We are pleased to announce that Beth Heller, our new Associate Pastor, will be joining us in January. Beth is very excited to be with us here at “a church called Christ.” She has a great passion for ministry and brings with her a wonderful sense of enthusiasm and excitement.

Beth has been very active in church through the years. She has a real love for music and a desire to reach beyond the walls of the church and connect with the larger community.

She will be leading “Crossroads Connection,” our small-group ministry, and will also have opportunities to preach.

Beth will be joining us as a “Student Pastor” and will begin seminary in the fall. She is already a licensed Local Pastor who has had training. She can officiate at weddings, baptisms, and at the Communion Table.

Beth and her husband live in Stockton. She has three adult children and a grandson.

We look forward to Beth’s arrival and encourage you to give her the warm welcome that is one of the hallmarks of our church.

Welcome to our New Associate Pastor, Rev. Beth Heller!
By Debbie Bounds, SPRC Chairperson

Men’s conference planned for February
By Danny Boggs, Chairperson

The Men of the Church are in the final planning stages for its men’s conference, “Finishing Strong,” that will be held on Saturday, February 16, from 9 AM - 2 PM. Doors will open at 8:30 AM.

Previews of the speakers can be viewed on Facebook, and tickets can be ordered on the church website. More information will be in the weekly bulletins and you can also check out this link -- www.eventbrite.com/e/finishing-strong-going-the-distance-for-your-family-tickets-53919781518

Our next regular monthly meeting will be on Saturday, January 12, at 9AM, in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome to attend to enjoy fellowship along with breakfast. Hope you join us!
Our Sunday Schoolers wore pajamas and brought in children’s pajama donations for Halo! We received a TON of donations. We are so proud of our young people!

Each generation is a link to the next ...

By Irene Phillips, Stewardship Chairperson

We welcome 2019 -- a new year and a new beginning!

In a recent article, this phrase … “the death of an elder family member is like the destruction of a library” ... was used to illustrate knowledge obtained through living.

As elders, we recognize that while we are but a small piece of God’s puzzle, it is our stewardship that impacts future generations.

As Robert Bly once said, “An elder is someone who knows when it’s time to give rather than to take.” In this statement, Bly defines “elder” as maturity, not years lived.

May our 2019 New Year’s resolution be to set an example of stewardship for our youth.
Third Thursday
Dinner set for January 17
By Danny Boggs, Chairperson

The first Third Thursday Dinner of the New Year will be held on January 17, at 6 PM, in Fellowship Hall.

Ham and macaroni and cheese will be provided, along with coffee, tea, and water. Suggestions for covered-dishes are vegetables, potatoes, desserts, dinner rolls, or bread.

Let’s start the new year off with good food and good fellowship! See you on the 17th! Bring an appetite ...

Community Emergency Shelter Project turns 15!
By Donna Clark RN, Director Help and Outreach Point of Entry, Inc.

The Community Emergency Shelter Project (CESP) is underway, and we are housing as many as 38 men each night. This is the 15th year for this program, and every year we have been able to meet our mission of preventing homeless men from freezing to death thanks to the many churches who participate.

This year started off at Cross Pointe Church of the Nazarene for one week and then moved to Grace United Methodist Church for the next week. Because Community of Joy and the Camden conglomerate of churches only had space for 20 men and the cold weather was bringing in over 30 men each night, we were able to rent a warehouse here in Salisbury with a gift from a private donor that also paid for the heating oil and electric. The donation was totally unexpected, and it felt like God was showering us with a mighty blessing.

So much goes into hosting a space for this program, and the time and dedication of each of the volunteers is amazing. The work of planning a week of shelter is almost a full-time job, and once the doors open, the first 48 hours demand constant attention from the key volunteers. It takes a lot of people to meet the needs, including cooking the evening meal, registering the guests, monitoring the room, making lunches, managing the supplies, and other jobs as they arise.

The love and caring exhibited by everyone participating is really heart-warming, and the guests appreciate all that is being done for them. We thank each and every one of you who give of your time and talents. God bless you.

John 13:34-35

Volunteers in Mission Training

There will be a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Training on Saturday, February 2, at Grace UMC, 300 East Church Street in Millsboro, Delaware, from 8:30 AM to 1 PM.

The training will cover basic volunteer information. You only need to bring a bag lunch. If you are interested in attending, contact Jeff Finney at 302-242-0631 or jfinney@haletrailer.com.

“Handmade with Love Committee” was formerly “From under the Plarn” -- love the new name!!
By Donna Blackwell, Coordinator

Another delivery of hats and gloves was made to the Maryland State Police barracks in Princess Anne, just before Christmas. The MSP collects hats, gloves, scarves, and warm coats for the needy on the Lower Eastern Shore. CUMC’s Plarn committee was pleased to find another outlet for its “handmade with love” projects.

We are still in need of yarn. We will take all your leftovers and convert them into something warm and wonderful. Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. In January, that will be the 7th and 21st. We meet in the education wing at 4:30 PM.
I love the scripture below from 1 Timothy. We are encouraged to pray for ALL people. This scripture is not saying pray only for those people who you get along with, or are like you, or are kind, or believe like you, or think like you. We are being told to pray for all people. There is no getting around the word “all.”

This word “all” is telling me to pray for you, for this Church, the ministries of this Church, and for Pastor Bill, PT, Pastor Tom, and the leaders of this Church; and I am happy to do so. This Church will occupy a special place in my heart for a long while. Terri and I have been overwhelmed with the love and reception that was given to us when we arrived and that has continued for the 18 months that we have been blessed to share with you. To put it plainly – so Janie Long and Paul Phillips can understand – you all rock, and we love you dearly!

So, as you ponder the word “all” and pray for other Churches, our nation’s leaders, starving children, those battling illness, and those seemingly undeserving of any prayer at all, I humbly ask that you pray for my family. We are embarking on a new adventure, as we return to West Virginia. During the holiday season, as many others were celebrating, we were packing, and moving, and adjusting, and worrying, and grieving, all the while smiling and acting as if everything was ok. (Even as I was writing this, Terri texted me that our gazebo that I put up last summer had just blown down during the wind storm … ugh!) Your thoughts and continued prayers are greatly appreciated.

For the most part, we all know from previous experience that when God is with you, everything will be okay. We will worry, fret, and lose sleep, none of which will make a difference. At the same time, we also know that there’s a prayer for that. So, in the midst of the storm, pray for calm. In the midst of illness, pray for healing. In the midst of loneliness, pray for comfort. In the midst of war, pray for peace.

However, when it comes to people, no matter their color, race, religion, belief, nationality, ability, or disability – pray for ALL people in all places in Jesus’ name. This is the will of our Heavenly Father and Creator, God.

Finally, thank you for everything you have done for Terri and me and for loving us like you have. It has been a pleasure serving you and a joy knowing you.

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people —” 1 Timothy 2:1 (emphasis is mine)
There’s “tithing”, then there is “tithing+”  
By Donna Blackwell, Missions

Tithing is generally understood as giving one-tenth of one’s income for God. This standard of giving comes from several passages in Scripture (e.g. Genesis 28:10-22).

The founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, offered an even higher standard for giving and for our entire approach to living. It’s found in Wesley’s sermon, “The Use of Money.”

Wesley’s philosophy is summed up in his own words -- “Gain all you can ... save all you can ... give all you can.” He develops each of these points in his sermon. We are to seek to “earn all we can” in ways that are helpful to ourselves and others, never harmful. We are to “save all we can” by being frugal in our expenses. And then, having earned all we can and spent only what we must to care for our own basic needs and those of our family, we are to “give everything else away.”

Additionally, Wesley says, “Render unto God, not a tenth, not a third, not half, but all that is God’s.” For some of us, after caring for our family’s basic needs, there may not be much left over. For others, there may be much, indeed. Whatever that is, we say, give it all!

United Methodists value the tithe as a benchmark for giving; we then encourage our members to move beyond. We believe our giving should be both more challenging than simply trying to give a tithe of our income. We also believe that there is joy in giving, and the greater the generosity, the deeper the joy.

Make this a most joyous year by committing to “tithing+” in 2019.

*Adaptation of an article by Rev. Ken Sloane, director of Stewardship & Connectional Ministries, United Methodist Discipleship Ministries*
Happy Anniversary

Gary & Nancy Martin 01/12
David & Lynn Morgan 01/22
Jim & Joan Norman 01/28

Get this newsletter via e-mail and you will save the church $ each month

To get CrossRoads by e-mail, send Tom Robinson an e-mail at tomchicken@aol.com — put “Newsletter” in the subject line.

Congratulations

Jani Long for having her picture and story in The Metropolitan magazine (see the bulletin board).

If we have missed your birthday, anniversary, or a special celebration, please call the church office (410-742-5334), Carolee Greenwood (443-944-3782), or put a note in the offering plate.

"I'm serious about keeping my New Year's resolutions. In the past, my resolutions went in one year and out the other."
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January kicks off the new year with a variety of activities for our Youth!

By Pastor Tom, Youth Pastor

The Christmas parties are done, and we had an amazingly large group of over 25 teens come out to enjoy the movie, "Elf."

January is always an exciting time for our youth ministry, starting with our annual trip to Ocean City to attend the big Youth Rally with over 3000 other students and adults. This year, we are praying for NO SNOW, as we have had a big snow storm hit the past three years! We are sending 13 students and 6 adults, so it looks to be an amazing weekend on January 4 - 6. So, please start praying with us for the teens and for NO SNOW!

That’s just the beginning of our fun-filled January. We will also be taking the teens to the State Fair Grounds, in Harrington, Delaware, for ice skating and bumper cars. It’s a great seasonal trip!

Our high school group will be taking an overnight ski trip to Pennsylvania. This will be our first time going, and for many of the teens their first time skiing. As a youth pastor, I love taking these kinds of trips, because I can teach them something when it comes to skiing after living there for five years.

We are also holding our second annual “Soup and Sandwiches Dinner.” Last year, we had a great turnout of soups from people in the church. This helped make it a great event for everyone who wanted some hot food on a cold night. We hope to see you on January 19, from 4 - 8 PM, in Fellowship Hall.

Our big LOCKED-IN event will be held on February 16 - 17, and the other youth leaders and I are excited to put this event together each year for our teens. Last year, we had 95 participants, and this year we are hoping for even more, as we step-it-up with a concert featuring two different artists. The night is filled with bowling, archery tag, open gym, and food.

Permission forms for all these events can be found on http://chrisbysy.com/about-us/forms

Hope you have a great new year, and let’s give God even more of ourselves in 2019!