

**CONNECTING, GROWING, SERVING, LOVING  
AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING**

**February, 2018**

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is much going on at the church. It is wonderful to see all that is being done to serve God and this community every day at Atlantic UMC. Thanks to everyone for your dedication and service!

This year we are having a fellowship event on **Shrove Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**, which is the day before Lent begins. Many churches offer a pancake supper on this day, and we thought it would be a great tradition to start here. It *does* come at a busy time in the church, but volunteers have come forward to make it happen. Thank you! Also, we have invited the people of St. Paul's by the Sea to join us. It will be a great way for the two congregations to have fellowship together. The dinner starts at 6 pm. **It is free**, but we ask for a donation to support the Shepherd's Crook Food Pantry. I want to especially thank the Hoffman family for donating the pancake batter. We may need to borrow a few griddles, too. We'll keep you posted.

**Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>**. Because it is Valentine's day we won't be having an evening service. Instead, I will be available in the sanctuary from **3-4 pm** to offer prayer, anointing and ashes. Feel free to drop by as you are able. We will have our annual Holy Thursday service on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

I have been talking with Christy Powell, a church member and art teacher at Stephen Decatur High School, about a **4-week adult art class** for Lent. We are thinking of offering it on **Wednesdays from 6-7 pm** beginning **March 7<sup>th</sup>**, depending on interest. **We will limit participation to 20**. Christy calls the class "*Expressions in Watercolor*". The idea is for participants to discuss the scriptures of Lent as they become familiar with the properties and techniques of watercolor. Participants will then select a scripture and illustrate it in a watercolor painting. Adult art classes are becoming a "new thing" in local hangouts, so we thought this might be something that would appeal to some members of the congregation and their friends. We'll keep you posted.

May your journey through Lent bring you closer to God and each other. *Pastor Patty*

## **Church Planning Retreat Update – Pastor Patty**

26 members and friends of Atlantic UMC met with Rev. Jack Shitama at a Church Planning Retreat on January 13<sup>th</sup>. It was an uplifting day where we focused on the strengths of the church. There are many!

Out of these discussions, using feedback from retreat participants, Rev. Shitama developed a 1-year strategic plan to build upon the church's strengths during 2018. He presented the plan to the Administrative Council on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was approved and is included below. The plan is designed to build on current strengths of the church with the overall goal of increasing worship attendance by 25% in 2018. A Lead Team has been recruited to help set quarterly goals. After the goals are approved by the Administrative Council, the Lead Team will connect with existing committees and ministries to move the goals forward. Having quarterly goals will help the church to remain on target so that there will be a sense of forward motion and vitality in the congregation. I hope you will join the Administrative Council in embracing this opportunity so that Atlantic United Methodist Church can be a place *Where Active Adults Grow and Thrive!* **Please feel free to contact an Administrative Council member (roster posted on the church bulletin board) a member of the Lead Team or myself if you have any questions.**

I will be meeting with members of the Lead Team in February to develop the first quarter goals. We hope to have them approved by the Council at its February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. I look forward to what lies ahead and am excited about the things God has in store for this church! Thanks for your prayers and support.

**Atlantic United Methodist Church  
Strategic Focus Document  
Prepared by Rev. Jack Shitama  
January 23, 2018**

### **Establishing an Identity**

An identity will help the congregation establish a mental picture of who they are and who they want to become. I recommend the following:

#### ***Where Active Adults Grow and Thrive***

The demographics of the church and the surrounding community indicate that there is a good fit between the current congregation and those who are moving to the area. This is important because new residents are the most likely to consider attending Atlantic, much more so than members of other churches, non-Christians or lapsed Christians.

The term “active” does not limit the focus to older and/or retired adults. However, it is intended to resonate with people who have “life experience” but still consider themselves having a lot to offer. It certainly does not preclude appealing to younger adults. [Studies show](#) that millennial adults value intergenerational relationships. AUMC is well-positioned for intergenerational ministry with young adults.

That being said, the purpose of this identity will be to focus on creating momentum and organizational strength by increasing worship attendance and active participation in congregational life over the next year. This will come mainly from older adults who have recently moved to the area.

**One Big Goal: Increase Total Average Worship Attendance by 25%**

One of the bright spots mentioned at the planning retreat was the music ministry. My sense is that Sunday morning worship is not the issue at AUMC. There are excellent services for both traditional and contemporary worship. The areas of focus are designed to connect current members with potential new members in ways that will enable them to make personal invitations to worship at AUMC on Sunday morning.

AUMC is at a point where it needs to increase its ability to resource ministry. This requires increasing the number of people who offer their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. The focus on attracting active adults is the fastest route to do this. It can not only stabilize the congregation financially and strengthen its ministry, it can enhance an already great Sunday morning experience by increasing the number of people who want to participate in the music ministries of both services.

If this one-year goal is reached, AUMC can then discern to pivot to those who are not well-represented in the congregation such as families with children. It is inadvisable to do this right now because the amount of change required will take time and resources.

Further, families with children tend to be pressed financially and will not add to the financial strength of the ministry. This is not a reason to ignore them, but is a reality that must be acknowledged. AUMC must regain its strength before it is in a position to make a concentrated and sustained effort to reach young families.

### **Three Areas of Focus**

Quarterly goals will be established in the following three areas:

- 1. Fellowship Events.** This was by far the most significant “bright spot” that came out of our time together. AUMC leadership raved about their experiences. The excitement is contagious. This should be seen as a primary way to attract new, active adults. It can also

be a low-key way to connect or reconnect with the children and grandchildren of current members. Assuming there is a quarterly fellowship event, then the emphasis should be on reaching new people to attend by:

- a. Personal invitation.
- b. Identifying new residents and extending invitations through personal invitation, direct mail and/or email. Any of these means should also include an invitation to Sunday worship. The most likely people to respond to a Fellowship Event invitation are those who were active in a church in their previous community and are looking to connect in their new community.

**2. Opportunities to serve.** AUMC has outstanding opportunities to serve including, but not limited to, the Thrift Shop, the Soup Kitchen and the Backpack Ministry. This is a proven way to connect active adults of all ages who want to make a difference for others in need. The Christian journey is more than just fellowship. By connecting new persons to an outreach ministry, this strengthens the connections to Jesus and AUMC, helping to increase the likelihood of staying connected to both.

**3. Small group ministries.** This is the third and most important component. Spiritual growth is essential to a vibrant faith and a vibrant church. This can be seen as a portal, where new persons are invited to connect with Jesus and the AUMC community, and as a means of grace for all. Small groups encompass Bible studies, discussion groups and support groups that help people navigate specific life challenges such as grief, divorce and personal finance. Some possible ways to expand include:

- a. Adjusting Sunday worship times to include a Christian Education Hour.
- b. Offering Disciple Bible Study.
- c. Encouraging active participation in Walk to Emmaus.
- d. Forming groups that meet via electronic means such as Google Hangouts or Zoom.
- e. Forming a “pub” ministry focused on reaching young adults.

### **Establish a Lead Team**

While the current governing structures should still approve any plans, a Lead Team of approximately 5-6 persons should be selected to move things forward. Three months goes quickly. This is precisely why quarterly goals are helpful. They create a sense of urgency. However, they will not be achieved through a traditional governing structure. They require action and decisiveness. Lead Team members should be recruited by the pastor and approved by the administrative council.

**Lead Team – Approved by the Administrative Council via electronic vote, January 25, 2018**

Debbie Collins, Lay Leader  
Dan Geary, Certified Lay Minister (CLM)  
Grace Hopton – Administrative Council Secretary  
Jean Marx – Documenter of Atlantic's history  
Larry Yates – Trustee  
Pastor

**BELL CHOIRS – BILLIE WALL, DIRECTOR**

Time to ask once again . . . can you count to four? Do you know your left from your right? If not, we can help! Speaking of help . . . the bell choirs of Atlantic Church need HELP . . . volunteers to at least try your hand at hand bell ringing. When we have enough players to fill all positions, it is a great deal easier to play. We do have fun . . . we are a welcoming group to newcomers . . . and we love to help someone learn about bells, Christ - his love - and how we can let our light shine by ringing for his glory!  
God bless you all . . . see you at rehearsal.

**CHANCEL CHOIR – JUNE TODD, DIRECTOR**

The Lenten season is approaching with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Since my background is the Lutheran Church I still like to introduce music for organ and choir that is more somber, sometimes in the minor key, slower in tempo and reflective in spirit. We will sing some of the hymns that are in found in the Passion & Death section of the blue hymnal. In March, the bells and choir will present the anthem "Who Is Jesus?"

The Chancel Choir is rehearsing on Sundays at 9:00am on February 4, 11, and 18. We will resume 7:00 Wednesdays rehearsals on February 21. New members are always welcome.

**MARTHA CIRCLE – JACKIE STERLING, CHAIR**

The Martha Circle held its first meeting of the new year. We passed our 2018 budget and had a wonderful time of friendship and fellowship. We support many missions within our community and conference. If you'd like to become part of this vital part of women please join us at our next meeting, Feb. 13, at 11:45 in the Tilghman Fellowship Hall at the church.

## **MISSION TEAM – BILL JONES, CHAIR**

### ***Thrift Shop***

Many thanks to all of the people who volunteered to work shifts at the Thrift Shop during the Christmas holiday and early January. This is a busy time for everyone and your help is greatly appreciated. The transitioning of the shop, since the retirement of Gary, Shirley and Diane, has been going very well again thanks to everyone who has pitched in to help. We are still in need of volunteers who would be willing to work on Saturdays. This is not necessarily an every week commitment but we can use people one Saturday per month if you can spare that time. Please contact Bill or Linda Jones if you can help out.

### ***Cold Weather Shelter***

The recent cold spell has meant that the Cold Weather Shelter has been open many nights. There is always a need for people to help with registration from 5:00-7:00 PM or to provide food for approximately a dozen people during the same times. If you are interested in volunteering please see me.

### ***Soup Kitchen***

We are well into the off season but we are still seeing 60-70 people regularly show up for the Friday lunch. Thankfully we have a dedicated crew of cooks and servers who come each week to prepare and serve the food to our guests. This is clearly one of our most important mission outreach activities and extra help is always needed if you have time.

Thrift Shop

### ***Soup Bowl Sunday***

On the first Sunday in February we will celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday. While there will be two football teams running around on a playing field trying to score touchdowns, Atlantic United Methodist Church will be scoring touchdowns against HUNGER by collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable items. Hunger is an opponent that never quits but we can help in the fight. There will be a place in Tilghman Hall for your donations which will be divided between the Shepherd's Crook and Diakonia.





**Miss Ida's Rum Cake Recipe.** For many years, Miss Ida's has baked her very special Rum Cake for fundraisers and special events, requested and enjoyed by so many. We thank Miss Ida for sharing her recipe with her AUMC Family!

Ida Laynor

### Rum Cake

(no substitutes)

3/4 c chopped pecans

1 (18 1/2 oz) pb Duncan Hines yellow butter cake mix

1 (3-3/4 oz) pb French vanilla instant pudding + pie mix

1/2 c regular rum

1/2 c water

1/2 c salad oil

4 regular eggs

Hot Rum Glaze (below)

Preheat oven to 325° F. Grease a 10" tube pan (or Bundt pan). Sprinkle chopped nuts over bottom. Combine cake mix, pudding mix, rum, water, oil, and eggs. Beat with mixer 2 to 4 minutes at medium speed. Pour into pan. Bake at 325° F for 50 to 60 minutes. Pour Hot Rum Glaze over hot cake while still in pan. Cake may settle. Allow cake to cool in pan before turning out.

### Hot Rum Glaze

1 cup sugar

1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup regular rum

1/4 cup water

Combine in pan. Boil 2 to 3 minutes right before cake is done. Pour over hot cake in pan.

Best made day before use. Keeps well.

## Meetings & Special Events

Thursday, February 8— 11:00am—1:00pm—Soup Sale  
Monday, February 12 – 6:30pm – Lead Team Meeting  
Tuesday, February 13—11:45am—Martha Circle  
Tuesday, February 13th—6:00pm—Pancake Dinner  
Thursday—February 22—11:00am—1:00pm—Soup Sale  
Tuesday, February 27 - 6:30pm—Administrative Council

## Recurring Events

### MUSIC

Sundays – 9:00am – Chancel Choir (Feb. 4, 11, 18)  
Mondays – 6:30pm Atlantic Bell Choir  
Tuesdays – 10:00am – Morning Glories  
Wednesdays – 7:00pm (February 25)

### Bible Studies

Tuesdays-9:30am with Bob Johnson & Jack Moore

### Missions

Thursdays – 8:30am Backpack  
Fridays – 9:30am – Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Fridays – 11:00am – 1:00pm – Soup Kitchen

### Thrift Shop

Monday thru Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm

## BIRTHDAYS

1 - Iva Iovacchini  
4 - Richard Baker  
5 - Beck McArthur  
9 - Chris Wall  
10 - Pam Walter  
12 - Gary Ritchins  
14 - Lauren Hoffman  
14 - Becky Yates  
17 - Betty Kurka  
24 - Ron Buckley  
27 - Bob Biel





Yum, Yum.

# Soup Sale - 2018

Soup by the bowl, soup by the quart, soup, soup everywhere!

Mark your calendars and those of your friends and neighbors.

Atlantic United Methodist Church will be selling soup on:

**Only two  
Dates remaining  
in 2018**

**February 8  
February 22**

**Menu items will include:**

Vegetable Beef Soup

Ham and Bean Soup

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Ham Salad Sandwich

**BISCUITS**

Dessert

Beverage

*Please bring your homemade desserts to the church either  
Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning of the Soup Sale before  
9:00 AM.*

**Join your Atlantic UMC family and friends for homemade soup and  
desserts.**

Please direct questions regarding this event to:  
Becky Yates (301-275-2526) or Larry Yates (301-412-0376) or via E-mail  
([beachcomber201@comcast.net](mailto:beachcomber201@comcast.net))





Salisbury District  
**LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2018**

Sponsored by the Salisbury District Board of Laity



**Saturday, February 17, 2018**

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Community Church at Ocean Pines  
11227 Racetrack Road - Berlin, MD 21811

\$7.00 Per Person - Includes Materials  
Light Morning Refreshments Provided

**ALL NEW AND/OR RETURNING CHAIRS & MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

**Materials Distributed at Workshop**

Workshops Available: (*Choose One*)

- ◇ Pastor-Parish Relations  
*Rev. Fred Duncan, DS*
- ◇ Finance  
*Bill Westbrook*
- ◇ Church Council/Charge Conference  
*Rev. Boyd Etter*
- ◇ Nominations/Leader Development  
*Rev. Jim Riley*
- ◇ Trustees  
*Rev. Ron Bell*
- ◇ Active Shooter Intervention  
*Rev. Howard Travers*
- ◇ Safe Sanctuary  
*Jim Kells, Dover District SS Coordinator*
- ◇ Lay Leader/Lay Member  
*Richard Kellam, District Lay Leader*
- ◇ Lay Servant Ministries  
*Kevin Smith, Lay Academy Director*
- ◇ Ministry of Administration/  
Communications  
*Charlotte Hastings, District Admin*

Due Date for Registrations - Feb 9, 2018 - So we can have enough space and materials  
Registrations Accepted on Feb 17 - 8:30 am-9 am - Only For Classes With Space Available



**Leadership Training Workshop Registration**

Make Your Check Payable To: **Board of Laity**

Mail Registration Form and Check (by Feb 9, 2018) To:  
Salisbury District Office

Church/Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop: 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

***ATLANTIC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

***Connecting Growing, Serving, and Loving  
as God's People***

*Ministries at AUMC:*

AUMC Soup Kitchen

AUMC Thrift Shop

Backpack Program

Donna Holdren Prayer Shawl Ministry

Helping Hands Ministry

Chancel Choir

Handbell Choir

Martha Circle

*AUMC supports the following community ministries:*

Ocean City Crisis Coalition

Community Food Bank

Cold Weather Shelter

*AUMC supports these missionaries:*

Patrick Whaley, Ukraine Missions

Steve Young, International Student Ministry

