

HUGHES CALLER



June 2017 Edition



Pastor Ken's Column

One of the deep concerns of our area, both the Wheaton neighborhood and greater Metropolitan Washington, is affordable housing and homelessness. Our own research indicates beginning rents for a studio apartment is upwards of \$1500/month! This, despite a county mandate to set aside a portion of each complex as affordable units.

According to some reports, "an estimated 12 million renter and homeowner households now pay more than 50% of their annual incomes for housing." One report indicated that there were over 12,700 homeless persons in Metropolitan Washington DC in 2015.

We are invited to be part of the solution! Churches in the Greater Washington district, with other partners, work to end homelessness through purchasing property and through leveraging existing church property for affordable housing. Thanks to our network of partnerships (who manage properties and provide case management services), we can house a person for \$43 per day. Thirty people making contributions of \$43/month can house a single person for a year.

District individuals and churches will be invited to make financial commitments in the coming months and we will celebrate our progress and plans to end homelessness at our annual charge conference in the fall. Our Cluster of Churches is planning a "Walk for Affordable Housing" on October 15 and have set a goal of \$10,000 for the walk. Watch for announcements regarding additional opportunities to participate and contribute for the walk and other district plans.

Together, we can make a difference!



Summer Worship Plans

Weekly worship themes for summer Sundays have been drawn from congregational favorites: favorite women in the Bible; favorite Psalms; favorite Proverbs; and favorite Hymns/Songs. Based on the responses received, here is the summer schedule. Sermon titles and themes are yet to be determined.

June 4: Pentecost – Acts 2:1-11 – “The Holy Spirit Draws Us Together” (Communion)

June 11: Mary the Mother of Jesus

June 18: Psalm 46 (Proverb 18:10)

June 25: Pastor Ken away

July 2: Proverbs 22:1

July 9: Psalm 51

July 16: Gospel Hymns

July 23: Lydia of Thyatiria

July 30: Proverbs 31:25-26

August 6: Psalm 23

August 13: Contemporary Songs

August 20: Mary Magdalene

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The **June** Meeting will be a Pot Luck Luncheon on Tuesday, June 6 in the Social Hall. We will be preparing the Ditty Bags for Camp Bennett and Crossways Community Center. Loyalty Circle is planning a trip to visit Frances Badman on Saturday, June 3.

If you shop at Giant, please consider buying Giant Gift Cards to use for your grocery shopping. We receive 5% from each card sold. The 5% has been used to provide scholarships of \$200 for each of our graduates and to accomplish other projects around our Church *when* funds are available. Gift Cards for \$25., \$50, and \$100 are sold in the library between services. These gift cards can also be used for Pea Pod purchases.

Our Church Family

Deaths:

Velma Jean Robinson (sister of Dr. Van Knauss) died April 24, 2017.

Gwen Wilson (Norman Parker's fiancé) died April 25, 2017.

Jane Jennings (former member) died May 3, 2017.

Mission & Outreach at Four Corners

by Pastor Evelyn Rivera

Through several months of discernment, prayer, and conversations with participants of the Mobile and Choice food pantries at Silver Spring UMC, I have been exploring the possibility of focusing on Christ's promise on abundant living through body, mind, and spirit for all children of God. The hope is that each person will come to experience God's presence in every part of their lives. For the past five months, an ethnically-diverse group of women from the community have been meeting with me to brainstorm what this would look like and how we may engage in ministry with the women and children who are benefitting from the existing choice pantries. During the month of June 2017 we plan to create spaces in our Four Corners site to implement the following categories:

1. Educational Forums

- ◆ Circle Gatherings: Emphasis will be on empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence needed with regards to their mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual being.

2. Women's Wellness and Nutrition

- ◆ Nutritional educational series
- ◆ Cooking Classes

3. Fitness Activities

- ◆ Yoga

- ◆ Aerobic Activities (e.g. dance classes, Zumba, etc.)
- ◆ Outdoor Strong Summer Camp (Middle School aged students)

4. Spiritual Wellness

- ◆ Promote a Bible Study at Four Corners
- ◆ Learn and incorporate different forms of meditation practices
- ◆ Provide pastoral care for participants
- ◆ Invitations will be extended to participants to participate in worship and ministry experiences of SSUMC and Hughes-EBS.

It is my hope that through our ongoing partnership with Silver Spring UMC, we may continue to build authentic relationships that will bring the healing love of Jesus Christ to the broken, the hungry, the sick, the lost, and the forsaken.

If you are looking for ways to grow in your faith, I encourage you to exercise your gifts by serving. Remember that your simple acts of kindness and service does make a difference! If interested or curious about how you may serve at the Four Corners site, simply give me a call.

May God bless our journey together with Christ for the salvation and the transformation of our world

ATTENTION “YOUNG-AT-HEARTS” OVER 65 YEARS OLD:

The following article was submitted by Marianne Capacchione and its link is as follows: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/finance/bill-42-16.html>

On March 7, 2017 the Montgomery County Council passed Bill 42-16, which will provide a tax credit for people who are over 65 years of age and who either:

- Have owned and lived in the dwelling that they own for at least 40 consecutive years, or
- are retired from one of the United States' armed forces (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy).

The owner who is 65 or over and who has owned and lived in the dwelling for at least 40 consecutive years must be on the deed for the property. An owner who is 65 or over and is a military retiree must be on the deed for the property. Not all owners must be over 65, just the one that meets the requirements above. Not all owners must have owned and lived in the dwelling for at least 40 consecutive years, just the one that meets the requirements above. Not all owners must be retired from the U. S. armed forces, just the one that meets the requirements above.

This bill will provide a 20% credit, on County property taxes only, only for owner-occupied dwellings for which at least one of the owners meet the eligibility requirements noted above. The credit is granted for 5 consecutive years, and the credit is not available after that 5 year period. There is only one credit—if an owner is 65 or over and has owned and lived in the same dwelling for at least 40 consecutive years, AND that owner is also a military retiree, the tax credit is still a 20% tax credit on County property taxes only, for 5 consecutive years.

Please note that the term “dwelling” means the entire property, not just the home on the land—it includes the land.

The assessment on a dwelling is therefore the assessment that is shown on your tax bill, as this includes both the home and the land.

For owners that are at least 65 years of age and have owned and lived in the same dwelling for at least 40 consecutive years, the tax credit is only available if the dwelling has an assessment of \$650,000 or less, at the time of the application for the credit. If the dwelling is assessed at more than \$650,000, then the property is not an eligible property, and no credit will be granted.

*Please note that for all properties that are titled in the name of a trust or in the name of the trustees of a trust you **MUST fill out and sign the Affidavit Re Trust Ownership** to receive this tax credit. **The affidavit can be opened here**, or you can get a paper copy from our office.*

For owners that are at least 65 years of age and are military retirees the tax credit is only available if the dwelling has an assessment of \$500,000 or less, at the time of the application for the credit. If the dwelling is assessed at more than \$500,000, then the property is not an eligible property, and no credit will be granted.

An application must be made each year for the tax credits. The applications will be due on April 1, before the tax year that begins on July 1 of the same calendar year. Tax years begin on July 1st—the 2017 tax year begins on July 1, 2017.

For 2017 taxes only, applications will be accepted until September 1, 2017. If you wish to receive a credit for your 2017 taxes, you must apply by September 1, 2017.

For all other tax years, you must apply by April 1st. For example, if you wish to receive a 2018 tax credit (for the tax year that begins July 1, 2018), then you must apply for it by April 1, 2018.

This tax credit will not be issued on the annual property tax bill that is sent in July, instead it will be calculated and issued on a subsequent revision of your tax bill, with the tax credit appearing as a line item deduction on the bill. When the tax credit is issued, your revised bill will also be available on our website at <https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/realpropertytax/default.aspx>. At this site you can look up your tax bill by address, by your account number, or by your bill number.

The revised bill amount will also be available *by* calling MC311 (dial 311 if

you are in the County, and dial 240-777-0311 if you are calling from outside of Montgomery County).

[Click here for an application that you can fill out online and print to mail.](#)

Please mail your application to:

Department of Finance, Division of
Treasury

Attn: Bill 42-16 Tax Credit
255 Rockville Pike, Suite L-15
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Financial Snapshot

Operating Budget	April 2017	Total 2017
Income	\$61,108	\$189,641
Expenses	\$53,374	\$198,759

Kindly e-mail your Caller articles to Marty Weaver, Editor at caller@hughesumc.org or place them in the Caller drawer outside of the Church Office by the 15th of each month.

Please visit the Hughes Website at www.hughesumc.org