

June 2018 Caller



Pastor Evelyn Bids Farewell

“I don’t claim anything of the work. It is God’s work. I am like a little pencil in God’s Hand, that is all. God does the thinking. God does the writing. The pencil has only be allowed to be used.” (Mother Teresa)

Well, dear friends, the time has come...Though we’ve known the day would come when my appointment would end, it is with bitter sweet emotion that I share that Bishop LaTrelle Easterling has appointed me to serve as the Associate Pastor at Middletown United Methodist Church effective July 1st.

It has been an incredible eight years with you all. My appointment to Hughes-EBS was meant to be temporary; yet one that has extended for eight years. With you I learned to take seriously the mission & vision of the church, to think about the church both ecumenically and globally, preach the word of God contextually as well as prophetically, to lead specialized ministry projects, administer the sacraments, conduct weddings and funerals, and provide pastoral care and counsel. But most of all, I’ve learned to take joy in this faith community. We have worked as a team to do God’s ministry. We lived for God and experienced much in our love and ministry collectively. As a faith community, we modified some established ministries and were willing to embark in a partnership ministry relationship with Silver Spring UMC in January 2016.

At times, we expect to find, sense, or experience God in certain places—when we gather for worship or while watching a beautiful sunset from my favorite home island of Vieques in Puerto Rico, listening to inspiring music, or perhaps when we’re praying or reading the Bible. However, sometimes we may find God in unexpected places or circumstances; that’s what I experienced at the Four Corners Mission & Outreach Center. Three of the most recent personal stories that stand out for me and warms my heart are the following:

First, a young woman unable to work full time due to caring for her mother with a severe neurological disorder and raising up a teenage son approached me and with tears streaming down her cheeks expressed gratitude for the ways the ministries at the Four Corners site has restored her dignity. As a way of paying it forward, she wanted this pastor to know that she wouldn’t be able to contribute financially but had time available and would be volunteering at the Four Corner’s Mission Site via the Choice Pantry every 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month.

Secondly, an older gentleman who was an acquainted participant to the Mobile Pantry asked if I could kneel close to where he was sitting as there was something urgent he needed to communicate to this pastor. As I leaned over, he gently whispered Thank you! For which I responded, What for? You’ve seen me! You’ve touched me! You’ve talked to me! You’ve heard me!

Lastly, a woman who had worked for many years for The Community Action Program never thought she would be in need of the type of assistance that our ministries had to offer in her lifetime. She admitted that up to this moment she never truly understood what true compassion looked like until she experienced it first-hand through the choice pantry at the Four Corners Missions & Outreach Center.

Through our partnership with Silver Spring UMC, my primary goal had been to implement innovative community building and development efforts that would allow us to move into more intentional relationships with the people we serve. Instances of this were made evident through the fitness activities followed by Educational/Nutritional Topics. Combining these programs with the mobile pantry helped build pastoral presence and promote a sense of community among the participants.

In the Summer of 2017, we sponsored an 8-week summer camp called Outdoor Strong in collaboration with Eastern Middle School. Eighteen at-risk/underserved middle school aged youth were transported from their school to other locations for daily activities which emphasized physical fitness, trust, confidence and team-building. They learned to use the metro, visited and did some volunteer work in DC, participated in scavenger hunts and in art projects at Strathmore Music Center. Each individual youth were able to log 16 SSL hours of volunteer work. They all benefitted from many volunteer counselors/personal trainers from local gyms, college and high school volunteers as well as other community members.

Several private corporations have donated \$6,500 that will go towards the cost of the school bus transportation for Outdoor Strong. I'm excited to share that we're getting ready to launch Outdoor Strong camp for the second time this Summer from July 9 thru August 24th.

Needless to say, Hughes-EBS will always hold a special place in my ministry journey and in my heart. I will be forever grateful for both Rev. Ken Hawes & Ellen Durigg's mentorship in my Practice in Ministry during my three years at Wesley Theological Seminary. I am thankful for the staff that were supportive of me. To the Spanish speaking EBS members-Your faithfulness has been a gift to me!

With my departure, I remind you that you are in the great care of Rev. Ken Hawes. He will continue to lead and care for you as you welcome new children, celebrate marriages, advocate for change, heal, and grieve.

Please keep me in your prayers. Just as the Apostle Paul prayed for the people in Ephesus, I pray for you. "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers..."

I am deeply appreciative for the many dear friends I have found here at Hughes-EBS. For me it was a faith-filled experience.

May God bless you all,
Grace & Peace,

Rev. Evelyn Rivera

June Worship Opportunities

June 3, 2018 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Questions of Faith – Is it ok to be different? How does G work w/people of disabilities?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Psalm 139:1-18

Sermon: “Uniquely and Wonderfully Made”

Theme: Each person is uniquely created by God, loved by God and empowered to serve.

A Service of Holy Communion

June 10, 2018 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Ken away in NC – Guest preacher

June 17, 2018 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Favorite Scriptures

Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9

Meditation: “Rejoice in the Lord”

Theme: Finding God’s peace through joy and prayer.

Celebrating Pastor Evelyn’s ministry at 10:30 a.m. (A bi-lingual service with El Buen Samaritano)

June 24, 2018 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Questions of Faith-Why do people (kids) have to suffer with health issues? Is it ok to ask for seriously ill person to find early peace? Mental Health issues

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43; Psalm 6 (?)

Sermon: “Heal me, O Lord!”

Theme: God heals in a variety of ways, not always as we expect; but, in faith God heals as we need.

A Healing Service – with time for prayer and anointing

Financial Snapshot

Income:

April \$57,467

To Date 2018: \$184,924

Expenses:

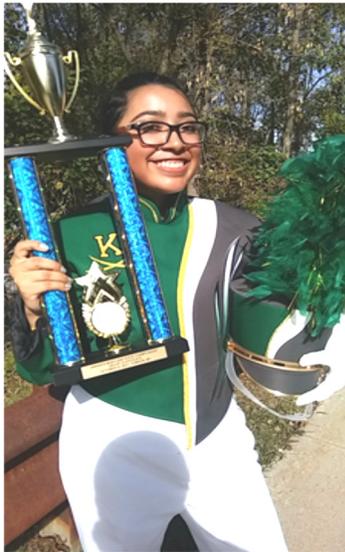
April \$47,479

To Date 2018: \$192,662

Our Graduates

Nenna Akpaete is receiving a Masters in Business Administration from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Nenna is job searching and hoping to find a match soon to know exactly where she'll be and what she'll be doing after graduation. She is getting married in September!



Aranza Gazca graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring. While at school, she participated in the Leadership Training Institute which promoted leadership, training, group decision making, problem solving, higher-level thinking skills, community service, and role modeling. During her four years of High School, she was devotedly involved with both the jazz and marching band. During the summer she was selected as a drum major for her school marching band. She also takes part in the Girls Scouts of USA.

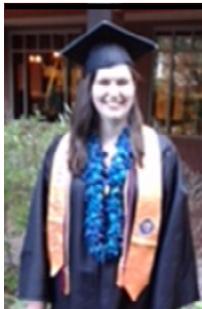
Aranza is expected to go on a mission trip to Puerto Rico from 06/30 – 07/07 with a group of BWC volunteers to help with the reconstruction efforts following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She will also be attending the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy from 07/18 - 07/21 at Boston University to consider issues such as Christian discipleship, vocational development, leadership in the church, college prep assistance, and a variety of other issues important to the continued development of Hispanic youth and Young Adults in the United Methodist Church.

Aranza has been formally accepted into Texas A & M to major in computer engineering which she plans to attend in the Fall of 2019.



On May 18th, **Jill (Granados) Gutierrez** graduated with her Doctorate of Pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, MD. After graduation, she and her husband will be moving to Hershey, PA where she will complete her post-graduate pharmacy residency training at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

“I am so grateful for all the support I have gotten throughout the years from my husband, family and our wonderful congregation. Being a part of the Hughes United Methodist Church congregation has greatly shaped the person I am today and I will always cherish the friendships and memories I have made. In my new journey as a pharmacist, I will always strive to apply the values I have learned from our church. Thank you and God bless!”



Maryanne Weaver received her Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education on May 6th from Ashford University.

She plans to keep working at NIH Daycare while she ponders her future goals.

Our Church Family

Birth

Bob and Mary Duvall have a Great-Granddaughter (Amber) born April 23. Grandfather is Robby Duvall and parents are Christine and Eric Anderson.

Death

Ann Johnston, former choir director and church secretary from 1958 to 1972, died April 16th

I know I am late with my thanks to my Church Family. It's been an interesting four months. For those who don't know, I fell in Ralph's room at the Nursing Home on January 23rd. The worst injury was a broken kneecap. I was lucky, it was an even break.

Then I became a resident at RNH, too, and came home the end of March. Things are really looking up. I drove and went out alone last week for the first time in four months.

The Prayers, Good Wishes, phone calls, visits, flowers, and beautiful cards helped get me through the long days. You all have been great. Thank you.

Special thanks to the ladies who help me with Taxes, both local and Federal, due during this time. You saved me. You worry about things like that a lot. My family has been just wonderful. I don't know how I would have managed with their help.

May God bless you all and my heartfelt thanks to my Church Family. Hope to see you soon.

Joan Gartrell

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PAYPAL giving is also available on our website: hughesumc.org

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