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UMCConnection

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Bishop Easterling declares ‘We are one’

By ERIK ALSGAARD
UMConnection Staff

MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND special guests of the Baltimore-Washington Conference officially welcomed their new bishop, LaTrelle Easterling, at a worship service Oct. 1. It became a 120-minute living embodiment of disciples of Jesus Christ that captured the diversity and unity proclaimed in the bishop's sermon, “We Are One.”

With revival-level intensity in her preaching, soul-stirring anthems and solos, and even a banjo picker playing jazz riffs on the five-string, the celebration lifted hands, hearts and souls.

Bishop Easterling, who was elected bishop last July at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Washington Area, began serving the Area Sept. 1. She is the first woman bishop to serve the BWC and its predecessor bodies, going back more than 230 years.

“I am the bishop of all,” Easterling said before starting

her sermon. “And I mean all.” After giving thanks for the many people present, including Bishops Sudarshana Devadhar of the New England Conference and Bishop

Gabriel Unda of the Congo West Episcopal Area, a special note of thanks to the black clergy women of the BWC, and her family, Easterling preached on unity.

The bishop's sermon not only called the Baltimore-Washington Conference to remember the new reality of disciples being one in Christ Jesus, but the whole church. At a moment in time when The United Methodist Church mirrors the United States in energetic division over politics and social issues, the bishop offered a steady stream of reminders that it is the cross of Christ that matters and that changed all of our lives.

She began by wondering aloud what “you would say” when some asked you to introduce yourself. Easterling said that there are numerous “identifying markers” a person could use, such as professions,

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For more on the celebration of Bishop Easterling's assignment, visit <http://bit.ly/2dqk63H>

CFA hears good news on stewardship in 2016

By ERIK ALSGAARD
UMConnection Staff

GIVING THROUGHOUT THE Baltimore-Washington Conference remains strong, according to numbers shared Sept. 21 by the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA).

Through the first eight months of 2016, congregations have contributed to apportionments (or connectional, missional giving) at a rate that could exceed the near-record giving of 2015.

At the end of August, BWC Treasurer Paul Eichelberger said that churches have paid 62.77 percent of their yearly apportionments, or \$8,995,301. That figure is about \$132,000 over what the conference budgeted to receive by Aug. 31.

In 2015, BWC congregations paid 91.7 percent of their apportionments, the best giving record in the last 15 years. “We are 0.5 percent ahead of where we were last year through the end of August,” Pier McPayten, BWC Comptroller, told CFA.

The now infamous January snow storm that dumped more than 30 inches of snow in the area – and which lead to many churches cancelling services for one or two Sundays – had an adverse effect on apportionment receipts, McPayten said. However, strong contributions since February have more than made up the difference.

“Year to date giving in 2016 is \$161,000 above what we saw in 2015,” McPayten said, “and \$343,000 more than in 2014.”

While CFA celebrated this good news, the issue of arrearages again came to light. According to the Rev. Jackson Day, chair of the BWC's Board of Pensions,

the amount of money churches are behind from not making payments on their pastor's health insurance and/or pension benefits has risen 21 percent this year alone, to just over \$900,000.

Day reminded CFA that the conference pays the actual health insurance premiums for the pastor and dependents, and then bills the church for reimbursement. The same is true for clergy pensions.

“That's a very big number,” said Day of the arrearage figure. “It is a concern.” He stressed that arrearages are a missional and spiritual issue, not just financial.

“We're in the congregation business, the disciple-making business,” he said, “not the collection business.”

The conference has reached forbearance agreements with several churches, agreeing to essentially write-off the debt in exchange for the church getting back on track.

See Finance, page 8

... well said

(a chance to express what that word means to you.)

By MANDY SAYERS
Pastor, Covenant UMC, Gaithersburg

I HAVE A REMARKABLE ability to remember song lyrics. Once upon a time, when I was just a little younger, I could go across the whole radio dial and sing every song on it, from 93.1’s country songs to the gospel songs way up on the dial. I know all my parents’ songs, across genres. Elvis Presley? I’m all shook up, man. Glen Campbell? You bet — Like a Rhinestone Cowboy. The Temps and the Tops? Reach out, I’ll be there. But in a cruel twist of fate, my singing voice leaves a lot to be desired. When the kids were little, they used to say “Mommy, don’t sing,” as I belted out Van Halen or Van Morrison in the car.

Sometimes, you can have a great voice and no desire to sing. We read about the exile and the time that Israel’s captors said, “Sing us the songs of Zion,” and the psalmist writes, “How could we sing the Lord’s songs in a strange land?” Psalm 95 reminds us we have a lot to praise God for, a lot to “sing out” about, even in the midst of difficult and trying times. We can sing out about the goodness of our God as creator, who lifted us from the pit of sin and separation from God. We can sing out about this great “King above all gods” who sits on the throne in every season, whose rule is greater than any president or king or queen. We can sing about the joy of being sheep of this God’s pasture, subject to God’s comforting staff and at times, God’s chastening rod. We can sing out in praise or in lament. We can sing out in protest or in prophetic warning. We can sing like Mary about a God who turns power structures upside down. We can sing like Miriam about being delivered from all that would enslave us.

Sing out, church, about what the Lord has done for you! Sing out as you march for justice and for change! Sing out on your way to the voting booth! Sing out and do not be silent, because we serve a risen savior. As the songwriter has said:

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that rock I’m clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?
When tyrants tremble in their fear
And hear their death knell ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near
How can I keep from singing?



Ancient church mothers and fathers often greeted one another with the phrase, “Give me a word.” This greeting led to the sharing of insights and wisdom. Today we continue this tradition with this monthly column.

By DARYL WILLIAMS
Pastor, St. Paul UMC, Oxon Hill

WHEN I WAS a little boy I was in a singing group. We knew for sure that we were going to be the next Jackson 5, or at least New Edition. We had a whole 40-minute show with costumes, dance moves, lighting changes, the whole shebang. We figured it would only be a matter of time before we were discovered. Then the unthinkable happened: we got older. It wasn’t that we were not cute anymore, and it wasn’t that our show wasn’t good, but we got older. Things changed. Our limbs were getting long, so the dance moves were now a little off. We discovered girls and sports, so the time we used to put into rehearsals was diminished. But the worst thing that happened to us as we got older is our voices changed. What were once the harmonious tones of little boys soon became the broken, cracking voices of young men. Then one day we looked around and, like so many groups, we broke up and went our separate ways. It was then that I stopped singing. There just seemed to be no joy, no purpose and no fun in singing after the group was gone. Then, one day, I realized that I didn’t start singing because I wanted to get signed; I started singing because I enjoyed it. I stated singing because the music meant something to me. So one day, I started singing again. It just sort of happened. It wasn’t a pop song. It wasn’t a catchy ballad. It was “I really Love the Lord.” Now to be honest, I sounded terrible. When my voice changed, singing was no longer something I did well, but what I was singing now mattered to me more than how I sounded singing it. “You don’t know what he’s done for me.” It was a reminder of all that the Lord has done to make me who I am both privately and publically. “He gave me the victory.” There are some things that I know have happened in my life only because the Lord has helped me to overcome struggles, win battles and tear down strongholds. “I love Him, I love Him, I really love the Lord.” So while I stopped singing for a long time, I now sing loud, proud, and off key, but I am making a joyful noise for all that the Lord means in my life. So if you have a great voice or, like me, can’t carry a tune with a handle, “Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.”

... well said

UPCOMING YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

The Young Adult Council exists to encourage and equip Young Adult Ministry in the local churches of our Annual Conference. We are excited to partner with your congregation to share what we can and to learn from you as we together seek to reach out to adults ages 18 to 35 in our congregations and local communities. With this in mind we would like to invite your young adults to the following YAC sponsored events.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY NETWORKING EVENT

October 22 at 7pm at Dave & Buster's Arundel Mills

We want your feedback and input! Come help the Young Adult Council brainstorm for 2017 and connect with others about young adult ministry. We'll provide the food!

RSVP to yac@bwcumc.org by Wednesday, Oct. 19

THE YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO

TRAMPOLINE DODGEBALL

A FUNDRAISER FOR ELLICOTT CITY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – 2:30 - 5 P.M.

\$10 suggested donation

SKY ZONE COLUMBIA: 7175 Oakland Mills Rd. Columbia, MD

RSVP by Oct. 26 to yac@bwcumc.org or visit [facebook.com/events/917101725062379/](https://www.facebook.com/events/917101725062379/)

Keepin It Real

November 11 at 7pm

A time for young adults to gather and discuss relevant topics such as police and community relations.

Asbury UMC - 10420 Guilford Road Jessup, MD

ONE LOVE

A NIGHT OF UNITY AND LOVE THROUGH PRAISE & WORSHIP

DECEMBER 10 - 7PM @ INSPIREDC

1459 COLUMBIA RD NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20019

www.YACOneLOVE.eventbrite.com

October 15 Events

- Connectional Table meets at the Mission Center in Fulton, 9 a.m. to noon;
- United Methodist Men annual meeting, First UMC in Hyattsville, 9:30 am. to 4:30 p.m.
- Strawbridge Shrine annual meeting, Stone Chapel, New Windsor, 10 a.m.
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Trinity UMC in Frederick, 4 p.m.

Learn more at bwcumc.org/news/e-connection

Superintendent Installation

Oct. 23, 3 p.m.
Christ UMC, Washington, D.C.

A service celebrating the installation of the Rev. Gerry Green as superintendent of the Greater Washington District will be held.

Pre-Advent Day Apart

Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Brookhill UMC, Frederick

Clergy are invited to a time apart with Bishop LaTrelle Easterling to focus on the season of Advent. Rev. Robert A. Hill, Dean of the Marsh Chapel at Boston University will speak. Theme: Precursors. Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12. Online registration opens soon.

ROCK 2016

Feb. 3-5, 2017
Convention Center, Ocean City

This annual youth retreat will feature speaker Preston Centuolo. Registration is \$50. Learn more and register at www.bwcumc.org/rock.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Maidstone Mulenga

Melissa Lauber
Erik Alsgaard
Alison Burdett
Kat Care
Kayla Spears
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2016 APPORTIONMENT REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER

STRONG GIVING CONTINUES

On these next four pages, you will find an alphabetical listing of every church in the Baltimore-Washington Conference and their apportionment giving through the end of September. Through the first nine months of 2016, the budget goal was to receive \$10,080,701. Churches have contributed \$10,245,885 to date, exceeding the goal by 1.6 percent. For more information on apportionments, visit: www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/apportionment-giving/.

Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT				
Adams , Lothian	Mabel Smith	6,753	6,753	100%
Asbury , Annapolis	Carletta Allen	38,387	38,387	100%
Asbury , Arnold	Jennifer Karsner	27,113	27,113	100%
Asbury , Jessup	Gay Green-Carden	10,655	11,839	111%
Asbury Town Neck , Severna Park	James Bishop	31,480	27,983	89%
Asbury-Broadneck , Annapolis	Stephen Tillett	34,459	34,459	100%
Baldwin Memorial , Millersville	Philip Tocknell	26,299	29,222	111%
Calvary , Annapolis	Meredith Wilkins-Arnold	91,611	91,611	100%
Cape St Claire , Annapolis	Christopher Broadwell	17,732	15,762	89%
Carters , Tracys Landing	Brenda Mack	6,025	6,025	100%
Cecil Memorial , Annapolis	Reginald Tarpley	11,691	9,093	78%
Cedar Grove-Oakland , Deale	Glen Arnold	22,640	22,640	100%
Centenary , Shady Side	Jerry Grace	12,182	12,182	100%
Chews Memorial , Edgewater	Brenda Mack	7,724	7,724	100%
Community , Crofton	Stan Cardwell	39,880	39,880	100%
Community , Laurel	Ramon McDonald, II	11,262	11,262	100%
Community , Pasadena	L. Katherine Moore	30,160	10,053	33%
Davidsonville , Davidsonville	Wendy Van Vliet	38,442	38,442	100%
Delmont , Severn	Daryl Foster	4,220	4,220	100%
Dorsey Emmanuel , Elkridge	John Oursler	4,992	4,437	89%
Eastport , Annapolis	Michelle Mejia	26,380	26,980	102%
Edgewater , Edgewater	Gerald Snyder	3,887	5,183	133%
Faith , Pasadena	L. Katherine Moore	2,648	3,181	120%
Ferndale , Glen Burnie	Brian Berger	13,624	12,111	89%
First , Laurel	Ramon McDonald, II	37,575	37,575	100%
Fowler , Annapolis	Patricia Johnson	7,072	7,210	102%
Franklin , Churchton	Alhassan Macaulay	13,493	10,495	78%
Friendship , Friendship	Wayne Chung	34,345	34,345	100%
Galesville , Galesville	Patricia Sebring	14,356	9,570	67%
Glen Burnie , Glen Burnie	Kenneth McDonald	43,498	43,498	100%
Hall , Glen Burnie	Harry Smith, Jr.	10,562	10,561	100%
Harwood Park , Elkridge	Cynthia Belt	4,380	3,876	88%
Hope Memorial St Mark , Edgewater	Eddie Smith	10,351	13,801	133%
John Wesley , Annapolis	Jerry Colbert	10,962	9,744	89%
John Wesley , Glen Burnie	Lena Marie Dennis	20,737	20,737	100%
John Wesley-Waterbury , Crownsville	Frederick Price, Jr.	6,163	6,163	100%
Linthicum Heights , Linthicum	David Shank	43,698	43,698	100%
Macedonia , Odenton	Louis Shockley	8,179	10,906	133%
Magothy , Pasadena	Reg Barss	18,907	18,907	100%
Magothy Church of the Deaf , Pasadena	Sandi Johnson	450	500	111%
Marley , Glen Burnie	Stephanie Bekhor	5,912	5,912	100%
Mayo , Edgewater	Kathy Altman	21,740	21,740	100%
Melville Chapel , Elkridge	Richard Duncan	9,394	9,394	100%
Messiah , Glen Burnie	Gail Button	11,813	7,875	67%
Metropolitan , Severn	Frances Stewart	22,962	22,962	100%
Mount Calvary , Arnold	Reginald Tarpley	11,634	11,634	100%
Mount Carmel , Pasadena	Michael Fauconnet	23,678	23,678	100%
Mount Tabor , Crownsville	Karen Weaver	5,317	4,727	89%
Mount Zion , Annapolis	Patricia Johnson	10,029	6,928	69%
Mount Zion , Laurel	Cynthia Belt	11,578	11,578	100%
Mount Zion , Lothian	Bill Herche	39,580	39,580	100%
Mount Zion , Pasadena	Robert Walker, Jr.	25,563	25,563	100%
Mount Zion -Ark Road, Lothian	Alhassan Macaulay	9,721	9,721	100%
Nichols-Bethel , Odenton	Clark Carr	49,672	48,133	97%
Pasadena , Pasadena	Mernie Crane	33,251	33,251	100%
Severn , Severn	Daryl Foster	12,097	16,129	133%
Severna Park , Severna Park	Ronald Foster	122,416	136,018	111%
Sollers , Lothian	Marvin Wamble	8,490	11,320	133%
Solley , Glen Burnie	Gail Button	4,644	6,192	133%
St Andrews of Annapolis , Edgewater	David Thayer	33,631	29,895	89%
St Mark , Hanover	Herbert Watson, Jr.	49,714	49,714	100%
St Mark's , Laurel	Sonia King	17,044	15,150	89%
St Matthews , Shady Side	Marvin Wamble	12,324	12,324	100%
The Everlasting Love , Glen Burnie	Jonghui Park	5,932	1,000	17%
Trinity , Annapolis	Chris Owens	47,520	10,560	22%
Trinity , Odenton	Stan Cardwell	3,151	4,201	133%
Union , Lothian	Thomas Long, Sr.	2,764	2,765	100%
Union Memorial , Davidsonville	Paulette Jones	7,239	4,022	56%
Wesley Chapel , Jessup	John Oursler	1,936	1,786	92%
Wesley Chapel , Lothian	Walter Middlebrooks	5,947	5,947	100%
Wesley Grove , Hanover	Marion Easterling, Jr.	13,393	2,976	22%
Wilson Memorial , Gambrills	Gregory McNeil	9,891	4,711	48%
Annapolis District Total	Evan Young	1,454,951	1,375,514	94.5%

Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT				
Ames , Baltimore	Rodney Hudson	14,290	-	0%
Arbutus , Baltimore	Ira Barr, Jr.	26,644	8,881	33%
Arlington-Lewin , Baltimore	Eugene Matthews	11,314	6,286	56%
Arnolia , Baltimore	Mary Glorioso	22,241	22,241	100%
Back River , Essex	Donna Nelson	10,567	10,567	100%
Beechfield , Baltimore	Valerie Barnes	14,707	2,561	17%
Bethesda , Baltimore	Winifred Blagmond	12,366	12,366	100%
Brooklyn Community , Baltimore	Kimberly Brown-Whale	14,983	14,983	100%
Catonsville , Catonsville	Mark Waddell	66,874	66,874	100%
Centennial-Caroline , Baltimore	Curtis King	11,449	-	0%
Chase , Middle River	Cynthia Burkert	15,984	15,984	100%
Cherry Hill , Baltimore	Ashley Hoover	7,487	3,750	50%
Christ , Baltimore	Twanda Prioleau	31,994	24,884	78%
Christ Church of Baltimore County, Baltimore	Richard Keller	7,910	8,816	111%
Christ Church of the Deaf , Baltimore	Sandi Johnson	6,278	6,278	100%
Cowenton , White Marsh	Heather Olson	7,821	7,821	100%
Dundalk , Baltimore	Daniel Kutrick	13,687	13,687	100%
Eastern , Baltimore	Jay Blake	12,894	17,192	133%
Eden Korean , Baltimore	Yo-Seop Shin	11,941	2,654	22%
Elderslie-St Andrews , Baltimore	Terry McCain	14,222	6,321	44%
Emanuel , Catonsville	Kelly Grimes	9,136	-	0%
Emmarts , Baltimore	George Winkfield	14,140	14,140	100%
Epworth Chapel , Baltimore	Tony Hunt	37,749	37,749	100%
Essex , Essex	Mary Robinson	17,327	3,851	22%
Faith Community , Baltimore	Jacquelyn McLellan	15,365	4,347	28%
Good Shepherd , Baltimore	Bonnie McCubbin	28,307	28,307	100%
Govans-Boundary , Baltimore	Terry McCain	10,916	-	0%
Grace , Baltimore	Amy McCullough	61,143	39,100	64%
Graceland , Baltimore	Daniel Kutrick	6,001	5,334	89%
Gwynn Oak , Baltimore	Dellyne Hinton	15,383	1,500	10%
Halethorpe-Relay , Halethorpe	Lys Cockrell	19,831	19,831	100%
Hampden , Baltimore	Jessica Hayden	6,526	1,800	28%
Hiss , Baltimore	Timothy Dowell	41,945	41,945	100%
Homestead , Baltimore	Zelda Childs	5,936	-	0%
Hopkins , Highland	Sheridan Allmond	13,057	13,057	100%
John Wesley , Baltimore	LaReesa Smith-Horn	55,154	24,000	44%
Lansdowne , Baltimore	David Jacobson	12,867	11,437	89%
Loch Raven , Baltimore	Clifford Webner	33,687	26,201	78%
Lodge Forest , Baltimore	Katie Grover	8,908	7,919	89%
Lovely Lane , Baltimore	Travis Knoll	28,162	24,927	89%
Martin Luther King Memorial , Baltimore	James Gosnell	8,922	11,896	133%
Metropolitan , Baltimore	Eric King	14,326	5,703	40%
Mount Olivet , Catonsville	Sheridan Allmond	5,101	5,101	100%
Mount Vernon Place , Baltimore	Laura Kigweba	28,013	7,669	27%
Mount Washington-Aldersgate , Baltimore	Juliana Bateman	9,851	8,756	89%
Mount Winans , Baltimore	Fritz Outlaw	1,811	1,409	78%
Mount Zion , Baltimore	Wanda Duckett	23,480	5,218	22%
New Covenant Worship Center , Baltimore	Clarence Davis	13,816	7,500	54%
New Waverly , Baltimore	Kevin Slayton	15,601	5,950	38%
Northwood-Appold , Baltimore	Cecil Gray	21,636	2,404	11%
Old Otterbein , Baltimore	Jessica Hayden	11,588	7,725	67%
Orangeville , Baltimore	Walter Jackson, III	2,197	500	23%
Orems , Baltimore	Christopher Dembeck	19,169	19,169	100%
Overlea Chapel , Baltimore	Winnie Blagmond	6,489	-	0%
Patapsco , Dundalk	Katie Grover	12,983	7,232	56%
Piney Grove , Middle River	Heather Olson	8,384	7,452	89%
Rodgers Forge , Baltimore	Thomas Meyer	8,754	-	0%
Salem -Hebbsville , Baltimore	LaTaska Nelson	7,040	3,000	43%
Salem-Baltimore Hispanic , Baltimore	Carmen Rodriguez	6,483	1,134	17%
Sharp Street Memorial , Baltimore	Raphael Koikoi	22,214	9,000	41%
St James , Baltimore	Iris Farabee-Lewis	10,337	-	0%
St John , Baltimore	Michael Parker, II	17,295	5,765	33%
St Johns , Baltimore	Irance Reddix	8,573	9,525	111%
St Luke , Baltimore	Alfreda Wiggins	7,422	2,500	34%
St Lukes , Baltimore	Dellyne Hinton	5,359	3,000	56%
St Matthews , Baltimore	Kay Albury	21,045	9,353	44%
St Matthews , Baltimore	Walter Jackson, III	2,290	500	22%
St. Matthews-New Life , Baltimore	Andre Briscoe, Jr.	18,009	3,422	19%
St. Paul Praise and Worship Center, Pikesville	Denise Norfleet-Walker	8,776	7,201	82%
Towson , Towson	Roderick Miller	93,168	56,936	61%
Trinity , Catonsville	Kelly Grimes	14,261	14,261	100%
Union Memorial , Baltimore	Jason Jordan-Griffin	25,138	27,931	111%
Unity , Baltimore	Melvin Bond, Sr.	5,506	566	10%
Violetville , Baltimore	Nathaniel Green	5,914	6,571	111%
West Baltimore , Baltimore	Anthony Forman	13,146	13,146	100%
Baltimore Metropolitan District Total	Edwin DeLong	1,281,290	835,086	65.2%
BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT				
Ames , Bel Air	Marlon Tilghman	14,317	3,182	22%
Asbury , White Marsh	Herman Randall	3,997	888	22%
Ayres Chapel , White Hall	Nick Bufano	5,844	5,844	100%
Bel Air , Bel Air	Byron Brought	129,721	129,721	100%
Bentley Springs , Parkton	Darryl Zoller	2,657	838	32%

2016 APPORTIONMENT REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
Bixlers , Manchester	Arthur Thomas, Jr.	3,466	2,311	67%
Boring , Boring	Anissa Johnson	1,941	1,941	100%
Bosley , Sparks	Darryl Gill	3,148	1,000	32%
Camp Chapel , Perry Hall	Richard Brown-Whale	26,665	26,665	100%
Cedar Grove , Monkton	Fred Sipes	3,782	3,782	100%
Centre , Forest Hill	Mark Gorman	11,085	11,085	100%
Chesaco , Baltimore	George Weitzel	5,401	5,401	100%
Clarks Chapel , Bel Air	Andrea King	11,580	5,147	44%
Clynmalira , Phoenix	John Dailey	10,346	10,346	100%
Cokesbury , Abingdon	Brenda Lewis	12,534	12,534	100%
Cranberry , Perryman	Glenn Barrick	4,763	4,763	100%
Darlington , Darlington	Linda Yarrow	4,109	4,109	100%
Deer Creek , Forest Hill	Craig Little	2,435	3,246	133%
Deer Park , Reisterstown	Jerry Gautcher, III	4,497	4,497	100%
Dublin , Street	Linda Yarrow	10,180	10,380	102%
Ebenezer , Fallston	Barry Hidey	4,672	4,672	100%
Edgewood , Lutherville	Buster Lievers	4,546	4,607	101%
Emory , Street	Steve Smith	15,629	15,629	100%
Emory , Upperco	Taysie Phillips	10,895	10,895	100%
Epworth , Cockeysville	Kate Payton	22,123	22,123	100%
Fairview , Phoenix	Frances Dailey	3,005	3,005	100%
Falls Road , Sparks	Scott Shumaker	1,823	2,404	132%
Fallston , Fallston	Karin Walker	41,479	41,479	100%
Fork , Fork	Mike Cantley	10,231	10,231	100%
Frames Memorial , Cockeysville	Paul Papp	1,972	1,972	100%
Glyndon , Glyndon	Dawn Stewart	27,115	36,153	133%
Gough , Cockeysville	Winnie Griffin	2,514	3,352	133%
Grace , Aberdeen	Robert Clipp	39,157	34,807	89%
Grace , Upperco	Melissa Rudolph	8,098	7,545	93%
Greenmount , Hampstead	Melissa Rudolph	9,941	9,941	100%
Greenspring , Owings Mills	Buster Lievers	2,693	2,693	100%
Havre De Grace , Havre De Grace	Norman Obenshain	35,872	19,929	56%
Hereford , Monkton	William Thomas	24,950	24,950	100%
Hopewell , Havre de Grace	Sarah Elliott	11,477	11,477	100%
Hunt's Memorial , Riderwood	Gary Sheffield-James	39,564	39,564	100%
Idlewyld , Baltimore	Carol Pazdersky	4,339	4,339	100%
Jarrettsville , Jarrettsville	Nick Bufano	10,447	10,447	100%
John Wesley , Abingdon	Darius Butler, Sr.	6,551	8,735	133%
Linden Heights , Parkville	Alicia Vanisko	15,084	8,799	58%
Maryland Line , Maryland Line	Dennis Schulze	3,009	2,674	89%
Mays Chapel , Timonium	Laurie Tingley	24,525	24,525	100%
Millford Mill , Pikesville	Cecil Mudede	23,770	22,183	93%
Millers , Bethesda	Arthur Thomas, Jr.	7,399	6,577	89%
Monkton , Monkton	William Bussard, Jr.	7,848	7,848	100%
Mount Carmel , Parkton	Scott Shumaker	9,698	4,310	44%
Mount Gilead , Reisterstown	Anissa Johnson	2,977	2,977	100%
Mount Olive , Randallstown	Mark Johnson	24,545	16,364	67%
Mount Tabor , Bel Air	Craig Little	2,828	3,771	133%
Mount Vernon , Whiteford	Arthur Justice	4,681	1,750	37%
Mount Zion , Bel Air	Craig McLaughlin	108,133	114,133	106%
Mount Zion , Parkton	Dennis Schulze	1,158	1,287	111%
Mount Zion , Upperco	John Mayden, Jr.	4,524	3,016	67%
Mount Zion -Finksburg, Finksburg	Lou Piel	7,075	8,100	114%
New Hope Christian Fellowship, Edgewood	Andrea King	6,320	-	0%
Norrisville , White Hall	Melissa McDade	9,585	7,455	78%
Parke Memorial , Parkton	Dennis Schulze	6,099	6,099	100%
Patapsco , Finksburg	Barbara Allen	3,686	4,096	111%
Perry Hall , Baltimore	Victor Harner	29,666	26,370	89%
Pine Grove , Parkton	Andrew Greenwood	10,475	9,311	89%
Pine Grove , White Hall	Winnie Griffin	1,872	416	22%
Piney Grove , Reisterstown	Anissa Johnson	1,097	1,463	133%
Pleasant Grove , Reisterstown	Richard Harden	9,268	7,588	82%
Pleasant Hill , Owings Mills	Jeff Paulson	18,249	18,249	100%
Poplar Grove , Cockeysville	Paul Papp	3,350	3,766	112%
Presbury , Edgewood	Shannon Sullivan	9,337	5,187	56%
Providence , Towson	Jackson Day	7,904	10,539	133%
Reisterstown , Reisterstown	Vivian McCarthy	48,280	42,915	89%
Rock Run , Darlington	Paul Simmons	3,700	4,934	133%
Salem , Hampstead	Jarrett Wicklein	9,577	9,577	100%
Salem , Upper Falls	Jay DeMent	23,491	23,491	100%
Shiloh , Hampstead	Barbara Allen	5,640	7,520	133%
Smiths Chapel , Churchville	David Roberts	4,820	6,427	133%
St Johns , Hampstead	Melissa Rudolph	16,718	-	0%
St Johns , Lutherville	Carol Pazdersky	8,614	8,614	100%
St Luke , Monkton	Winnie Griffin	1,436	1,436	100%
St Luke , Reisterstown	Michael Carrington	9,460	6,306	67%
St Paul , White Hall	Melissa McDade	6,017	5,937	99%
Stablers , Parkton	Darryl Zoller	1,760	2,346	133%
Texas , Cockeysville	Paul Papp	4,378	4,865	111%
Timonium , Timonium	Frances Dailey	46,758	46,758	100%
Union , Aberdeen	Andrea King	7,537	6,699	89%
Union , Baldwin	Jennifer Kokoski	4,236	4,236	100%
Union Chapel , Joppa	David Coakley	19,717	19,717	100%
Union Chapel , Monkton	Winnie Griffin	2,233	2,233	100%
Vernon , White Hall	Dennis Schulze	2,676	2,973	111%
Wards Chapel , Randallstown	Lisa Bandel	24,195	24,195	100%

Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
Waugh , Glen Arm	Mike Cantley	7,297	8,108	111%
Wesley , Hampstead	Amy Lewis-Rill	26,767	23,793	89%
Wesleyan Chapel , Aberdeen	Sarah Elliott	6,112	6,112	100%
West Liberty , White Hall	Dennis Schulze	4,437	4,437	100%
William Watters Memorial , Jarrettsville	Barry Hidey	11,206	13,500	120%
Wiseburg , White Hall	Ron Gompf	4,640	6,186	133%
Baltimore Suburban District Total	Laura Easto	1,287,425	1,200,797	93.3%
<div><div>CM</div><div>CENTRAL MARYLAND DISTRICT</div><div>CM</div></div>				
Alberta Gary Memorial , Columbia	Shawn Vollmerhausen	7,832	6,092	78%
Araby , Frederick	TJ Mount	8,337	8,337	100%
Asbury , Germantown	Karen Davis	5,329	2,960	56%
Ashton , Ashton	Emily Berkowitz	37,557	37,557	100%
Bethany , Ellicott City	ANDREW COONEY	85,254	85,254	100%
Bethesda , Damascus	Henry Butler, Jr.	28,152	25,024	89%
Calvary , Mount Airy	Debbie Scott	65,912	65,912	100%
Christ , Columbia	Keith Loudermill	6,082	-	0%
Clarksburg , Clarksburg	David Hodsdon	8,164	8,164	100%
Community of Faith , Clarksburg	Samuel Holdbrook-Smith	11,871	6,750	57%
Covenant , Montgomery Village	Mandy Sayers	36,772	33,785	92%
Daisy , Lisbon	Christopher Serufusa	3,409	-	0%
Damascus , Damascus	David Cooney	89,576	69,670	78%
Dickerson , Dickerson	Yu Hwang	3,311	3,311	100%
Ebenezer , Ijamsville	Vivian Martin-Jones	2,237	250	11%
Ebenezer , Sykesville	Judith Emerson	21,207	21,207	100%
Ellicott City Korean Mission,	Dae Sung Park	5,365	7,153	133%
Emory , Ellicott City	SAM MOORE	9,940	9,938	100%
Emory Grove , Gaithersburg	Timothy Warner	20,808	23,120	111%
Epworth , Gaithersburg	Jennifer Fenner	48,875	43,445	89%
Fairhaven , Gaithersburg	Esther Holimon	28,084	28,084	100%
Fairview , Sykesville	Daphne Fraser	3,270	3,270	100%
FaithPoint , Monrovia	Chris Bishop	13,232	13,232	100%
Flint Hill , Adamstown	Bob Ruggieri	2,683	3,035	113%
Floherville , Sykesville	Narae Kim	2,822	3,763	133%
Forest Grove , Tuscarora	Yu Hwang	2,554	2,554	100%
Friendship , Damascus	Samuel Holdbrook-Smith	8,603	2,868	33%
Gaither , Sykesville	Terri Chattin	8,994	7,995	89%
Gary Memorial , Ellicott City	Douglas Fox	10,480	11,644	111%
Glen Mar , Ellicott City	Matt Poole	147,208	147,208	100%
Glenelg , Glenelg	Alice Ford	32,479	32,479	100%
Goshen , Gaithersburg	Shawn Wilson	42,587	42,587	100%
Grace , Gaithersburg	Jim Miller	83,374	83,374	100%
Howard Chapel-Ridgeville , Mount Airy	Phillip Ayers	10,382	10,382	100%
Hyattstown , Clarksburg	David Hodsdon	6,281	6,281	100%
Ijamsville , Ijamsville	Bob Ruggieri	4,700	4,184	89%
Jennings Chapel , Woodbine	Robert Cook	6,800	9,066	133%
Linden-Linthicum , Clarksville	Gayle Annis-Forder	51,864	51,864	100%
Lisbon , Lisbon	Kenneth Dunnington	17,578	-	0%
Locust , Columbia	Jane Wood	17,281	17,281	100%
Marvin Chapel , Mount Airy	R. Lorraine Brown	5,205	3,470	67%
Memorial , Poolesville	Bill Maisch	24,091	24,091	100%
Mill Creek Parish , Rockville	Timothy Warner	41,119	36,550	89%
Montgomery , Damascus	John Rudisill, Jr.	47,146	-	0%
Morgan Chapel , Woodbine	Lynne Humphries-Russ	1,198	1,200	100%
Mount Carmel , Brookeville	Jean Lee	4,131	2,754	67%
Mount Gregory , Glenwood	Christopher Serufusa	6,270	6,270	100%
Mount Olive , Mount Airy	Lynne Humphries-Russ	4,478	4,478	100%
Mount Tabor , Damascus	Karen Davis	7,049	6,075	86%
Mount Zion , Ellicott City	Wilhelmina Street	5,148	1,925	37%
Mount Zion , Highland	Joan Carter-Rimbach	62,355	62,355	100%
Mount Zion , Olney	Christopher Serufusa	5,237	4,655	89%
Mountain View , Damascus	Myung-Ha Baek	5,437	3,705	68%
Oakdale Emory , Olney	Kevin Baker	119,240	119,240	100%
Pleasant Grove , Ijamsville	Myung-Ha Baek	4,995	4,995	100%
Poplar Springs , Woodbine	Robert Cook	4,982	4,982	100%
Prospect , Mount Airy	R. Lorraine Brown	8,469	8,469	100%
Providence , Monrovia	DD Adams	15,035	15,035	100%
Rockland , Ellicott City	Patricia Abell	9,803	9,803	100%
Salem , Brookeville	Sue Shorb-Sterling	21,506	21,506	100%
Salem , Germantown	Karen Davis	5,839	3,893	67%
Sharp Street , Sandy Spring	Kecia Ford	17,504	6,835	39%
Simpson , Mount Airy	Christopher Serufusa	1,653	1,400	85%
St James , Marriottsville	Patricia Abell	13,343	13,343	100%
St John United Church, Columbia	Mary Kananan	8,802	8,802	100%
St Luke , Sykesville	Christopher Serufusa	6,665	5,184	78%
St Marks , Boyds	Bernadette Armwood	3,320	500	15%
St Paul , Laytonsville	Jean Lee	11,041	11,041	100%
St Paul's , Sykesville	Terri Chattin	37,343	37,343	100%
Trinity , Germantown	Bonnie Scott	35,114	20,907	60%
Washington Grove , Washington Grove	EunJoung Joo	8,773	3,910	45%
Wesley Chapel , Frederick	Sandi Phillips	10,137	10,529	104%
Wesley Freedom , Eldersburg	Bill Brown	78,199	78,199	100%
Wesley Grove , Gaithersburg	Karen Davis	12,722	12,722	100%
West Liberty , Marriottsville	Barbara Sands	3,771	3,771	100%
West Montgomery , Dickerson	Bernadette Armwood	7,910	6,152	78%
Central Maryland District Total	J.W. Park	1,672,276	1,505,169	90.0%

2016 APPORTIONMENT REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
<div><div>CH</div><div>CUMBERLAND-HAGERSTOWN DISTRICT</div><div>CH</div></div>				
Allegany , Frostburg	George Harpold	1,138	1,138	100%
Alpine , Berkeley Springs	Kenny Mason	1,783	2,377	133%
Asbury , Hagerstown	Sharon Gibson	4,456	2,953	66%
Barton , Barton	Sandy Cowan	5,532	5,532	100%
Benevola , Boonsboro	Cynthia Caldwell	17,784	17,784	100%
Bethel , Chewsville	Jim Johnson	21,390	19,013	89%
Bethel , Rohrsersville	John Schildt	4,296	4,658	108%
Calvary , Great Cacapon	Phil King	2,977	2,977	100%
Calvary , Ridgeley	Rick Jewell	6,918	6,918	100%
Carlos , Frostburg	George Harpold	1,039	346	33%
Catalpa , Hancock	Joshua Rider	498	664	133%
Centenary , Cumberland	Rebecca Vardiman	3,595	3,994	111%
Central , Cumberland	Lee Brotemarkle	4,377	2,918	67%
Centre Street , Cumberland	Tom Young, Jr.	24,333	29,740	122%
Cherry Run , Berkeley Springs	Ted Marsh, Jr.	2,442	3,256	133%
Christ , Cumberland	Harold McClay, Jr.	6,536	8,715	133%
Cresaptown , Cresaptown	Hal Atkins	14,976	9,875	66%
Davis Memorial , Cumberland	Rob Pierson	8,639	8,639	100%
Dawson , Rawlings	Patrick Buhrman	4,703	4,703	100%
Eckhart , Frostburg	George Harpold	3,094	3,122	101%
Ellerslie , Ellerslie	Sandy Burchell	7,433	7,433	100%
Emmanuel , Cumberland	Rob Pierson	9,111	9,111	100%
Emmanuel , Hagerstown	Randall Reid	24,825	23,100	93%
Fairview Avenue , Cumberland	Dan Taylor	2,367	2,840	120%
First , Berkeley Springs	Doug Hoffman	48,607	48,607	100%
First , Lonaconing	Fred Iser	8,127	8,127	100%
Flintstone , Flintstone	Patricia Bittner	2,408	2,140	89%
Frostburg , Frostburg	Kyle Durbin	23,752	23,752	100%
Garfield , Smithsburg	Mary Ricketts	7,626	7,626	100%
Grace , Berkeley Springs	Ted Marsh, Jr.	2,732	1,518	56%
Grace , Hagerstown	Curtis Ehrgott	21,576	21,576	100%
Grace , Midland	Daniel Montague, III	5,878	5,878	100%
Greenwood , Berkeley Springs	Lloyd McCanna	4,598	4,598	100%
Hancock , Hancock	Mike Bynum	21,764	12,091	56%
Highland , Berkeley Springs	Kenny Mason	2,676	3,568	133%
Holy Cross , Ridgeley	Tom Young, Jr.	7,639	7,639	100%
John Wesley , Hagerstown	Pat Ricker	26,497	26,497	100%
La Vale , Lavale	Frankie Revell	29,091	29,091	100%
Mc Kendree of Potomac Park, Cumberland	Lisa Boone	3,483	3,483	100%
Melvin , Cumberland	Dan Taylor	6,958	6,958	100%
Michaels , Berkeley Springs	Chuck Bergen	2,287	2,287	100%
Mount Bethel , Smithsburg	Ron Kurtz	6,500	6,500	100%
Mount Carmel , Big Pool	Grant Spong	3,211	3,211	100%
Mount Carmel , Rohrsersville	John Schildt	2,007	2,676	133%
Mount Hermon , Flintstone	Patricia Bittner	2,376	3,168	133%
Mount Lena , Boonsboro	Ron Kurtz	6,234	8,312	133%
Mount Nebo , Boonsboro	Ray Roberson	19,072	16,953	89%
Mount Olivet , Berkeley Springs	Lloyd McCanna	3,886	2,591	67%
Mount Pleasant , Berkeley Springs	Kenny Mason	1,318	1,757	133%
Mount Savage , Mount Savage	Sandy Burchell	8,190	8,190	100%
Mount Tabor , Oldtown	Charlie Riggelman	3,270	3,270	100%
Mount Zion , Berkeley Springs	Ted Marsh, Jr.	3,079	4,105	133%
Mount Zion , Great Cacapon	Richard Voorhaar	2,347	2,347	100%
Mount Zion , Myersville	Michael Beiber	14,860	8,255	56%
Mount Zion , Sabillasville	Lisa Jordan	3,274	4,366	133%
Murleys Branch , Flintstone	Patricia Bittner	1,648	1,832	111%
New Covenant , Cumberland	Chris Gobrecht	16,068	16,068	100%
Oldtown , Oldtown	Charlie Riggelman	3,031	3,031	100%
Oliver's Grove , Oldtown	Charlie Riggelman	3,085	3,085	100%
Otterbein , Hagerstown	Elizabeth Jackson	48,070	48,070	100%
Park Place , Lavale	Vicki Cubbage	8,427	8,427	100%
Parkhead , Big Pool	Grant Spong	3,484	2,661	76%
Paw Paw , Paw Paw	Darlene Powers	2,770	2,908	105%
Piney Plains , Little Orleans	Joshua Rider	2,284	2,284	100%
Pleasant Walk , Hagerstown	Lisa Jordan	3,409	3,409	100%
Prosperity , Flintstone	Patricia Bittner	3,065	3,065	100%
Rawlings , Rawlings	Patrick Buhrman	5,817	5,817	100%
Rehoboth , Williamsport	Michael Bennett	41,608	41,608	100%
Salem , Keedysville	Al Deal	7,853	7,853	100%
Salem , Myersville	Bob Snyder	11,326	11,326	100%
Shaft , Midland	Daniel Montague, III	4,711	6,281	133%
Shiloh , Hagerstown	Ken Fizer, Jr.	10,418	10,418	100%
St Andrews , Hagerstown	Mike Henning	12,918	12,918	100%
St Paul , Big Pool	Grant Spong	3,042	3,042	100%
St Paul's , Smithsburg	Mary Ricketts	5,329	3,553	67%
Sulphur Springs , Oldtown	Barney Piper	1,260	1,120	89%
Trinity , Cumberland	Mary George	4,418	4,425	100%
Trinity-Asbury , Berkeley Springs	Chuck Bergen	9,222	9,222	100%
Union Chapel , Berkeley Springs	Mike Leedom	11,969	11,969	100%
Vale Summit , Frostburg	George Harpold	2,059	2,059	100%
Washington Square , Hagerstown	Jerry Lowans	11,989	11,989	100%
Wesley Chapel , Berkeley Springs	Chuck Bergen	6,821	6,821	100%
Westernport , Westernport	Sandy Cowan	3,895	4,291	110%
Williamsport , Williamsport	Susan Boehl	28,276	28,276	100%

Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
Zion , Cumberland	Rebecca Vardiman	3,705	4,117	111%
Cumberland-Hagertown District Total	Conrad Link	771,542	754,888	97.8%
<div><div>FR</div><div>FREDERICK DISTRICT</div><div>FR</div></div>				
Arden , Martinsburg	Sarah Schlieckert	15,523	15,523	100%
Asbury , Charles Town	Duane Jensen	32,447	28,842	89%
Asbury , Frederick	Mark Groover	21,208	21,208	100%
Asbury , Shepherdstown	Rudolph Bropleh	42,616	45,457	107%
Bedington , Martinsburg	Scott Summers	24,721	24,721	100%
Berkeley Place , Martinsburg	John Brooks	1,648	2,197	133%
Bethel , Bakerton	Dennis Crolley	2,836	2,521	89%
Bethesda , Shepherdstown	Parker Hinzman	3,343	2,971	89%
Bethesda , Sykesville	Ernest Thayil	4,816	4,816	100%
Blairton , Martinsburg	Gary Gourley, Sr.	5,399	7,199	133%
Bolivar , Harpers Ferry	Lisa Franzen	1,904	2,327	122%
Brandenburg , Sykesville	John Bragg, Sr.	4,896	5,440	111%
Brook Hill , Frederick	Wade Martin	73,931	73,931	100%
Buckeystown Rt 85 , Buckeystown	Charles Rice	14,960	4,987	33%
Bunker Hill , Bunker Hill	Wayne Frum	12,975	12,975	100%
Butlers Chapel , Martinsburg	Forrest Cummings	2,962	3,950	133%
Calvary , Finksburg	Martin Brooks	20,926	18,601	89%
Calvary , Frederick	Stephen Larsen	70,366	70,366	100%
Calvary , Martinsburg	Lynn Wilson	28,499	18,999	67%
Camp Hill-Wesley , Harpers Ferry	John Unger	5,205	5,783	111%
Catoctin , Thurmont	Terry Orrence, Jr.	3,611	3,611	100%
Centennial Memorial , Frederick	Debra Linton	12,112	8,149	67%
Chestnut Hill , Harpers Ferry	Dennis Crolley	6,156	6,156	100%
Darkesville , Inwood	Thomas Sigler	11,210	11,210	100%
Deer Park , Westminster	John Dean	18,601	18,601	100%
Deerfield , Sabillasville	Ray Dudley	3,265	4,353	133%
Doubs-Epworth , Adamstown	William Carpenter	3,228	3,228	100%
Engle , Harpers Ferry	Lisa Franzen	2,161	2,161	100%
Friendship , Hedgesville	John Brooks	2,073	2,073	100%
Ganotown , Martinsburg	Richard Shuman, II	869	1,159	133%
Gerrardstown , Gerrardstown	Gary Sieglein	6,498	4,416	68%
Greensburg , Martinsburg	Ed Grove	5,167	4,593	89%
Harmony , Falling Waters	Terri Cofiell	19,041	19,041	100%
Hedgesville , Hedgesville	Dennis Jackman	15,912	-	0%
Hopehill , Frederick	Joyce Hall	4,238	4,238	100%
Inwood , Inwood	Charles Henry	2,874	3,513	122%
Jackson Chapel , Frederick	Rex Bowens, Sr.	12,225	12,225	100%
Jefferson , Jefferson	William Carpenter	7,207	8,008	111%
Johnsville , Sykesville	Thomas Cook	1,195	1,063	89%
Johnsville , Union Bridge	Margaret Moon	6,220	3,456	56%
Leetown , Kearneysville	John Lewis	5,059	5,059	100%
Lewistown , Thurmont	Vicki Oliver	9,555	9,555	100%
Liberty Central , Libertytown	Jerry Cline	8,014	7,123	89%
Linganore , Union Bridge	Stephen Ricketts	11,593	11,593	100%
Marvin Chapel , Inwood	John Lewis	4,856	3,892	80%
Memorial , Summit Point	Scott Sassaman	6,537	500	8%
Messiah , Taneytown	Pat Dols	11,252	8,752	78%
Middleburg , Westminster	Darrell Davis	1,915	2,554	133%
Middletown , Middletown	Sarah Dorrance	50,976	50,976	100%
Middleway , Kearneysville	Owen Womack	9,239	12,319	133%
Mount Carmel , Frederick	Jenny Smith	20,556	20,556	100%
Mount Pleasant , Frederick	Richard Baker	4,723	6,297	133%
Mount Wesley , Shepherdstown	Ed Grove	5,752	7,669	133%
Mount Zion , Frederick	Richard Baker	3,083	3,083	100%
Mount Zion , Martinsburg	Ed Hall	11,682	5,721	49%
Murrill Hill , Harpers Ferry	Donnie Cardwell	2,349	3,132	133%
New Hope of Greater Brunswick, Brunswick	Katie Bishop	17,701	17,701	100%
New Hope of New Windsor, New Windsor	Mary Buzby	3,487	3,487	100%
New Market , New Market	Scott Clawson	15,362	15,362	100%
New Street , Shepherdstown	Dee-Ann Dixon	15,334	9,308	61%
Oakland , Charles Town	Kent Tice	29,809	-	0%
Oakland , Sykesville	Donna Renn	13,732	10,681	78%
Otterbein , Martinsburg	Mark Mooney	26,548	26,548	100%
Paynes Chapel , Bunker Hill	Dawn Reidy	6,379	6,379	100%
Pikeside , Martinsburg	Richard Broome	16,703	16,695	100%
Pleasant View , Adamstown	Tonia Brown	2,097	2,796	133%
Salem , Martinsburg	Marshall Light	715	633	89%
Sandy Hook , Knoxville	Douglas Fraim	1,623	-	0%
Sandy Mount , Finksburg	Robert Wellman	32,783	32,783	100%
Shenandoah Memorial , Harpers Ferry	Douglas Fraim	1,610	2,147	133%
Silver Grove , Harpers Ferry	Michael Lida	2,106	2,808	133%
St James @ Dennings, Westminster	Mary Buzby	4,938	4,389	89%
St Lukes , Martinsburg	John Yost	32,653	32,653	100%
St Paul , New Windsor	Colin Phillips	9,727	9,727	100%
Stone Chapel , New Windsor	Steven Cho	14,432	14,432	100%
Strawbridge , New Windsor	Blango Ross, Jr.	7,713	10,284	133%
Taylorsville , Mount Airy	Sherri Comer-Cox	14,578	14,578	100%
Thurmont , Thurmont	Bob Hunter, III	23,363	23,363	100%
Tom's Creek , Emmitsburg	Heath Wilson	15,427	15,427	100%
Trinity , Emmitsburg	Colin Phillips	11,201	11,201	100%
Trinity , Frederick	Eliezer Valentin-Castanon	56,685	23,193	41%
Trinity , Martinsburg	Ken Walker	48,560	48,560	100%

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Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
Union Street , Westminster	Richard Lindsay	5,392	1,498	28%
Uniontown , Westminster	Darrell Davis	2,534	2,534	100%
Uvilla , Shepherdstown	Parker Hinzman	2,899	2,577	89%
Walkersville , Walkersville	Richard Baker	40,223	35,285	88%
Weller , Thurmont	Robert Kells, Jr.	15,677	11,250	72%
Westminster , Westminster	Malcolm Stranathan	55,441	55,441	100%
Williams Memorial , Shepherdstown	Parker Hinzman	5,455	4,849	89%
Zion , Westminster	Steven Cho	7,479	7,479	100%
Frederick District Total	Edgardo Rivera	1,262,551	1,128,897	89.4%
<div><div>GW</div><div>GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT</div><div>GW</div></div>				
Ager Road , Hyattsville	Samson Nortey	13,064	13,064	100%
Albright Memorial , Washington	Gerald Elston, Sr.	11,107	4,716	42%
Asbury , Washington	Ianther Mills	103,062	103,062	100%
Bells , Camp Springs	Crystal Jones	13,388	10,413	78%
Bethesda , Bethesda	Jenny Cannon	81,343	81,344	100%
Bradbury Heights , Washington	R. David Hall	4,478	2,488	56%
Brighter Day , Washington	Ernest Lyles	48,024	5,336	11%
Brightwood Park , Washington	Gerald Elston, Sr.	15,726	15,726	100%
Cabin John , Cabin John	Ek Hii	10,387	10,387	100%
Capitol Hill , Washington	Alisa Lasater	40,557	40,557	100%
Centenary , Flatts FL BX	Richard Stetler	10,216	-	0%
Cheverly , Cheverly	Lillian Smith	22,833	20,296	89%
Chevy Chase , Chevy Chase	Kirkland Reynolds	57,992	57,990	100%
Christ , Washington	Allen Stewart	17,722	17,722	100%
Church of The Redeemer, Temple Hills	Jerome Jones, Sr.	17,242	15,326	89%
Colesville , Silver Spring	Michael Armstrong	42,523	42,523	100%
College Park , College Park	Fay Lundin	11,530	5,124	44%
Community , Washington	Jalene Chase-Sands	8,750	-	0%
Concord-St Andrews , Bethesda	Sue Brown	33,895	33,895	100%
Douglas Memorial , Washington	Jalene Chase-Sands	11,616	-	0%
Dumbarton , Washington	Mary Kay Totty	29,107	29,107	100%
Ebenezer , Washington	Bresean Jenkins	20,390	18,125	89%
Emmanuel , Laurel	Ana Vader	46,794	46,794	100%
Emory , Washington	Joe Daniels, Jr.	56,843	56,843	100%
Faith , Rockville	Kathryn Woodrow	76,771	76,771	100%
First , Hyattsville	Yvonne Wallace-Penn	62,329	55,383	89%
Forest Memorial , Forestville	Ty Blackwell	18,602	2,961	16%
Foundry , Washington	Ginger Gaines-Cirelli	179,128	179,128	100%
Francis Asbury National Korean , Rockville	Seung-Woo Lee	22,897	4,000	17%
Franklin P Nash , Washington	R. David Hall	4,872	4,050	83%
Gethsemane , Capitol Heights	Ronald Triplett	41,071	36,507	89%
Glenmont , Silver Spring	Saroj Sangha	37,060	37,060	100%
Good Hope Union , Silver Spring	Tori Butler	30,120	26,773	89%
Good Shepherd , Silver Spring	Kathleen Lossau	33,336	33,336	100%
Grace , Fairmount Heights	Brian Jackson	2,889	-	0%
Grace , Takoma Park	Samson Nortey	15,665	12,184	78%
Hughes , Wheaton	Kenneth Hawes	49,469	34,740	70%
Hughes Memorial , Washington	Paul Johnson	33,467	33,467	100%
Jerusalem-Mt Pleasant , Rockville	Herbert Brisbon, III	15,449	10,299	67%
Jones Memorial , Washington	Loretta Johnson	17,440	10,500	60%
Liberty Grove , Burtonsville	Rodney Smothers	53,016	53,016	100%
Lincoln Park , Washington	Diane Dixon-Proctor	17,346	17,346	100%
Marsden First , Smith	Joseph Whalen, Jr.	23,999	-	0%
McKendree-Simms-Brookland , Washington	R. David Hall	45,220	45,220	100%
Memorial First India , Silver Spring	Samuel Honnappa	26,490	23,748	90%
Metropolitan Memorial , Washington	Charles Parker	268,291	268,291	100%
Millian Memorial , Rockville	Miguel Balderas	43,783	19,459	44%
Mizo , Rockville	Biakchhunga Bochung	14,533	19,378	133%
Mount Vernon , Washington	Armon Nelson	8,607	-	0%
Mount Vernon Place , Washington	Donna Sokol	58,704	58,704	100%
Mount Zion , Washington	Johnsie Cogman	21,353	16,608	78%
Mowatt Memorial , Greenbelt	Fay Lundin	5,225	4,645	89%
North Bethesda , Bethesda	Jeffrey Jones	42,530	42,530	100%
Oak Chapel , Silver Spring	Selena Johnson	25,641	4,349	17%
Petworth , Washington	Sherwyn Benjamin	14,526	6,456	44%
Potomac , Potomac	Ann Laprade	75,175	75,176	100%
Randall Memorial , Washington	Brian Jackson	19,564	18,590	95%
Rockville , Rockville	Martha Meredith	38,587	38,587	100%
Ryland-Epworth , Washington	R. David Hall	9,058	9,058	100%
Silver Spring , Silver Spring	Rachel Cornwell	88,104	78,315	89%
Simpson-Hamline , Washington	Yvonne Mercer-Staten	25,585	22,743	89%
St Paul , Chevy Chase	John McCauley	16,545	16,500	100%
St Paul's , Kensington	Adam Snell	98,059	98,059	100%
United , Washington	William Federici	17,071	17,071	100%
University , College Park	Sherri Wood-Powe	31,782	42,376	133%
Van Buren , Washington	Lucinda Kent	5,803	5,803	100%
Greater Washington District Total	Gerard A. Green, Jr.	2,463,751	2,190,025	88.9%

Church, City	Pastor	2016 Goal	\$ Paid	% Paid
<div><div>WE</div><div>WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT</div><div>WE</div></div>				
Alexandria Chapel , Indian Head	Sonja Penny	5,497	4,886	89%
Asbury , Brandywine	Gladman Kapfumvuti	11,773	13,081	111%
Bethel , Upper Marlboro	Kenneth Valentine	10,603	10,603	100%
Bethesda , Valley Lee	Irvin Beverly	4,566	3,044	67%
Bowie , Bowie	Margaret Clemons	12,002	12,002	100%
Brookfield , Brandywine	Marianne Brown	5,206	5,206	100%
Brooks , Saint Leonard	Jason Robinson	36,397	32,353	89%
Calvary , Waldorf	Robert Carter	20,616	13,744	67%
Carroll-Western , Prince Frederick	Roland Barnes	11,677	10,379	89%
Cheltenham , Cheltenham	Denise Millett	13,249	13,249	100%
Chicamuxen , La Plata	Edward Voorhaar	4,469	5,958	133%
Christ , Aquasco	Constance Smith	14,400	12,800	89%
Clinton , Clinton	Dorothea Stroman	21,089	18,746	89%
Coopers , Dunkirk	Sandra Smith	6,945	6,944	100%
Corkran Memorial , Temple Hills	Lesley Newman-Sewell	9,301	5,167	56%
Eastern , Lusby	Brenda Mcllwain	7,546	5,030	67%
Ebenezer , Lanham	Mark Venson	30,038	13,350	44%
Emmanuel , Beltsville	Jacob Young	30,546	6,788	22%
Emmanuel , Huntingtown	Matthew Tate	12,935	12,935	100%
Faith , Accokeek	Michael Blakeley	9,568	9,568	100%
First Saints Community Church, Leonardtown	John Wunderlich, III	77,403	77,403	100%
Glenn Dale , Glenn Dale	Moses Sangha	15,544	15,544	100%
Good Shepherd , Waldorf	Laurie Gates-Ward	41,433	32,747	79%
Grace , Fort Washington	Robert Slade	33,665	33,665	100%
Hollywood , Hollywood	Katie Paul	30,794	27,373	89%
Huntingtown , Huntingtown	Corey Sharpe	41,694	41,694	100%
Immanuel , Brandywine	Marianne Brown	9,280	9,280	100%
Indian Head , Indian Head	Jacques Banks	3,379	3,379	100%
Journey of Faith Church;The, Waldorf	Robbie Morganfield	29,230	16,239	56%
La Plata , La Plata	Bruce Jones	53,095	53,095	100%
Lanham , Lanham	Dae Park	15,132	15,132	100%
Lexington Park , Lexington Park	Douglas Hays	45,862	45,862	100%
Metropolitan , Indian Head	George Hackey, Jr.	25,435	25,436	100%
Mount Calvary , Charlotte Hall	Kevin Brooks	8,886	8,886	100%
Mount Harmony-Lower Marlboro , Owings	Juli Lewis	23,188	25,764	111%
Mount Hope , Sunderland	Roosevelt Oliver	8,092	8,391	104%
Mount Oak , Mitchellville	Robert Barnes, Jr.	53,893	28,444	53%
Mount Olive , Prince Frederick	Dana Jones	10,395	10,395	100%
Mount Zion , Mechanicsville	Stephen Humphrey	33,093	29,416	89%
Mount Zion , Saint Inigoes	Derrick Walton	2,909	2,702	93%
Nottingham-Myers , Upper Marlboro	Constance Smith	15,823	3,516	22%
Olivet , Lusby	Linda Motter	12,486	12,486	100%
Oxon Hill , Oxon Hill	Patricia Allen	29,343	19,080	65%
Patuxent , Huntingtown	Bryan Fleet	11,834	15,779	133%
Peters , Dunkirk	Doris Rothwell	7,169	3,983	56%
Pisgah , Marbury	Jeanne Parr	5,434	7,245	133%
Plum Point , Huntingtown	Bryan Fleet	14,075	14,075	100%
Providence-Fort Washington , Ft Wash	Kermit Moore	24,530	11,786	48%
Queens Chapel , Beltsville	William Butler	30,198	26,843	89%
Savage , Savage	Dae Park	13,687	10,645	78%
Shiloh , Bryans Road	Cindy Banks	3,826	1,700	44%
Shiloh Community , Newburg	Richard Black	10,850	10,850	100%
Smith Chapel , Marbury	George DeFord	8,203	7,291	89%
Smithville , Dunkirk	Jean Marsh	18,241	18,241	100%
Solomons , Solomons	Doratha Yunger	21,730	17,961	83%
St Edmond's , Chesapeake Beach	Joan Jones	10,986	6,103	56%
St John , Lusby	Brenda Mcllwain	10,235	10,234	100%
St Luke , Scotland	Delonta Hicks	4,453	4,948	111%
St Matthews , Bowie	Daniel Mejia	72,130	64,115	89%
St Matthews , La Plata	Kevin Brooks	3,229	3,275	101%
St Paul , Lusby	Walter Beaudwin	46,396	41,182	89%
St Paul , Oxon Hill	Daryl Williams	44,785	44,785	100%
Trinity , Prince Frederick	James Swecker	61,304	61,304	100%
Union , Upper Marlboro	Kendrick Weaver	27,091	27,091	100%
Wards Memorial , Owings	Eloise Newman	9,186	10,260	112%
Waters Memorial , Saint Leonard	Mi Cho	7,679	7,679	100%
Westphalia , Upper Marlboro	Timothy West	44,038	19,573	44%
Zion UMC, Lexington Park	Kenneth Moore	23,215	23,215	100%
Zion Wesley , Waldorf	Gladman Kapfumvuti	9,724	3,241	33%
Washington East District Total	Rebecca Iannicelli	1,442,705	1,235,166	85.6%

BWC Summary (Budget Goal & Received)		YTD Budget Goal	Received	%
BWC Grand Total	Bishop Easterling	10,080,701	10,245,885	101.6%



Where does your money go?

For every \$100 put in a collection plate, \$89 stays with your local church. The remaining \$11 supports ministries beyond the local church. About \$2.90 of that apportionment goes to support the General Church, which is global in its membership, mission and ministry.

MORE ON APPORTIONMENTS

The BWC has many resources online to help your church tell the story of connectional giving.
Visit: bwcumc.org/administration/finance/apportionment-giving/

Youth retreat focuses on reducing stress

By ERIK ALSGAARD
UMConnection Staff

IT'S NEVER EASY being a teenager, but stressors in their lives today can lead to tragic results: suicide, drug abuse, or bullying.

Helping today's youth deal with stress is the focus of the Baltimore-Washington Conference's Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM), whose leaders met for a retreat Sept. 9-11 at West River Camp, near Annapolis.

During the retreat, members of the CCYM worked on "Stress Less," focusing on five areas teens say are real or potential problem areas.

"Stress Less is for us to reach out to the youth to help them to cope with the stresses that we go through," said Michaela Creel, a senior who attends Pine Grove UMC in Rayville and the group's vice president. "We're focusing on five main points: time management, bullying because of faith, suicide, relationships, and the differences between high school and middle school stresses."

Pam Bowen, Project Manager for Youth Ministries for the BWC, said that one thing is clear from the CCYM's research: stress has intensified for our young people.

"With new things like cyber bullying and pressure to be the top performer to get a college scholarship," stress is greater now than ever before, she said. "As adults, we can help by listening, looking for warning signs and praying a lot."

In the midst of working on "Stress Less," CCYM also found ways to have fun.

ROCK RETREAT

Feb. 3-5, 2017
Convention Center, Ocean City

This annual youth retreat will feature speaker Preston Centuolo. The bands are Sidewalk Prophets and Urban Street Level. Registration is \$50. Learn more and register at www.bwcumc.org/rock.

"We're doing business stuff, but we're also having fun," said Alyssa Murphy, who attends Mt. Zion UMC in Mechanicsville. "We're going kayaking."

CCYM is also in outreach mode right now, said Murphy,



CCYM members were grouped in to three teams during their recent retreat, with each team creating their own flag. Here, members show the flags during lunch.

a senior, and the CCYM president. "We're trying to get more people to join CCYM."

More than 30 youth and eight adult leaders attended the event. Leaders said that representatives were present from six out of the eight districts, with only Central Maryland and Baltimore Metro districts absent. "That's a good number for us," said Murphy.

After talking about the difficulties of time management causing stress, leaders talked about their experiences of being bullied because of their faith.

"I've personally gone through that," said Creel. "In my school, we don't have a lot of religious people, so we would be torn-down because we want to express ourselves. I used to carry my Bible to school because if I had a free time, I could turn to a passage to get me through that hard time or that free time. It helped me cope with my stresses."

In a show of hands, every member of the executive team had been touched by suicide, either by knowing someone

who tried, or someone at their school who had committed suicide.

"What we're trying to do in the area of suicide is teach people how to cope if they're feeling like hurting themselves, or if they've had friends who have tried to kill themselves," said Ditzenberger, who attends Nicholas-Bethel UMC in Odenton.

"Obviously, we're not counselors," said Murphy. "We don't know exactly what to say, but some of us know where people are coming from, people our age, people we're trying to reach out to. We can be, like, 'Look, I understand where you are right now; I've been there, but I don't exactly know what to say.' That's why we're doing so much research right now."

So how to "stress less"? That's what CCYM is working on, and the resources will be made available both on their Facebook page and on the BWC website.

Book explores spirituals through slaves' voices

MELISSA LAUBER
UMConnection Staff

IF EILEEN GUENTHER could have a conversation with anyone in heaven, it would probably be with abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

If Douglass could read Guenther's new book, "In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals," he'd probably want to talk with her, too.

A musician and professor at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., Guenther has just published a book that traces the heart of the Spiritual and uses the history of this music to tell the compelling and the soul-crushing story of slavery in the United States.



Eileen Guenther

Douglass, who was born a slave in Maryland, escaped to freedom and became a renowned civil rights leader, once said, "the heart has no language like song."

Also a scholar, classical organist, and conductor, Guenther's faith is shaped by this sentiment. It led her to begin studying the music of liberation movements in which people struggled to overcome oppression.

"To my mind," she said in an interview on-campus at Wesley, "Spirituals are the most powerful music ever created."

Her interest in Spirituals began in earnest, she said, when the Rev. William B. McClain, editor of the "Songs of Zion" hymnal, asked her to partner with him in teaching a class at Wesley. Together, they taught a course called "Songs of Zion," that explored the Middle Passage, the culture of slavery, the lives of people enslaved, the Underground Railroad, and the universal longing for freedom.

Guenther's imagination exploded.

It led her to the idea for this book, and, for a few years, into a life concentrated on research among 204 book-length narratives and the records of 2,300 interviews with surviving slaves.

As a choir director, Guenther firmly believes that the songs take on a new sound and meaning when the singer and the hearer are engaged in the context and stories of

those who first sang them.

To understand the hundreds of songs of this genre, she immersed herself in the memories and music of those who lived in slavery in the southern United States. The culture and details of the lives of slaves and their masters are illuminated by and intertwined with the songs Guenther presents in the 492-page book.

The timing of the publication of "In Their Own Words" couldn't be better.

Last month, the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened on the Mall in Washington. Dignitaries spoke, artifacts were unveiled, and a soundtrack played in the minds of the thousands of visitors who explored the lessons and legacy of slavery. It is a soundtrack of the Negro Spirituals.

These Spirituals were written to be a "distinctive type of sacred song," Guenther said. These songs of suffering, celebration, haunting fear and beauty are, in the words of Henry Louis Gates Jr., "the attempt of blacks to write themselves into being."

"Spirituals are snapshots," Guenther wrote. "They paint many-faceted pictures of an enslaved population in the words of slaves as they describe their housing, food, clothing, resistance and evangelization. The songs allow entry into the lives of the enslaved from the 'inside out.'"

Her book uses the music as foundation to explore the lives of slaves through the words of the enslaved people themselves as they struggled with "the vital human issues of life and death, hope and despair, slavery and freedom." Guenther used their words and experiences to bring the reader an understanding of about 40 subjects that were integral to the culture of slavery, ranging from family, economics, labor, faith, punishment, to escape and freedom – "always freedom."

"These are powerful stories," she said. "There's no other word for it. I couldn't read the slave narratives in bed at night. They haunted my sleep."

In sharing these haunting details of the lives of slaves, Guenther provided a vast array of anecdotes, stories and other materials that churches and choirs can use to provide context when they present these songs in worship and other settings.

The context, Guenther said, is essential.

"Music is the snapshot," she said. "But we need to know what's beyond the margins of the photo."

To further assist churches in using Spirituals in worship, the book provides a biblical concordance of 100 Spirituals. In this important resource, the reader can see the words to 100 songs, listed alphabetically by title, and in the column next to the lyrics, see the passages and citations from the King James Bible that inspired or informed the song.

Guenther's book is also the first to present a reverse concordance for 100 Spirituals, listing biblical citations and the songs in which they appear.

As the United States continues to struggle with issues of race, Guenther's book also illuminates the church's often troubling response to slavery and raises questions for today's readers to explore.

"The many ways Christianity was misappropriated to support the system of slavery are horrifying," Guenther wrote. "Christianity supplied the allegedly moral rationalization for slavery itself."

No matter how denominations officially "objected" to slavery, most went the way of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgia, which, in 1838, declared slavery was "not a moral evil." In the South, slaves were sometimes sold to benefit churches and their missions.

Slaves, Guenther wrote, developed two parallel versions of "church": the visible and invisible. Worshipping in secret in their "invisible church," they could sing songs of freedom and God's deliverance in the face of impossible circumstance.

That sense of deliverance still resounds in the music today, Guenther said. In her book, she quotes Arthur C. Jones: "Of course we have no way to know exactly what lies ahead in our ongoing struggle for justice, peace and meaningful human life. But whatever form our struggle takes, we can be confident that renewed hopes, continued healing and new victories will be a part of the picture. We can also be certain that the powerful sounds and teaching of the spirituals will remain with us in the air above our heads and in the secure, nurturing words of our deepest selves."

"In the music is an amazing story," Guenther said. It's one she sings, and prays, and shares with anyone who will listen.

Easterling: We come together to meet needs

From page 1



geographical locations, sports affiliations, political associations, economic status, and more.

“With these distinctions, we begin to draw lines that often declare that not only I am ‘this,’ but more importantly, I want you to know that I am not ‘that,’” she said. Even within the Christian community, she said, people draw distinctions and categories. For example, the bishop lamented that the term “evangelical” had been co-opted by a certain group of people.

“The term evangelical is not reserved for a specific group of individuals,” she said. “If you share the good news of Jesus Christ; if you love to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love, then you, too, are evangelical and don’t let nobody tell you otherwise.”

Too often within the body of Christ, she said, we draw lines than make “insiders” and “outsiders;” the religious “haves” and the religious “have nots.” This is not, she noted, the first time that these distinctions have been made.

Noting that the Apostle Paul faced similar issues of division, such as around the practice of circumcision and following Jewish law, Easterling said even then, “second class citizens” were being created.

“Paul understood this as a theological crisis,” she said. “He did not respond passively. Rather, he wrote an urgent letter offering his students a remedial class on Salvation 101.”

That lesson: Paul made it clear that the cross of Jesus Christ, not the law, formed the basis of our relationship with God, Easterling said. Paul wrote to the church in Galatia that all people were God’s children, she said. All people who had “passed through the waters of baptism and clothed themselves not with the trappings of the state, but with the righteousness of God,” were children of God, she said.



Reminding her congregation that Paul wrote, “There is no Greek or Jew, slave nor free, male or female,” the bishop again said, “You are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Because of the cross, she said, all the “ignoble identities” of the past had been destroyed and a new reality had been created, “bound together in faith, love and service.”

The bishop, preaching from the center of the altar instead of from the pulpit, said that heritage isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but when you allow “race and culture and practice to divide you, you are betraying the truth of the Gospel.”

Paul, she said, wasn’t just preaching to the ancient church; he has a word today to the church in America.

“I know we’re proud of our country,” Easterling said. “I know we want to delineate between those who are patriots and those who are not; those who were born here and

those who were not; those who speak English and those who do not. Paul says, ‘I know right now you’re fighting over who puts their hands over their hearts and who takes a knee during the national anthem, but remember, your cultural imperialism will not save you.’”

Bishop Easterling said that she wanted the BWC to know that she loves “our country.”

As the spouse of a veteran and the parent of a child in ROTC, she has never lived in a house that did not wave the American flag.

“So all y’all posting on Facebook and on Twitter and on Instagram, get it right!” she said. “Your bishop loves her country, but this is too important and we must understand: the eagle does not fly higher than the cross.”

In this new reality, the bishop said, we should not have to argue that black lives matter, or that Latino lives matter, or differently-abled lives matter, or immigrant lives matter, or that LGBTQ lives matter.



“Within Jesus Christ, we are one, we are equal, we are beloved, we are unified, we are united,” she said. “Therefore, we can, and mean it when we say, that yes, because there aren’t any lives that don’t matter, all lives matter.”

This is because we all share one common DNA, the bishop said, and that’s the DNA of Christ which makes us all brothers and sisters with each other.

“The dichotomy of stratification, or social hierarchy, is washed away in the birth canal of our baptism,” she said.

Again, she said, in this new reality, we don’t have to long for justice. Rather, she said, we become the creators of justice, compassion and peace. What we need “right now,” she said, was a movement of the baptized out into the streets and highways and byways of this nation and the world to bring a leveling of the playing field.

“We need to understand,” she said, “that at the foot of the cross, the ground is level.”

In Christ’s new creation, the bishop said, we are “created equally, called equally, baptized equally, sent equally, serving equally, ordained equally, consecrated equally,” and for everyone, “a system that’s fair.”

There is, she said, no “one dollar for the one and 70 cents for the other,” referencing the disparity of pay between men and women. “There is no two steps ahead for some and two steps behind for others. There is no house on Pennsylvania Avenue that cannot be held by a woman as well as by a man.”

The bishop charged the laity and clergy of the conference



with work to do, noting that drug problems, poverty, homeless and other social struggles don’t know the difference between inner-city and suburbia, between rural and city neighborhoods.

“We have to come together to meet people’s needs,” Easterling said. “We cannot, we should not, and we will not be a conference that does not stand together because if its knocking on one door, its knocking on all of our doors; if



it affects my daughter, and we are one in Christ Jesus, it affects your daughter; if my son is lying bleeding in the street, if we are one in Christ Jesus, it is your son lying in the street.”

If we reject the unity we gain through Jesus Christ, she said, “then we are rejecting our very salvation and we are once again becoming slaves under the law. It’s that serious, beloved.”

Easterling said that the way forward is to remember, in the words of Martin Luther, that our baptism wasn’t just a historical event, but that it is a present reality. “Not ‘I was baptized,’” she said, “but ‘I am baptized.’ We must rise every day and splash the waters of baptism on our faces and reclaim who we are and whose we are.”

During the service, several greetings were offered to the bishop, especially noting the historic occasion of her assignment. United States Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) attended, and offered his congratulations. He also presented a Senatorial Special Citation to the bishop.

Other dignitaries included Jennifer Gray, representing Maryland Governor Larry Hogan; the Rev. Teresa Fry-Brown, who brought greetings from the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Unda from Congo, also spoke and offered an invitation to Bishop Easterling to make her first official out-of-country episcopal visit to his Area.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown, a friend of Bishop Easterling and the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology; Sook Ye Kim from Eden Korean UMC sings “The Lord’s Prayer”; the Rev. Frankie Revell, senior pastor at LaVale UMC in Berkeley Springs, W.Va., leads the singing during the offertory; U.S. Senator from Maryland, Ben Cardin, presents a special citation to Bishop Easterling; Bishop Easterling preaches on “We Are One” at First UMC Hyattsville; members of the BWC clergy family stand during one of the many musical moments during the celebration.

Photos by Tony Richards Photography

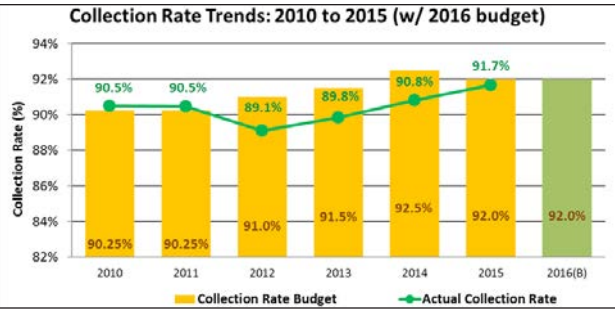
Finance: Arrearages remain a concern in 2016

From page 1

Coaching services and other resources are also available for churches who need it.

“If there is a way to restore these congregations to health, we’ll explore it,” Day said.

However, he said, if churches do not meet milestones within 3 years, “assessments” will be conducted by the district superintendent in consultation with the District Committee on Location and Buildings. A final step is



performing what is commonly called a “Paragraph 213.” That paragraph of the 2012 Book of Discipline is a process of assessing a local church and its potential.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, who was attending her first CFA meeting as bishop of the Washington Area, noted that she is open to seeking out new strategies for churches who need help in this area. “We need new avenues of outreach and evangelism,” she said.