We were divided into two groups to begin our repair. Team Jackie consisted of Vern, Jeff and Paulette (day 1) and Eric (day 2&3). We worked on a trailer that needed a toilet repair, new flooring in the bathroom, trim work, floor transition trim, roof taken off front porch and replaced properly, and a deck tea- down and rebuild. Yes a lot of work for a short period of time and I would

like to say we completed it all, but we left the deck railing and steps to be built and the bathroom tile to be laid.

~Jackie Cunningham



## Reflections on the ASP Mission Trip

**In the evening**, we could have been at church camp, or less probably, the sorority house. The atmosphere was friendly, wholesome, and structures. I'd never met a group of kinder, warmer people.

During the day we worked hard to serve God and others. The days went quickly, but we stretched our abilities to cope and innovate. My team finished the interior ceiling of a front porch; we replaced damaged interior ceiling tile; and we got lots of exercise finishing exterior gutters and trims.

I love telling people about the mission trip and I'm very glad I participated.

~Anne Owen



**This was my first** mission trip since traveling to Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It's not as hot in West Virginia in October as in Louisiana in July. The weather wasn't perfect, but

we managed to be working mainly inside during the periods of heaviest rain. And even if I haven't picked up any new construction skills since my last mission trip, there were a few tasks to be done that didn't require much skill. But the main benefit in such trips for me is always the opportunity to get a first-hand view of poverty and how Christian volunteers work to try to make life a bit better for folks in need. I always gain a new appreciation for the complexity of poverty in our country and how dedicated some of our fellow Christians can be in reaching out to help the poor.

~Vern Renshaw

**The trip to Wyoming County**, West Virginia in the heart of the coal mine country was an experience that I will never forget. Our fellow Americans in this part of the United States are extremely poor but have the biggest hearts. Two of the homes where I worked had seen work teams all summer and still were very thankful that we came to finish off some projects that had been started. Some examples, new (used) washer and dryer to be installed, new tile floors with molding, new ceiling tiles to replace the ones that were ruined when the old roof leaked, new porches (replaced rotten porch) or build one that they never had and a working toilet, all the luxuries that we take for granted.

The motto for Appalachia Service Project Mission is "Safer, Warmer and Drier" and that is what we did. It was challenging and I quickly learned that I did not have enough skills to meet all the needs for the three days we worked, there is always more to do, the job is never done. I really bonded with my church member travelers and discovered that they all had talents that brought us thru. It was a privilege to do this trip with them and under God's protection.

~ Paulette Schwallenberg

**PS:** The real challenge was sleeping in a room with bunk beds with 38 women; a lot of them snored!!!

## More Missions News

Missions completed and delivered 150 health kits for UMCOR to be distributed as needed.

Winter Relief is just around the corner and help is needed. Jim Wilcox is scheduling chaperones and Jackie Cunningham is scheduling help to prepare and serve meals. We are expecting 32 men in our shelter for the week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 25 □ Dec 1. As



in the past we will have a covered dish dinner that Monday evening. Please plan to attend. We will be making toiletry bags for the men; small toiletry items are appreciated. Thanksgiving dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. – anyone wanting to join us please come.

Our regular Food Pantry is held on the third Wednesday of each month. Please consider helping. Unloading and set up is at 10:00 a.m. and distribution is at 1:00 p.m.

~Jackie Cunningham

### **Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network**

**Thursday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.**

St. John Neumann Church  
Community Room

**Program:** Criminal Justice Issues in Anne Arundel County: Including Screening, Diversion, Sentencing Alternatives and Reentry

**Speaker:** Judge Philip Caroom

**Free and Open to the Public**

not having Pumpkin-Carving for our kids and our neighborhood kids. Sure enough—they came in droves! We had well over 50 kids and adults – from babies yet unborn to grandparents. There was good food to eat, tables prepared for all the “mess,” knives to carve with, and stickers for the youngest ones to decorate with; there were candles to put in the pumpkins and light for “**The Grand Illumination,**” and beautifully decorated cupcakes and cookies to enjoy. And enjoy we did!! There were lots of big smiles—on the pumpkins, but more importantly on every face in Fellowship Hall. It was a great time and a reminder of how good it is to be in Christian fellowship at all the times in our lives. And although Halloween will be over by the time you read this, the following thought is never out-of- date: Go out and shine!



*Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff-- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, prejudice, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.*



### **The Pumpkin-Carving That Almost Wasn't**

On the evening of October 29<sup>th</sup> all was prepared and ready, thanks to Pastor MaAn, Ann Rawls, and Wendy Edstrom, who just could not bear the idea of





## Thanksgiving Baskets

WOW! The holiday season is upon us and we are in full gear already to make sure EUMC continues its mission of providing 45 to 50 Thanksgiving baskets for the families of four Annapolis area elementary schools--Eastport, Tyler Heights, Georgetown East and Hillsmere.

The collection of food items for the baskets has begun, so drop off any of the items listed below in the bin labeled Thanksgiving Baskets located in Fellowship Hall.

**Canned Vegetables, Corn and String Beans, Canned Yams or Sweet Potatoes, Stuffing Mix and Canned Cranberry Sauce & Gravies**

If shopping for extra food items isn't convenient, then consider a monetary donation to the Thanksgiving basket mission—**Only \$25.00** will provide a family an entire meal on this special holiday. I know from past years how the families we help greatly appreciate all we do for them every year, so let's keep the tradition going and support our community.

If you have any questions, please call me at 410-903-8729 or email [bcknblk02@yahoo.com](mailto:bcknblk02@yahoo.com) or Sally at 443-768-3191 [sallyhight@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyhight@yahoo.com).

~Kevin Hight

## Stewardship

October 27 was "financial stewardship" Sunday. Those of us in attendance received "estimate-of-giving" forms on which to report the amount of money we plan to try to contribute to EUMC in calendar year 2014. This provides us with the opportunity to consider carefully our stewardship of the financial resources with which we've been blessed. This can be a useful exercise for us, and the completed forms will be helpful for the finance and stewardship team as it seeks to discern the financial resources that will be available to support EUMC ministries. So, we encourage you to thoughtfully

and prayerfully complete the forms and place them in the designated box at church. If you haven't yet received a form, they will be available at church for the next several weeks. Thanks for your support of EUMC.

~Vern Renshaw (for the Finance/Stewardship Team)



## Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service

Come join sisters and brothers from John Wesley United Methodist Church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Church to celebrate Thanksgiving through an Ecumenical Service to be held this year:

### John Wesley United Methodist Church

1124 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis

6:30 p.m. Pre-service Program

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

**Pastor MaAn will give the message.**

Offerings can be brought in the form of check, cash and/or non-perishable foods.

**Recipient:**

**Arundel House of Hope**

Check memo line: Winter Relief 2013

Donations of baked goods to share at Fellowship Time after the service are also welcome. Thank you all very much. See you then!!!



**UNICEF Trick or Treat boxes - remember to turn in your "filled" boxes to Joyce Conley or the church office! Deadline is November 10.**

## From the United Methodist Men Men's Winter Relief

Eastport United Methodist Church will participate again in Men's Winter Relief. As in recent years, we are scheduled for "Thanksgiving Week" – November 25 to December 1. "Companions" for the homeless men are needed each evening that week and all day on Thanksgiving. We are looking for support from **the men** in the church. This program provides an opportunity to minister personally to those whom Jesus described as "the least among us." A sign-up sheet is on the easel in Fellowship Hall. See Jim Wilcox for more information.

~Mike Keller



### Last Call for Ties 12/31/13!!!

Please give any ties you have, marked with the owners name on the bag, to Carol Emory or leave at the church office clearly marked. Deadline will be December 31, 2013; however with the holidays fast approaching we're sure much more will be on your minds besides ties, so while you're thinking of it and maybe while you are cleaning out, please send that tie to us. This surprise with the ties will be a lasting memory, so don't miss out by not having your tie or ties or your loved ones' tie be a part of this.

~Carol Emory & Sally Colburn

### Poinsettia and Food Pantry Christmas Dedications



We'll be taking orders for poinsettia and food pantry dedications beginning December 1, during fellowship time. As in past years, poinsettias will adorn our altar and be used to make up our lovely poinsettia "tree." Please contact Joyce Conley, 410-267-8483, if you are able to assist in taking orders.

~Joyce Conley

## Family Christmas Project

We hope you all will give this a try. It will be a nice way to grace the entry to our church on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, as well as to light your home's entrance. There will be a table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, with examples for you to see. The only supplies you'll need are listed in the graphic below.

~Paulette Schwallenberg

## LUMINARY

(An object, as a celestial body, that gives light)

**"THE LIGHT OF GOD SHINES FOR ALL"**

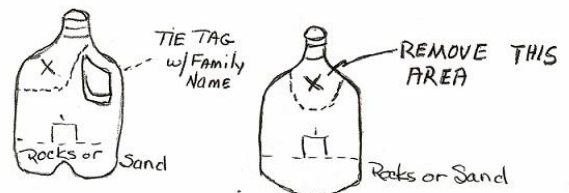
### INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE YOUR FAMILY LUMINARY

#### SUPPLIES:

- 1 GALLON MILK OR WATER CONTAINER
- 1 THICK, SHORT CANDLE
- 1 TAG, WITH YOUR FAMILY NAME, TIED TO THE HANDLE
- ROCKS OR SAND TO WEIGHT THE CONTAINER DOWN

**\*PLEASE BRING WITH YOU ON CHRISTMAS EVE & NEW YEAR'S EVE TO LIGHT THE PATH TO THE FRONT DOOR OF OUR CHURCH**

**\*PLEASE TAKE HOME WITH YOU TO LIGHT YOUR HOME ENTRANCE, DO NOT LEAVE AT THE CHURCH**



*Milestones in October:  
Eloise Gleason – 97  
Elaine Hollidayoke – 90*



## For Your Health.....

**To help prevent the flu:** 1) avoid close contact with sick people; 2) stay home when sick; 3) cover nose and mouth with tissues when coughing or sneezing; 4) wash hands often or use alcohol based hand sanitizers when washing facilities are not available; 5) avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; 6) practice good health habits - get adequate sleep, 7-9 hours of sleep helps your body recuperate from daily toxins; stay physically active to increase circulation and manage stress; drink plenty of fluids but avoid alcohol and sugary beverages that may suppress immune systems; eat nutritious foods including fruits, vegetables, juices and yogurt; add dietary supplements like Vit.D, Vit.C, Zinc and probiotics (for a healthy gut).

If you suspect you have contracted the flu, contact your physician (especially, if you have a high risk condition). There are anti-viral medications available for treatment. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) that fight against the flu in your body. When used for treatment, antiviral drugs can lessen symptoms and shorten the time you are sick by 1 or 2 days. They also can prevent serious flu complications, like pneumonia. For people with a high risk medical condition, treatment with an antiviral drug can mean the difference between having milder illness instead of very serious illness that could result in a hospital stay. Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics, which fight against bacterial infections.

Anti-viral drugs are NOT a substitution for getting the annual vaccine. Vaccine is available now from your primary care provider; Anne Arundel County Department of Health (410-222-7343); and most pharmacies. You can even get them at Sam's Club. Most of these sources will accept your health insurance as payment. No excuse - don't delay - get your flu vaccine today!

~Thanks to Dianne Crews  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## November Birthdays



- Nov 4 Christina Valentine
- Nov 7 Sally Malamphy
- Nov 8 Pat Aldersley
- Nov 10 David Hollidayoke  
Steve Ploof
- Nov 11 David Sumrall
- Nov 12 Curtis Clary  
Bruce Krain
- Nov 14 Bill Riggs
- Nov 15 Robert Gibbons III  
David M. Owen
- Nov 16 Holly Green
- Nov 17 Regan Bailey  
Kevin Hight
- Nov 20 Charles Radcliffe  
Joseph Wilmer
- Nov 22 Berlyn Wheeler
- Nov 27 Kathy Duckett  
Finn Smith
- Nov 28 John "Bo" Morgan

## November Anniversaries



- Nov 10 Jason & Cade Clurman
- Nov 14 Guy & Lynn Goddard
- Nov 24 Gwynn & Ruth Bowen
- Nov 27 Steve & Sherrie Ugolini
- Nov 28 Neill & Hazel Kinnamon

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>SET</b> <b>CLOCKS</b> <b>BACK</b>
<b>3</b> ALL SAINTS Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am Sun.Sch. 10am	<b>4</b> Bells 7pm	<b>5</b> Homework & Reading 4pm	<b>6</b> Study 10:15am Art Kids 4pm UMW 5:30pm	<b>7</b> GRIEVING 10:15am & 6:15pm Homework 4pm ECCT 5:30pm Choir 7pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> GAME NIGHT 5:30pm
<b>10</b> Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am Sun.Sch. 10am	<b>11</b> Bells 7pm	<b>12</b> Homework & Reading 4pm	<b>13</b> Art Kids 4pm	<b>14</b> GRIEVING 10:15am & 6:15pm Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am Sun.Sch. 10am	<b>18</b> Bells 7pm	<b>19</b> Homework & Reading 4pm Trustees 6:15 Admin Council 7:30	<b>20</b> Food Pantry 1-3pm Art Kids 4pm	<b>21</b> GRIEVING 10:15am & 6:15pm Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Conversations 9am-Chapel Worship 10am Sun.Sch. 10am	<b>25</b> Bells 7pm Covered Dish Dinner 6pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Prepare Church for Advent 1:30pm

◀ Winter Relief - Men's Homeless Shelter ▶

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> - Homecoming Sunday  
Covered Dish Lunch & Visit with Santa





## JESUS' TEACHING ON STEWARDSHIP

Luke 16:10-13 and Luke 20:20-26

This Sunday we'll receive our "Estimate-of-Giving" forms that ask us to make an estimate of the amount of money we'll try to give to support EUMC's ministries in the coming calendar year. As we consider this, I thought it might help to review some of what Jesus had to say about money and wealth.

In America, rising income and wealth has been the key to progress. Indeed, the classic "American Dream" is that each generation can expect that, with hard work, they'll have greater prosperity, higher incomes, and more wealth than their parents' generation. But Jesus had a radically different view of wealth than the view of the American Dream. Jesus didn't tell us to work to acquire more wealth than our parents. In fact, he warned that the pursuit of wealth often becomes a false god that diverts us from the love of God that is the true source of well-being and prosperity. Indeed, in the first reading from the gospel of Luke this morning he warned that: "You cannot serve God and wealth." Jesus came to proclaim the good news of the "kingdom of God"—a realm where love, not wealth or political power, is the dominant force organizing life. So, for Jesus, wealth and political power were subordinate to love. He didn't give clear advice on paying taxes to the emperor. But he did tell us to love God and our neighbors. And he warned often about the dangers of wealth.

Jesus didn't say that wealth can't be used to serve the cause of God's love. But he often advised people with wealth to give it away. And according to Luke 14:33 he even said that "none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions." So, it's hard to imagine that Jesus would be happy with the way Americans usually deal with wealth. Much of Jesus' advice about money and wealth seems crazy and impractical from a modern American perspective. But I would argue that his advice is actually as relevant and important today as it was in his own time. And in practice, his advice about putting love ahead of wealth and power actually worked well to support the growth of early Christianity.

In reality, no society can thrive, if people don't put love ahead of power and wealth at least some of the time. Children, after all, need love and care to grow up to be productive adults. And when adults focus first on seeking power and wealth, greed tends to undermine the foundation of trust and cooperation that societies need to be productive and prosperous. Jesus was particularly critical of uses of wealth in his society because wealth in the Roman Empire was often used as a tool to exploit and oppress the poor and powerless. This was the agriculture age, when most wealth was in the form of land, and the wealthy used control of land to exploit poor peasants.

America was founded early in the industrial age—an age when technology expanded wealth in ways that weren't possible in the agriculture age. So, for much of American history, expanding wealth helped many poor people rise economically in ways that Jesus would surely commend. But this progress didn't eliminate the need to be wary of the dangers of wealth. During the industrial age inequality decreased in most industrial nations. Instead of a few rich and powerful folks alongside massive poverty, as was typical in the agriculture age, many industrial societies created large "middle classes" that could live well without needing to exploit the poor. But America has entered a new "information age" in which inequality is again increasing.

Most work in America now provides services instead of producing food or industrial products. Jesus clearly told his followers to make service first a matter of love, not first a matter of money. And he made love, not money, the focus of his own healing and teaching ministry. But in America, healing and teaching often focus first on money, not on love or even on quality of service. I believe Jesus' economic ideas make more sense in an information age than does America's policy focus on increasing our reliance on money. If so, we should seek economic policies that don't push us to focus first on money and that affirm our God-given freedom to put love ahead of money. But no matter what policies we face, we Christians are called to follow Jesus in putting love ahead of money.

History suggests that it's hard to follow Jesus in putting love ahead of money. In the "Acts of the Apostles," for example, Luke says that the early church in Jerusalem gave up private wealth in favor of communal living. But this effort apparently didn't last long. And most Christians in most eras fall far short of the example Jesus set in matters of love and money. Even if we fall short of Jesus' perfect love, he is still our role model. And there are many examples in history of Christians who have taken Jesus' model of love very seriously in matters of money and wealth. For example, St. Francis was born into wealth, but gave it all up to focus on a ministry of love. And the current Pope Francis seems to take Jesus and St Francis seriously as role models.



Methodism's founder John Wesley also took Jesus' teachings on wealth seriously. Initially, he reacted to rising income as most folks do—by increasing his spending. But as he encountered truly needy folks around him, he decided to cap his spending and give the rest of his income away. Wesley began his ministry early in the industrial age. He made a lot of money from his religious writings, and he encouraged others to “earn all you can” from useful economic activity. But he gave away most of his earnings and he encouraged others to “give all you can” to support the cause of love.

The incomes of most Americans no longer grow as fast as most incomes grew during the industrial age. But Wesley's advice to give all we can is still good. Some of us with limited income may find we can give more of our time to help others. And some of us may be able to give more money without a rise in income if we find we're spending more than we need to. Even if we know that love calls for generosity in sharing the resources with which we've been blessed, it can still be hard to decide how much money to give to the church. So, religious communities have often suggested simple guidelines for giving. The Old Testament, for example, emphasized a “tithe” of 10 percent of income as the appropriate level of giving for members of a congregation.

Many conservative Christian churches today follow the Old Testament rule of recommending, or even requiring, a 10 percent tithe. But most Americans give much less to their churches. And given America's high incomes, 10 percent of income may often fall short of Wesley's call to “give all you can.” Wesley himself gave over 90 percent of his income away in most years he led the Methodist movement. His income was high by the standards of his day. And he didn't feel a need to save for “retirement.” So, giving 90 percent of income to churches and other worthy charitable causes might not seem practical for most Americans. But many of us could give more than we do.

Spending and giving habits, like many habits, can be hard to change. But our churches and our society would surely be better off if most of us worked harder to take Jesus' and Wesley's advice about giving more seriously. So, to try to encourage greater generosity here at EUMC, the finance team and the Administrative Council decided to ask for volunteers to offer occasional “testimonies” about their own struggles with the Christian call to be good stewards of the resources we've been given.

In my own case, I didn't attend church regularly or think much about giving to the church until I was well into my 30's and had started studying Christian theology. But studying theology convinced me that attending church and giving are important.

Giving to the church wasn't all that hard for me once I decided it was important. That's because most of my spending habits came from growing up in a family that was poor and consumed at Depression levels during the post-World War II boom in consumption most people experienced when I was young.

I thought about adopting a middle-class consumer life style. But by the time I finished graduate school, got a job and could afford to start consuming, I decided most American consumer habits were too much of a hassle. For example, when I first bought a car, I had gotten so used to walking or biking to most of the places I went to that taking care of a car was more trouble than it was worth.

If you earn a middle class income, but don't consume much, that leaves a lot of room for giving. I didn't try to follow Wesley's example of giving away 90 percent of my income. But I did keep my spending and taxes under a third of my income, leaving two thirds for saving and giving. Most of the time, I tried to give at least a third of my income to charitable causes.

When you get married, of course, everything changes. But MaAn comes from a poor country and we have no children. So, even if she doesn't share all of my anti-consumption habits, we've still managed to increase the share of our combined incomes we give to charitable causes. And in recent years we've been able to give enough tax-deductible charitable contributions to reach the 50 percent of adjusted gross income that IRS allows as a tax deduction.

Giving money to churches and other charities is not the only way we can support the cause of God's love. But Jesus asked the rich young man he encountered to give away his wealth because wealth and possessions can be powerful distractions that divert us from serving the God of love. And good stewardship of the gifts we've been given means using them to serve God, not wealth. Amen.

## WHAT DOES GOD CALL US TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH?

The Old Testament instructed the Hebrew people to give a tithe (10 percent of their income) to support their priests and places of worship. Jesus didn't reject the idea of a tithe, but he called his twelve disciples (and a rich young man who declined the invitation) to give up all they had and their entire livelihoods to follow him. And he praised a poor widow who gave all she had to live on to the Temple, even though the actual amount she gave was small relative to the gifts of wealthy folks who gave a small share of their abundance. Jesus didn't tell everyone to give up all their wealth and income. But he did tell us all to be generous with the resources God has given us, and he condemned our tendencies to focus on accumulating and consuming instead of giving.

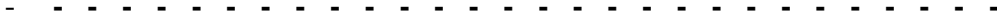
America is a wealthy nation. But on average, American Christians only give about 2 percent of their income to their churches. And even in churches that encourage giving as a percentage of income, average giving tends to be less than 5 percent of income. So, many of us surely could do a better job of responding to Jesus' call to generosity. To do so, we need to first determine how we've been doing in the past. To help with this task we've attached a table that relates weekly income levels to giving at various percentage giving rates. You can also compare your annual giving report from the church with annual income reported on tax returns. Once you determine the percentage of your income you've been giving to the church, you can consider whether God is calling you to give a larger share of your income. And if so, you may need to consider how you can change your spending habits to respond to God's call.

WEEKLY INCOME	BEYOND A TITHE		TITHE	UPPER RANGE GIVING			MIDDLE RANGE GIVING			LOWER RANGE GIVING		
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$ 200	30.00	24.00	20.00	18.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
\$ 300	45.00	36.00	30.00	27.00	24.00	21.00	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00
\$ 400	60.00	48.00	40.00	36.00	32.00	28.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00
\$ 500	75.00	60.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
\$ 600	90.00	72.00	60.00	54.00	48.00	42.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	18.00	12.00	6.00
\$ 700	105.00	84.00	70.00	63.00	56.00	49.00	42.00	35.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	7.00
\$ 800	120.00	96.00	80.00	72.00	64.00	56.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	24.00	16.00	8.00
\$ 900	135.00	108.00	90.00	81.00	72.00	63.00	54.00	45.00	36.00	27.00	18.00	9.00
\$1,000	150.00	120.00	100.00	90.00	80.00	70.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00
\$1,100	165.00	132.00	110.00	99.00	88.00	77.00	66.00	55.00	44.00	33.00	22.00	11.00
\$2,000	300.00	240.00	200.00	180.00	160.00	140.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	60.00	40.00	20.00
\$3,000	450.00	360.00	300.00	270.00	240.00	210.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	90.00	60.00	30.00

Permission is hereby granted to photocopy this page for use with the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program.

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE % would be for you.

**Thank you dear friends and members of EUMC,  
for your thoughtful and prayerful completion  
of the estimate of giving form below.**



**EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ESTIMATE-OF-GIVING FOR 2014**

The finance and stewardship team of EUMC encourages all members and supporters of the church to complete this estimate-of-giving form. It is a planning tool, not a binding pledge. We may need to adjust our plans as conditions change during the year. But thoughtful planning will help us practice good stewardship of the financial resources with which we've been blessed. Please complete the form and put it in the special box designated for that purpose in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate of Contributions to the Church in 2014:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly, or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly

Annual Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your estimate will remain confidential. Only the financial secretary will see it. If you have questions or should your financial situation change during the year, please contact Dick Strucko (e-mail: [richard.strucko@verizon.net](mailto:richard.strucko@verizon.net) or phone: 410-268-7175).