

May 2018 Caller



Pastor Ken's Column

Last fall the Administrative Council decided to enter into a Visioning Process in 2018, for us to discern where we are as a congregation, who God is calling us to be, and create a strategic plan for the future. One of the primary considerations is how we truly become one bi-cultural (or multi-cultural) congregation. I want to give you an update on progress and offer a pre-invitation to participate in the process.

In December and January, we asked for volunteers to be part of the team and several members responded either showing interest themselves, or nominating someone else. So that we have a team which represents a cross-section of the congregation and is also balanced between El Buen Samaritano and Hughes members, a group was recruited to serve. The members are: the pastors; Bob Cooley; Anne Dean; Emma Escobar; Linda French; Jorge Granados; Liz Kilpatrick; Tito and Maria Montano; Mayuris Pimentel; Claudia Simmons; Ken Whitney; and Ron Wilson.

The team has met three times to build relationships, prepare for, and plan the process. A contract has been signed with the James Company to lead the process, with Rev. Rachel Cornwell (the former lead pastor of Silver Spring UMC) as our facilitator. The process will include several house and small group meetings to receive congregational input, interviews with community members, demographics study, and congregational asset mapping.

We expect to have a strategic plan for the Administrative Council to review in September. The timing will enable us to apply for the next round of conference grants, prepare for the 2019 appointment season, and structure our fall stewardship campaign as we implement the plan. Meetings were held with Rev. Dr. Rodney Smothers, Conference Director of Congregational Development, to help initiate everything, and I have spoken with our District Superintendent, Rev. Gerry Green, several times about our process—both have been supportive and helpful.

Once the team is trained to facilitate small group conversations, house meetings will be scheduled at a variety of times and locations. Here is your invitation to watch for these opportunities to participate in the process and share your experiences, thoughts and ideas about the ministry of Hughes-El Buen Samaritano. Your participation and input is vital to the success of our work!

I am excited to engage with the Spirit and you as we seek a new vision in ministry for this community and reinvigorate the congregation for Christ. There are abundant opportunities for serving and reaching out to our neighbors in the houses, apartments, schools and businesses near the church. Please keep Hughes-El Buen Samaritano in prayer as we courageously step out in faith and allow Christ to lead us into God's promised future.

May Worship Opportunities

May 6, 2018 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Faith Promise Sunday, Jack Amick (UMCOR), guest speaker
Celebrating Holy Communion

May 13, 2018 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13
Sermon: “The Mind of Christ”
Theme: To have the mind of Christ is to be filled with humility and love.

May 20, 2018 – Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 (Philippians 4:4-7)
Sermon: “Spirit-filled Community”
Theme: God’s Spirit brings unity of vision and mission

May 27, 2018 – Trinity Sunday

Pastor Evelyn preaching

Van Metre Award

The Van Metre Award, named for former Pastor Ed Van Metre, is a stipend intended to go to a person or persons engaged in either mission work or ministry studies. Prospective candidates for the Award can apply by writing a letter addressed to the church that explains the qualifying work or study for which the Award grant would be used, and highlighting the applicant’s involvement with Hughes/EI Buen Samaritano or some other United Methodist Church.

The deadline for applications is Friday, May 25. Any questions can be directed to the church office or Pastor Ken.

Financial Snapshot

March income:	March expenses:
\$ 38,811	\$ 36,258
To Date income:	To Date expenses:
\$127,457	\$145,182

Our Church Family

Birth:

Jasper Nelson Bryson, April 6, 2018. Parents: Meghan and Ray Bryson; Grandparents: Cindy and Michael Ferris.

Deaths:

Cordell Deane died April 12, 2018.

Ann Johnston, former choir director and church secretary (1958-1972) died on Monday, April 16th at the age of 101. Her Memorial Service will be held at Shepherdstown (New Street) United Methodist Church on May 26th at 11 a.m.

Breaking Staff Parish Relations News:

Ron Wilson, chairperson, announced on Sunday, April 15, that Rev. Evelyn Rivera has been appointed to Middletown UMC by Bishop Easterling, effective July 1st.

Pastor Evelyn will be missed here at Hughes-El Buen Samaritano, but we know she will bless the congregation and community at her new appointment. A celebration of Pastor Evelyn's ministry is being planned for Sunday, June 17th.

The Bishop and cabinet are prayerfully considering the appointment of a new associate pastor for Hughes-El Buen Samaritano.



Results:

The total received from the Rummage Sale amounted to **\$3,270.23**. Many thanks to all the workers who helped make this possible, and a special big thank you to Doree Thorpe and Jeannette Baxter who co-chaired this event.



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

Thank You Notes

Takoma-East Silver Spring (TESS) Community Action Center

A big THANK YOU to Hughes United Methodist Church, which adopted three families for the [December] **Holiday Giving Program** . Families received groceries, toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby items, clothing, gifts for kids, and gift cards. Hughes has been a longtime TESS Center partner and has participated in the holiday giving program for over 20 years.

Faith Promise Sunday

For about 30 years Hughes-El Buen Samaritano has engaged in an annual Faith Promise campaign, separate from our operating budget support, whose proceeds are 100% dedicated to support of United Methodist missionaries and service programs both local and further afield. Estimates of giving for the Faith Promise program are collected annually on a designated Faith Promise Sunday. Supporters trust in God to provide the funds necessary to fulfill their planned giving to the program for the next year. Once the cards of planned support are received by the church and tabulated so that we can know approximately how much support can be expected in the coming year, those cards are destroyed and the church makes no further contact with participants about the program. As supporters trust in God to provide for their planned commitment, so the church trusts in God that the planned support will be received.

This year’s Faith Promise Sunday is May 6th Our tradition on this Sunday is to have a guest speaker from one of the programs we support who explains how their program operates and the services it provides. Hughes/EBS gave substantial support to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in 2017, through both Faith Promise and direct contributions, to assist with the many natural disasters that occurred last year. Therefore, it seems especially appropriate to have UMCOR be the program of focus for this year’s Faith Promise Sunday.

We are extremely fortunate to have Jack Amick, a former member of Hughes who is currently Director of Sustainable Development at UMCOR, as our guest speaker this year. We look forward to the insights that he can provide about the Christ-centered work that is at the heart of UMCOR.

The Giving Cross

A huge thanks from Jill and me for the continued support of Hughes. We donated over 100 items to three families in need. Pictured below are items purchased with donations of extra funds. These include cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

Many thanks. You are a generous congregation.

Kathy Ripley

