

## Giving Matters @ Emmanuel, 2nd Quarter 2018:

Some examples of ministries and programs made possible by our collective giving this quarter:

**Rev. Stephanie's Sermon Series:** On April 1, Easter Sunday, Rev. Stephanie began a seven-week sermon series entitled "Laughing With God". Rev. Stephanie: "Joy and a playful sense of humor are great antidotes to hopelessness and helplessness. Humor, joy and laughter are important spiritual practices." On May 27, Rev. Stephanie began a five week sermon series entitled "Moving Pictures: Reel Theology". Rev. Stephanie: "Movies are not just a way to be entertained. They also reflect our deepest concerns and questions about life and its meaning. We will explore some recent movies and dust them for the fingerprints of God"



On Sunday, April 22, a guest speaker, Ms. Brooke Harper, Maryland Policy Director for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, preached an Earth Day sermon titled "Am I My Earth's Keeper?".



On Sunday, June 24, Rev. Kim Capps preached a sermon about the movie "A Wrinkle in Time".



A group from Emmanuel took part in the Capital Pride Parade in support of the area's LGBTQ+ community on Saturday, June 9.

**First Sunday Live:** Emmanuel's First Sunday Live speaker series continued this quarter with:

Rev. Leo Yates on Sunday, May 6 - Family Systems, a theory of human behavior that focuses on how the family is an emotional unit.

Andrea Nelson, RN, BSN, on Sunday, June 3 - The Dementia Care Puzzle: Connecting Care, Research and Future Directions.



**Educational and Youth Activities:** Vacation Bible School, organized and conducted by Donna Meoli, was held June 18 - 22 with the theme of "Rolling River Rampage". Numerous volunteers assisted with decorating the Youth Room, Sanctuary and Narthex and conducting the program by bringing groups of children to those locations for activities including music, interactive Bible fun, science projects, crafts, mission work, snacks and games.



Children's Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 20 at the 10:45 AM worship service.

A youth mission trip to Chavies, KY is planned for July, 2018. A yard sale and used book sale in support of the trip was held on Saturday, June 2.

A celebration of Emmanuel's recent graduates was conducted at both worship services on Sunday, June 17 with projection of pictures and recognition in person of those graduates who were present.



The summer schedule for younger children's Sunday school began on Sunday, May 27. For Middle and High School youth, Sunday School at 9:00 AM continues throughout the Summer.



**Green Team Activities:** Emmanuel was selected by Howard County as a winner of the 2018 Green Community Leadership Award. The award was presented was on Saturday, April 21st at the Greenfest celebration at Howard Community College. Greenfest consisted of over 75 tables with local green businesses and environmental non-profit organizations. The Green Team, led by Liz Feighner, has also been promoting a new project by The Earth Forum, "Following the River from Howard County to the Chesapeake Bay". The Green Team collected Styrofoam for recycling from April 22 to May 9, and has also been selling Fair Exchange merchandise in the Fellowship Hall for several Sundays to benefit our missionaries in Nicaragua and Emmanuel's green initiatives.



**Outreach Activities:** Emmanuel continues to have an active relationship with the Little Flowers Preschool of Baltimore City. Twice a month Emmanuel sends a group to Little Flowers to assist in the tutoring of small children and to engage in other preschool activities, including planting a garden. This ongoing program is led by Sue Hill.



Emmanuel serves as the host for Elizabeth House in Laurel on the first Saturday of each month, led by coordinators Becky Harding, Patricia Delk-Mercer and Ray Mercer. Meals are prepared and served to approximately 40 to 50 people on each of these occasions.



Emmanuel continues to collect food in the Narthex for LARS, a food bank in Laurel. Twice a month, a team of volunteers, coordinated by Rod Sams, delivers fresh produce from the MD Food Bank to LARS.

**Other Activities:** Emmanuel 101, an information class for prospective new members, was presented on Sunday, June 10 by Rev. Kim Capps, who also conducts Theology on Tap, a discussion group that meets once a month in a local restaurant.



The Freed Moms Support Group for parents of LGBTQ+, led by Teri and Steve Augustine, meets once a month with the goal of promoting loving parental support for children who have come out as gay, trans, or any place in between.

