



Hughes CALLER

Vol. 59, No. 2 February 2008

National UMW Urge Overhaul of No Child Left Behind Act

The U.S. Congress is again preparing to debate the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the federal law that governs the operation of our public school system. Now is a good time to contact your Congressional Representative and Senators about this important law.

The National Council of Churches has advocated since 2005 to improve the law. The national organization of the United Methodist Women is joining the effort to advocate for a major overhaul of NCLB, in coalition with ecumenical partners and an alliance of 140 national organizations that have signed a Joint Organizational Statement on NCLB. The Hughes UMW are in agreement.

Changes now being discussed by Congress contain some good suggestions, but do not go far enough. NCLB would remain too much a test and punish law, and would remain vastly under funded. As people of faith, we are called to share our expectation that Congress will address the law's injustices. Recommendations include:

- Fully fund NCLB and fully authorize Title I of the law. The government must substantially

Lent - A Golden Compass?

Where are we going? It is a question we ask during the Lenten season to remind us of our direction. Certainly we know, or do we? Lent provides the opportunity for reflection, renewal, and rejuvenation of our lives as we walk our daily journey; as we answer the question.

At Hughes we work at accomplishing the task through prayer, study, and worship. So we provide the means for doing just that.

During this season, we will be using an eight week small group study titled *The Life and Ministry of the Messiah* which begins the first week of Lent. Also, this year members of Hughes have contributed daily lessons for a special devotional booklet, *The Values of Faithful Living* which will be distributed to the congregation.

On Ash Wednesday, our service offers the resources you will need to make the journey of bread, wine, and ashes.

During our Sunday morning services members of the Hughes Players will help you explore the meaning of the cross and crown in "Whose Crown is it Anyway?"; the sequel to last year's Lenten drama "Whose Cross is it Anyway?"

Maundy Thursday, women of the church will portray the women of Jesus life and ministry as we witness how their lives are woven together.

On Good Friday, a special Tenebrae service called **Lovelight** will conclude our Lenten journey in preparation for the Easter celebration.

It is my hope that you will join us for this special season as we prepare for the transition ahead of us and survey the question, "where are we going?"

~ Pastor Ennis

underwrite the costs, especially in districts with diminishing tax bases and exploding needs that serve populations segregated by race and extreme poverty.

- Reduce reliance on one annual standardized test by incorporating multiple measures of achievement including portfolios, teacher-made tests, and other indicators such as

See NCLB, page 8

SHROVETIDE SUPPER

February 4, 2008

Instead of the usual Monday Night Dinner fare, we are going to celebrate Shrovetide Monday with pancakes and sausage.

Serving time will be the usual dinner hours, 5 -7 p.m.

Suggested donations are \$5.00 for adults and

\$3.00 for children under 10.

UMW Announce Recipients of 2007 Special Mission Recognition Awards

Each year the UMW give special recognition to members of the Hughes congregation who have provided outstanding service to the church and the community. This year they made an undesignated gift to mission in the names of Deja Lockwood, and Anne Kredell and Dan Cieslowski (otherwise know as Anne and Dan).

Deja has been the Donor Chairperson for the Red Cross since 1991 and has directed all the blood drives in which Hughes has participated.

Anne and Dan have been involved with the youth in many of their activities, such as the Spaghetti Dinner, Funfest, the Market Place Show, as well as celebrations after the youth services and Christmas caroling.

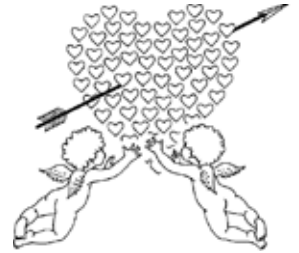
Congratulations to Deja, Anne and Dan and many thanks to all of you.

Dorothy Van Zandt

Mid-High Ready For Annual Valentine's Day Silent Auction

The Mid-High UMYF group is holding their annual pre-Valentine's Day fund-raiser to help cover the costs of their yearly activities and to send aid to needy people via worthy charities like UMCOR.

The auction will be held on February 3 and 10



between services (9:45 - 10:30 a.m.) and after the second worship service (until 12:15 p.m.). Winning bidders will be contacted after church on Feb. 10. Signs will be posted so you can find the tables of potential gifts for your SPECIAL VALENTINE (donated items include CDs, stuffed animals, candy, jewelry, toys, books, and more). Also, there will be a Bake Sale on the 10th featuring homemade treats! Please contact Susan Odell (301-587-8361) if you have any questions.

Tutors Needed This Winter

Again this winter we'll be offering English language tutoring to our neighbors in the Wheaton community. The program we use teaches English in the context of the life skills everyone must know. Tutoring sessions will be held Wednesday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m., January 30th to March 12th with no classes Ash Wednesday.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda French (leesf@mac.com, 301/989-8853) or Emma Wilson (emma.wilson@montgomerycollege.edu, 301/962-1195).

United Methodist Women

Executive Committee: 10 a.m., Monday, February 4, Parlor

General Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 20, in the Parlor.

This will be a quiet day of prayer and self-denial. Mary Jane Harns, Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator, will conduct the program. Hughes UMW members who have died during the last year will be honored.

All women are invited to attend any of the listed meetings. For more information please call any of the designated members or the church office.

Circles

Love

9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 5, Parlor
Hostess: Virginia Wilson (301-216-5165)

Friendship

noon, Tuesday, February 5, Social Hall
Hostesses: Ann Brunk (301-949-6732)
and June Robertson (301-946-7692)

Loyalty

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, Parlor
Hostess: Deja Lockwood (301-890-8901)

HUGHES FAMILY

BIRTHS

January 4

Elijah Agada
 (Comfort and Stephen Agada)

DEATHS

December 10

Harry R. Glixon,
 (Father of Jill Glixon)

December 29

Ed Beaver, former member

December 31

Edith Gartrell, member
 (Mother of Ralph Gartrell)

January 26

Virginia Trainor, member
 (sister of June Capacchione)

Thank you's

Anne Kredell and Dan Cieslowski write with love: "To the UMW and the General Board of Global Ministries of the Baltimore/Washington Conference, thank you for the Special Mission Recognition Award that you granted us at the Christmas Luncheon in December. We were pleasantly surprised and certainly honored to be presented with the beautiful cross pins. Your kind words and warm hugs were an added bonus and will long be remembered. We will wear the pins with pride, and they will be a reminder to us of many years spent with one outstanding, warmhearted and affectionate church family."

†

The Worship Committee, Velma Murphy and Joan Gartrell write: "Thank you to all the 'helping' hands that worked so hard to prepare the sanctuary for the Christmas season. To everyone who helped decorate before the 'Hanging of the Greens' service and participated during the service on December 1st. - Thank you. "To all the ladies who unwrapped and place all the poinsettias for the Christmas services, thank you. Everything was beautiful. "Then after Christmas everything was taken down and packed away. All the bows are stuffed and packed away for the 2008 season. A lot of work, but a lot of fun. "It takes many hands to do these jobs and without your help it could not get done. Everything looked so lovely. "Thank you and Happy New Year to all of you 'Fluffers & Stuffers."

†

Maureen Larenas, Manager of TESS writes: "Once again, you have graced several of our neediest families with food and gifts to make their holiday special and memorable. We want to thank you for your time and dedication to each family in selecting special gifts for each member. I always look forward to the time when the Hughes Methodist Church's disbursement takes place here at the TESS Center. I have to say, that this year is no exception. I would like to give an extra special thank you to Jill Glixon, Kathy Ripley and Cheryl Geske for their dedication and support."

†

Carol Whitney writes: "Once again, Hughes members, you came through! Shepherd's Table had enough filled backpacks to give out to all those who came for

Christmas. Members of Hughes supplied 64 pairs of socks, 23 pairs of gloves, 16 hats, 12 scarves, 9 winter underwear, 2 scarf-hat-glove sets, 1 backpack, and 6 grocery bags filled with toiletries. Many thanks to all those who contributed!"

†

India Simmons writes: "May this special time of the year shower you with all God's Blessings which are in store for you.

"Thank you for the food and gifts that you have provided our family. Your generosity is greatly appreciated."

†

Robbie (age 8) writes: "Dear Ms. Jill and the Congregation, Thank you for the gifts you have given us during this Christmas season. My mommy, sister and I appreciate what you have done for us. You are very kind. It means a lot that we were thought of. I feel special because you are spreading holiday cheers."

Indigo (age 16) writes:

Words like thank you can't describe
The amount of thanks we feel inside
And that thanks we won't hide, but will express it to you
For all of the good, for people like us that you do

Words like appreciative can't show
How appreciative we are and you should know
Because you go, way out of your way for us
So words like 'God bless you' are a must

Words like joy can't nearly explain
Just how joyed we are beyond and exclaim
It brings us happiness not pain, to know our ears don't deceive
When we hear of these gifts from you we will receive

Words like grateful can't even tell
How sweet inside you are like a rose's smell
Even outside you wear it well, so good karma you will get
We still don't feel we have thanked you enough, even yet

So I guess words like thank you will have to do

As we attempt to communicate our extreme gratitude.

Music Review: Alter Bridge: Blackbird

Sound/Style: *Hard rock with equal parts aggression, invention and lyrical substance*

Label: *Republic*

By STEVE MORLEY (UMC.ORG) — Historically, the styles of hard rock and heavy metal have not been compatible with Christian doctrine, given their association with Satanism and the occult—a connection that is often, though not always, deserved. Nonetheless, the topic of religion has become more evident in recent years. But in the hard rock world, an open admission of faith can polarize a band's fan base between Christian and secular camps, thanks to the music industry's insistence on forcing product into narrow categories. Creed, one of the most popular mainstream rock bands to wrap faith-based themes in a hard-rock shell, steadfastly avoided any collective public claim of Christianity right up to their breakup in 2004. The band that would rise from Creed's ashes, Alter Bridge, maintained their secular stance on their 2004 debut, *One Day Remains*, an album that veered further away from Christian influences and revealed more melodic appeal and sonic light than Creed's gray-toned and weighty fare. On their long-awaited follow-up, *Blackbird*, Alter Bridge offer credible and innovative hard rock that deftly straddles the line between gritty reality and the hope of a better world.

Modern rock's oppressively dense roar frequently accompanies antagonistic lyrics sung in dour tones. By contrast, Alter Bridge's aggression is more appropriately aimed at cultural ills like the war in Iraq and the growing indigent population. "The Wayward Ones," a plea for the homeless and disenfranchised, both offers compassion and challenges us to "make things right" and "dress the wounds in love's pure light."

"Buried Alive" and "Watch Over You" deal with the weakness and low self-regard that can lead to addiction and destructive patterns. These could easily be interpreted as references to former Creed vocalist Scott Stapp, whose arrests for public intoxication and domestic abuse are factors behind his now-floundering career. While care is taken not to condemn those who struggle with such demons, the ugliness and tragedy of alcoholism is

See Music, page 5

arts

Movie Review - The Great Debaters (PG-13)

This review was developed by the official online ministry of The United Methodist Church, UMC.org. The full review and discussion topics for the film appear there.

By GREGG TUBBS (UMC.org) — "We do what we have to do so we can do what we want to do." That's the mantra heard throughout the stirring new drama, *The Great Debaters*, directed by and starring Denzel Washington. This motto strikes at the heart of the hard road those who smash racial barriers must travel. This is familiar territory for Washington, who has played it out in war (*Glory*) and sports (*Remember the Titans*). But if it's familiar theme, the new backdrop of a college debate team breathes new life into the struggle for racial equality, and when you've got the talents of Washington, Forest Whitaker and a group of bright young newcomers, it's a tale worth seeing and learning from again.

Inspired by a true story, *The Great Debaters* plunges us into the Jim Crow South of the mid 1930s—a time when blacks endured the daily indignity of discrimination, and racial violence always simmered just beneath the surface. The film tells the story of the debate team at Wiley College, a small Black college in Marshall Texas. Washington plays the part of the brilliant but mercurial English professor and debate team coach, Melvin B. Tolson. Professor Tolson teaches his students the power of reason and words and forges a debating juggernaut, able to go head to head and mind to mind, against any team in the country. At the height of an incredible run in 1936, the team even travels to face off the Harvard debate team in Boston. (The historic debate was actually against the reigning champions, the University of Southern California debate team.)

See Movie, page 5

Movie, from page 4

Tolson inspires his small, underdog team to believe in themselves, their cause and the truth. A true agent of change, Tolson was also an important figure in tenant farmers rights and continued to battle injustice -against both whites and blacks - throughout his life. He instilled in his team the belief that they could use these competitive debates for more than personal glory; they could also be tools of change and enlightenment. As we learn in the epilogue, his team takes these lessons to heart—one becomes a lawyer, another a minister and the youngest, James L. Farmer, Jr., becomes one of the most important figures of the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Shattering the vicious concept that one race is mentally superior to another required a different type of competitor. These debaters were competitors of the mind. Their battlefields were the great halls of knowledge, and their weapons were ideas, reasoning and persuasion. With the backdrop of competitive team debates, the film explores, even dissects, issues such as social justice, civil disobedience and workers rights, without feeling static or preachy. As director, Washington earns kudos for infusing these debates with both passion and intelligence.

Wiley College is one of the oldest historically black colleges west of the Mississippi, and has strong ties to the United Methodist Church. The college was founded in 1873 by the Methodist Episcopal Church's Bishop Isaac Wiley, and it remains a member of the International Association of Methodist-related

Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU). Its Christian roots are evident from the very beginning when Wiley professor and president James L. Farmer, Sr. (Forrest Whitaker), the first black Texan to hold a doctorate, exhorts incoming freshmen with words from Corinthians to "put away childish things" in preparation for the rigors of college and the desperate challenges of the outside world.

There is so much to recommend this film, but two things—in particular—stuck with me. First, that big change often must come one small, painful step at a time. We see the incredibly delicate balance Tolson and his team must

Music, from page 4

painted in vivid detail: "I twist and turn in the darkest space/ Can't find my worth as I numb the pain/ Blast to the sky with a blacktooth grin/ This whiskey smile takes me down again/ I'm cold and I'm so afraid/ That I'm too weak and I can't change/ I've been buried alive and I don't want to be here anymore/ Reached out a thousand times for a hand to pull me from below."

More often, the songs speak pointedly to today's youth, giving voice to laments of emptiness and lack of purpose. ("We are the disillusioned/ We've been left wanting more/ Before every aspiration hits the floor/ Hold on for your life/ All we feel is so far from alive.")

With its socially conscious and hopeful lyrics, Blackbird is a welcome blast of intelligent and melodic hard rock that soars boldly through darkness while pointing the way towards the light.

strike between fighting back and laying low, choosing their battles wisely and often swallowing their pride for the greater goal. Secondly, *The Great Debaters* denies us any complacency about the ugly reality of racial violence. A pivotal lynching scene leaves you dazed and winded like a punch in the gut. It reminds us again that this was a life and death struggle, and it required incredible courage to take a stand.

The battle against racism is far from over. *The Great Debaters* reminds us that it still has the power to shock, shame and inspire. Without a doubt, this is simply one of the best and most powerful films of the year.

Youth Spaghetti Dinner Date Set For Early March

The 14th Annual Hughes Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the youth will be on Saturday, March 8, 2008, with continuous serving from 6-8 p.m.

Suggested donations are: \$10.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 10 & under, and free for ages 5 and under. This is a very popular Hughes tradition. If you're looking for a fun evening out and letting someone else do the work, this is the night for you.

The Youth will sell tickets starting on Sunday, February 10th through March 2nd in the Social Hall. Entertainment will be provided by our very talented Youth. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives. This year, you can count on plenty of food, good service, and entertainment for all.

Hughes Education Committee Solicits Congregation Input

In January, the Education Committee placed a Suggestion Box outside the Education Resource Room across from the Chapel. The Committee hopes that church members will submit suggestions, concerns or comments concerning the congregation's needs and interests in the area of Christian education at Hughes. Leaving your name is optional; however, if you would like a response from Rev. Janet Habersham, Director of Christian Education, or Sharon Skinner, Education Chair, please leave a phone number and/or email so they can follow up with you. They will check the box weekly.

The Suggestion Box form has two questions on it to help you, however, you may use the other side if what you have does not fit into either of these questions. The questions are:

- What can the Committee do to help you and/or your child(ren) to have a more meaningful Sunday School experience?
- Are there any specific programs that you would recommend for the Education Committee to consider? Examples include: Adult Sunday School; Bible Study programs; parenting classes; and ideas for fellowship.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to inflation, the cost of Altar flowers will increase from \$14 to \$16 beginning April 6, 2008.

OPEN DOOR FELLOWSHIP



Come Dancing

When? Friday, February 8, 2008

Where And When Do We Meet? At Hughes Church at 6:45 p.m.

Where Are We Gonna Dance? Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo

How Much Is Admission? \$12

The Friday Night Dancers presents traditional American dancing including contra dances*, square dances, and several waltzes. Contra dance lessons are from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. The actual dance is from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. with the Glen Echo Open Band.

* What is a contra dance? A caller, usually working with a group of live musicians, guides new and experienced dancers alike through a variety of dances. The dances are similar to those of old-time square dancing.

Egg Rolls Anyone?

On Saturday February 23, 2008, we will meet at Hughes Church at 6 p.m. and then head over to the Asian Bistro Café in downtown Silver Spring. This restaurant combines a fresh made-to-order Sushi Bar offering Japanese, Chinese and Vegetarian dishes. During dinner, we will talk about what everyone wants to do afterwards.



UMW Needs Jewelry For Rummage Sale

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday March 15, 2008 and the Jewelry Booth needs your unwanted jewelry. If you have jewelry (men's, women's, or children's) that you don't wear anymore please donate it for our Rummage Sale. Also, ask your neighbors, coworkers, or friends if they have any jewelry they would like to donate. We even accept broken items. UMW needs time to clean, repair, price, package and box the items so please turn the items in as soon as possible. Donations can be given to Vera Offenbacker (301-681-6117) or Liz Brigham (301-681-5351) or left in the church office in their names.

Fun & Fellowship Plans Program On Impending Digital TV Conversion

Fun and Fellowship are planning to have a Speaker from the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) sometime in March to provide information about the future of digital television and how it will effect old television sets. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and the March Caller for announcements of Time and Date of the meeting. Hold off ordering the Free coupon from the Government that gives \$40.00 off on a converter box until after this meeting.

youth retreat **ROCK**

Jesus Christ: More Than A Rock Star!

In Matthew 16: 15-17, Matthew wrote: "Then Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say I am?' Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'" At this year's ROCK retreat, over 5,600 young people throughout the Baltimore -Washington Conference gathered in Ocean City in fellowship and prayer to answer that same question.

Rev. Grace Imathiu, who serves Brown Deer UMC in Wisconsin, helped guide that journey. Imathiu, native of Kenya, Africa, spoke to the young people who are struggling with their identity. "Jesus is more than a rockstar," she said. "He is the way of life, when you know Jesus you know who you are."

The Sunday worship service culminated with an altar call and communion that Bishop John R. Schol held with the assistance of scores of youth volunteers, including Hughes' own Nenna Akpaete. The Bishop extended an invitation to the youth to stand if they wanted to dedicate their lives to Christ before serving communion Sunday morning. "God has made a way for your life," he said. "He sent Jesus Christ into this world so that you may have life." More than 2,000 young people and adults stood up to publicly dedicate their lives to Jesus so that they could be transformed by the Holy Spirit so that they might transform the world.

Our youth had this to say about their weekend:

Keppy Akpaete: "The retreat seemed to last only 24 hours although it was scheduled over the weekend. In the end, I had lots of fun and have gained valuable memories from Rock 2008, I have learned that God works in mysterious ways and He can reach out to us through the most unusual of people."

Megan Murray: "This weekend meant a lot to me. It continued on with the many "lasts" that I'm going through now that I am a senior. I've had another opportunity to spend with my friends. But, besides the laughs that I will surely miss when I go away, I learned to be my own person and let some things just pass me by. I've learned to listen more and to be a person that my friends can come to. I feel like I've grown a lot over the past 4 years. I've attended ROCK. I learned to put my problems before God and have the faith that He will help me get through everything that's stressing me."

Nenna Akpaete: "I realized prior to Rock that I had strayed away from God and I was eager for the chance to reconnect our relationship. The music and message at Rock was wonderful and refreshing. I really enjoyed my last weekend ever at ROCK."

Jennimae Granatos: "This year at Rock was my last year. As a senior, I hoped to take away as much from the experience as I did the first year, and I feel like I've taken away much more than I ever thought I would. This year's Rock was filled with different cultures preaching and spreading the word of God through their stories, music and experiences. After this year's experience at ROCK not only have I learned how to be a better Christian, I've learned that sharing your experiences and culture with other Christians can help them understand you and expand their horizons as not only people, but Christians."

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ROCK, from page 7

Maryanne Weaver: "Every year, there is a contest to design that year's ROCK T-shirt. I was involved in choosing the winning design and it is really cool. I will wear it to church sometime so everyone can see it."

Jillian Granatos: "This year I learned how to be more resilient and able to bounce back from tough situations that we all have to face. ROCK taught me how to be a stronger person and represent who I am. I learned that you should accept yourself because self love gets you very far."

Josiah Gregar: "What I learned from ROCK this year is that wherever you are God is, and He is watching everything you are doing. God already knows everyone's destiny."

Phavann Kredell: "For me, Jesus is many things but most importantly, He is my mentor. My ROCK experience this year is really what makes me feel this way. Jesus tells me what to do when I am confused, and I learn from His teachings."

"This year, my ROCK experience was very fun. It was also uplifting. The speaker Pastor Grace was very good. Her stories kept me listening and the band definitely kept me up." (Unsigned)

Patty Romaine: "I enjoy ROCK every year. This year was no exception. ROCK gives me a chance to rejuvenate my spiritual self while relaxing with my friends. I can't wait to go back next year!!"

NCLB, from page 1

grade promotion and graduation rates.

- Replace the current system that credits learning only when average group scores reach benchmark targets with a growth model that tracks each student's learning over time.
- Require all schools to match the rate of progress shown by research to be actually achievable, and scrap the unrealistic "all children proficient by 2014" deadline.
- Replace sanctions (that too frequently redirect funds into unregulated, privatized tutoring services) with professional development driven by the needs that teachers identify.

More information, including the statement, "Ten Moral Concerns," and the Joint Organizational Statement, may be obtained on line at <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/LeftBehind.pdf>, http://www.edaccountability.org/Joint_Statement.html), or contact the United Methodist Women's Washington, D.C. Office: 202-488-5660, or contact Jan Resseger (chair) ressegerj@ucc.org.

What You Can Do: Contact your U.S. Representative and Maryland Senators. Check the government section of your local telephone book to locate their contact information, or call the U.S. Capitol switchboard, 202-224-3121. Telephone or write a letter to their district or Washington, D.C. offices, or e-mail. Always include your name, address, city, state, and zip code. Briefly state your views on No Child Left Behind, using information here, and adding personal examples to make your point. If you need assistance in this process, contact the United Methodist Women's D.C. Office: 202-488-5660.

Submitted by Cheryl Geske, local UMW Social Action co-chair.



Evergreen School would like to invite interested members of Hughes Church to participate in our Montessori University, Saturday, February 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event offers you an opportunity to experience the joy of learning as a

Montessori student. This special morning, for adults only, promises to ignite your curiosity and awaken your senses as you participate in lessons directed by our fabulous teaching staff. Though directed primarily at Evergreen families, we welcome attendance from anyone curious about the Montessori approach.

In the areas of math, language, geography/cultural, and sensorial/geometry, we will offer two consecutive lessons, one at the Primary level and then one at the Elementary level. This will help you understand the continuum of Montessori education and experience how lessons build one upon the next as children move through the planes of development. There will also be time for questions and answers. If you're interested, please R.S.V.P. to Lorie or Peggy at Evergreen, 301-942-5979.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee Moment

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12) Hughes United Methodist Church is a loving congregation consisting of many individuals who have been brought together to celebrate their common belief in Jesus Christ. This year we will celebrate the ministry of Pastor George Ennis as he retires from the Baltimore-Washington Conference and we will welcome a new pastor to our Church family.

In preparation for the selection of a new pastor, the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) completed a profile of Hughes United Methodist Church as well as an evaluation of the congregation. These tools will be utilized by the Bishop in the appointment process. The SPPRC was asked to describe the characteristics of a pastor to assist in carrying out the ministry of this Church. We responded that the characteristics should include obvious enthusiasm for the vocation – with a personal testimony and a passion for continuous spiritual growth among believers, someone who will enhance the church’s evangelism efforts and outreach to the local community to increase the congregation, someone with strong faith and biblical knowledge who implements Bible-based dynamic preaching, a strong leader who is compassionate and effective with congregational care, and someone who is experienced in encouraging spiritual growth among the congregation.

In evaluating the congregation, the SPPRC was asked to review five items – discipleship, communication, leadership/administration, caring/interpersonal relations, and cooperation/team work. The overall belief of the SPPRC is that the congregation is functioning extremely well together. In listing strengths to build on or skills to be improved the following items were noted – increase church’s ministries and congregational involvement, develop additional outreach opportunities, enhance communication to members and community, encourage more members to accept leadership roles, continue to develop Discipleship Adventure, support the congregation to utilize their gifts to enhance the life of the Church, and continued support of the Parish Nurse Program.

With this information, the Bishop has begun the process of identifying a pastor to be appointed to Hughes United Methodist Church in July 2008. The SPPRC will work with the Bishop and District Superintendent to ensure that the needs of this body continue to be met and we will keep you informed as we move through this process.


The SPPRC is dedicated to ensuring that the needs of the pastor, staff, and congregation continue to be met. Each member of the staff has a liaison on the SPPRC who contacts them on a regular basis to discuss any challenges that they face or needs they may have. The 2008 liaison assignments are shown below and you are encouraged to contact the appropriate member with any questions or suggestions.

Marjorie Roher, Chair	Senior Pastor, George Ennis
Gail Broadhurst, Secretary	Parish Nurse, Carol Whitney
Delores Varner	Director Christian Ed., Janet Habersham
Marie Muller	
Barbara Bartlett	Church Secretary, Laraine Grant
Mark Weaver	Sexton, Norman Parker
Alyce Amussen	Business Manager/Music Director, Marie Bunting
Kathy Ripley	Nursery Leader, Chanderdia Singh
Barry Smith	Organist, Van Knauss

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee looks forward to the challenges ahead and appreciates the prayers of the congregation as we move through this period of change.

Marjorie Roher, Chair

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>Sunday services: 9 a.m. Contemporary Service and Adult Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service; 12 noon Spanish Service; 10 a.m. Fellowship in the Social Hall; 10:20 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. Monday evening music classes: 5:15 p.m. Chapel Bell Choir; 6 p.m. KICK Choir and Wesley Choir; 6:30 p.m. Wesley Bell Choir and Instrumental class. Monday Night Dinner: 5 to 7 p.m. – Social Hall.</p>					1	2 Mid Hi Silent Auction (Set-Up)
3 11:30 am Blood Pressure Screening Mid Hi Silent Auction 4:30 Confirmation Class No Mid Hi MYF 6:30 pm Sr. Hi MYF	4 10 am UMW Exe. Bd. 7:30 pm Trustees 5-7 pm “Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper”	5 9:30 am Love Circle 12 pm Friendship Cir. 6 pm First Place Ex. 7 pm First Place Mtg. 7:30 Adult Basketball	6 1 pm Coffee Klatch 7 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	7 6:30 pm Chancel Bells NO Chancel Choir	8	9
10 Mid Hi Silent Auction No Mid Hi MYF 6:30 pm Sr. Hi MYF	11 7:30 pm Staff Parish	12 6 pm First Place Ex. 7 pm First Place Mtg. 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:30 pm Salt Mtg.	13 1 pm Coffee Klatch 7 pm Life Skills Classes 7:30 pm Loyalty Circle	14  6:30 pm Chancel Bells 8 pm Chancel Choir	15 Mid Hi Trip -- Camp	16 Manidokan
17 11:30 am Blood Pressure Screening 4:30 Confirmation Class Mid Hi: Camp Manidokan 6:30 pm Sr. Hi MYF	18 Holiday: Office Closed 7:30 pm Ministry Groups	19 6 pm First Place Ex. 7 pm First Place Mtg. 7:30 Adult Basketball	20 9:30 am UMW Gen. Mtg. 1 pm Coffee Klatch 6 pm UMM Meeting 7 pm Life Skills Classes	21 6:30 pm Chancel Bells 8 pm Chancel Choir	22	23 9 am UMM Auction
24 6:30 Mid Hi MYF 6:30 Sr. Hi MYF	25	26 6 pm First Place Ex. 7 pm First Place Mtg. 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:30 pm Salt Mtg.	27 1 pm Coffee Klatch 7 pm Life Skills Classes 7:30 pm Finance Com.	28 6:30 pm Chancel Bells 8 pm Chancel Choir	29	Upcoming! MYF Spaghetti Dinner: March 8th

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