



Jill Jasuta
Photography

The Beacon

Zion United
Methodist
Church
In Cambridge, Maryland

Self-Help!

Recently, during a conversation with a new friend of Zion (who remains anonymous), I heard this proclaimed, “Well, as the Bible says, 'God helps those who help themselves'.” Have you ever heard that Scripture quoted? Well, that's the problem. It's not from the Bible; it's from *Poor Richard's Almanac for the Year of Christ 1739* by Benjamin Franklin. That quotation is listed there along with “Little strokes fell great oaks” and “Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.” Some good self-help advice perhaps, but not Scripture. Now I will acknowledge that the Bible tells us to do the work of faith—after all faith without works is dead, you know (James 2:26). But in my ever-so-humble opinion, it seems that most often God really helps those who cannot help themselves!

Well, all of this got me wondering about a couple of things. One—do we really know our Scripture? And two—how many self-help books do you think have been written over the years? There must be millions! From the past to the present the self-help culture in this country says you can do it. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps! You can improve your self-esteem and feel better about yourself. You can learn how to improve your résumé and get that dream job. You can learn about eating and exercise and increase

your muscle-to-fat ratio. You can learn what to wear to dress for success. You can learn some basic finance skills and improve your credit score. Of course, on a certain level some of that's true—education and knowledge can help you do things well—but most disturbing to me is the idea that you can help yourself to a sort of designer faith that will give you peace, fulfillment, and a ticket to heaven. Folks, it doesn't work that way. Why? Because we line up with God's Plan, not the other way around.

Yes, God has a plan! It's in the Book! You see, we've all been born into this world with a sinful nature. We make plans to help ourselves but our plans cannot truly succeed. We all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The good news is that even in our sinful separation from the Lord, God loves us so much he sent his only begotten Son Jesus for our salvation. Through Jesus we are reconciled to Almighty God.

The bottom line is this: with certain self-help knowledge we may free ourselves and overcome some human conditions, but we can never truly save ourselves. Only faith in Jesus Christ can do that.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Mike

Pastor Mike and Ann will be moving to a new appointment at St. Matthews By-The-Sea on Fenwick Island at the end of June. This will allow them to more easily care for Ann's 90+ year old parents in Lewes. We will miss Mike and Ann and wish them God's very best in this new ministry. Our new pastor will be announced soon.



Food Link of Dorchester

A Mission of Zion U.M. Church

by Ann Moore

Food Link began to operate in Dorchester County in March, 1997. It began as an idea from the Strategic Planning Committee of Zion United Methodist Church and was co-founded by Marilyn Carr and Peggy Pizer. It was sponsored by Zion and affiliated with Food Link, Inc. of Annapolis. At that time, there were Food Link programs in Talbot County, Kent County, and Queen Anne's County. Since that time the program in Dorchester County has continued to grow and currently has 25 volunteers who visit Food Lion and the Bay Country Bakery to pick up outdated food that would otherwise go to waste. This food is then transported to seven Dorchester County 501 (c) (3) agencies for distribution to those in need. The schedule is set up so that each store is visited daily, five times per week throughout the month. There is no delivery on Saturday or Sunday. This is a true gleaning operation.

Since 1997, there have been many changes. The Food Link, Inc. program in Annapolis no longer exists. We continue to operate as a mission of Zion Church. The program is currently headed by Ann Moore and Nan Duerling. Nan is our statistician and keeps good records that tell of the amazing amount of food which we have recycled each year. **In 2018, we gleaned 49,425 pounds of food.** Our current list of agencies includes Bradford House Apartments, Crossroads Community, Delmarva Community Action Center, Delmarva Community Services in Cambridge and in Hurlock, Salvation Army, and Unity-Washington U.M. Church in Hurlock. These agencies distribute the food to those in need, either by giving bags of groceries or by offering on-site feeding programs. We are the transportation link between the sources of the food and the distribution agencies.

New Volunteers are Needed! Volunteers are usually scheduled one day per month and the delivery takes between one and two hours. It takes place in the morning between the hours of 10:00 and 11:30. A routine time of pick-up helps both the stores and the agencies to know when to expect us. We have a loyal and faithful group of volunteers but there is always room for more, particularly to cover months that have five weeks. If this is something that you could help with or you have a friend who might be interested, please call Ann Moore (410-228-7629).

Little Hats, Big Hearts

by Christy Lednum

Thank you all for contributing to the Little Hats, Big Hearts campaign. We donated 68 hats (see photo to right) to the American Heart Association for babies born in February to raise awareness about heart disease and congenital heart defects, the most common birth defect in the US. Thanks again! And remember, it's never too early to start knitting and crocheting for next year!



Soup Day

Wednesday Feb. 27, 2019

11:30am to 12:45pm

Chicken Noodle, Dry Lima Bean
or Vegetable Beef

Eat-In: \$4.00 per meal incl. biscuits and dessert

Quarts: \$8.00 includes biscuits only

Carry outs and delivery available

Please call 410-228-4910 between 9:00am and
11:00am for free delivery and pick-up



Thank You!

by Elaine Horseman

Our Christmas services were adorned with many beautiful poinsettias this year. A big “thank you” goes out to everyone who provided a poinsettia and to those who donated to the Good Samaritan Fund in memory of and in honor of their loved ones. It is the time of the year that our Good Sam fund is most appreciated. Thanks again to all who contributed.



Altar Flowers

Zion UMC is blessed to have Altar Flowers provided for our Worship services every week by our loyal congregation. It is a special way to remember our loved ones. Thanks go out to all of you who do this year after year. Most of our weeks are taken; however, for different reasons openings occasionally become available . As of right now, there are a few weeks available during the spring months. If you are interested in providing Altar Flowers, please contact Elaine Horseman (410-228-9134), for more details.





February
Acolytes

3 Logan Dukes
10 Logan Hubbard
17 Katelyn Masden
24 Madison Dukes



WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philipians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



Please remember our church family members and friends who are no longer able to regularly share worship and fellowship with us. They worshiped, contributed time, talents, and money when they were able, and participated in Zion's many ministries. They continue to pray for their church family. Share your love with them by sending cards, calling, and/or

visiting. Birth dates are included where known if you would like to send them a birthday card.

Annette Atkinson

c/o Zion UM Church
612 Locust Street
Cambridge, MD 21613
April 16

Les Booze

5120 North Dr.
Cambridge, MD 21613
443-944-4476
April 18

Audrey Creighton

1223 Zachary Dr. Apt. 122
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-422-8381
December 27

Robin Farnell

Mallard Bay
520 Glenburn Ave.
Cambridge, MD 21613
July 20

William Fitzhugh

6624 Pine Top Rd.
Hurlock, MD 21643

Dot Geoghegan

206 A Bay View Ave.
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-228-0508
April 2

Eleanor Hanlin

107 Buena Vista Ave
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-221-0010
November 26

Marge Hull

1001 Middleford Rd.
Seaford, DE 19978
September 17

Margaret Miller

135 South St. (P.O. Box 339)
Secretary, MD 21664
410-463-3757
February 24

Norma Reed

Chesapeake Woods
525 Glenburn Ave.
Cambridge, MD 21613
May 9

Leile Robbins

Chesapeake Woods
525 Glenburn Ave.
Cambridge, MD 21613

Shirley Spedden

401 Leonards Lane
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-228-1649
January 28

Paul Winn

Candlelight Cove
106 W Earle Ave. #607
Easton, MD 21601



ANNIVERSARIES
THIS MONTH

3 Robert & Mary Ann Farnell
8 Paul & Jackalyn Stouffer
10 Dickie & Polly Lowry
16 Bruce & Robin Herman
22 Andrew & Kathy Counts



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

1 Erin Downey
1 David Lamparter
2 Beth Thomas
5 Jesse Bartrum
7 Michael Willey
8 Nita Messick
8 Joshua Pereira
9 Richard Colburn
9 Ann Coll
10 Charlie Lednum
12 Lance Bramble
14 Sherry Daniel
14 Brayden Fox
14 Elizabeth Schunick
15 Kelly Webster
16 Carlye Collison
17 Jane Turner
18 Delaney Dodd
19 Eliana Bohaker
20 Joshua Tolley
20 Alison Warfield
21 Mike Cheesman
22 Janet Gambaroni
22 Dan Hubbard
24 Margaret Miller
26 Lauren Hubbard
26 Morgan Tolley
27 William Harrington
27 Donna James
29 Janel Parke

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Return Service Requested



Mr. Jerome Stover , principal of Maple Elementary helps Pastor Mike load the canned goods students collected.

Maple Elementary Food Drive Benefits Zion

by Susan Thomas

Students at Maple Elementary School learned that giving is much better than receiving when they took part in a canned food drive. In five short days, they collected 1,227 cans of food which were donated to Zion United Methodist Church's food pantry. Each day we stressed the importance of helping others who are less fortunate than we are and how happy it can make us feel. Each morning the canned goods came rolling into school. It is a win-win situation for everyone involved. I'm blessed to be a member of both the Zion UMC and Maple families. By the way, guess whose class placed first overall—mine!! Love my students!!!