



## **From the heart of Michael Rogers, Lay Leader**

Several years ago in college, a men's group that I co-led visited a small Anglican church next to the school. This was prior to many churches having websites, so we guessed that they started at 11:00. It turns out the start time was 10:30, and they were a full high church-style congregation complete with robes, incense, and at least four books used during a service. This is one of the magical moments that has stayed with me ever since. The priest saw us trying to back away from the door when we realized we were so late, and he stopped the service and sent members to invite us in and make us feel welcome. Throughout that service (and the next one), the families that sat around us found the right book of worship, hymnal, or prayer book and opened it for us to the right page. We were never lost, and any awkwardness soon left due to their sheer joy in sharing worship with us.

Another part I most remember from them is how beautifully they maintained the sacred traditions. It was clearly something important to them. Every service had a procession with the worship team following a cross and a lay member swinging incense. Everyone took their part seriously. What made this part of their witness so memorable was that the person they picked to lead the procession with incense was a young man from the local group home for special needs. They picked him up every Sunday, and he led them into worship. Sometimes the priest had to gently steer him in the right direction, and he frequently made small errors. The small Anglican church's understanding that the act of worship was serious business but that if we lose focus on worshipping Christ, we can miss the beauty of a latecomer and people that "don't do it r i g h t . "

I left that church with a remembrance of their open hearts and their passion for following sacred tradition with Christ's heart. This has been a long lead-in to what I have loved about building a church and about the broader GMC. Neither the local church nor the Northeastern conference has everything polished and perfect, but whether it is Lighthouse Fellowship including an eager eight-year-old in ushering during Communion or the bishop stopping voting long enough to ensure all members had a chance to pray for God's discernment, and again because a couple of members' voting devices were slow, in these actions and many others, I have seen Christians working so faithfully serving God. Doing their best to "work as if for the L O R D" also bearing with one another as small hiccups occur.

This spirit is a blessing that I hope we foster and that years from now, people will be telling stories about how Lighthouse Fellowship welcomed them into a sacred space that focused on imperfect humans worshipping a perfect God.

## Eastertide moving into Pentecost (May 19<sup>th</sup>).

Eastertime is the period of 50 days, spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. It is celebrated as a single joyful feast, called the "great Lord's Day". Each Sunday of the season is treated as a Sunday of Easter.



Eastertide greetings as we move into the wonderful month of May. The Wake-Up Call this season has been focused on growing in Union and Love with our Father who raised Jesus from the dead and gave us the Holy Spirit. When we are united with Christ, **He is in us and we are in Him!** As we grow in Christ, Satan will do all he can to fill our mind with lies and he is a formidable enemy. Sometimes this can lead us to bind ourselves with some of our resurrection have already shattered. With Christ in us and us in Christ we are "inter-twined and soul [Wake-Up Call April 25](#) With Jesus have been reconciled to God and have the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19) in order to share this amazing love with others. We need to remember, reclaim and rehearse the benefits of living in the freedom of the Spirit to encourage one another especially when u

**Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** (Romans 8:1). Shout it aloud! We all need to be reminded sometimes.

Sunday May 19, the day of Pentecost, marks the end of the Easter season and the birth of the church when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. This year we have a special pastor, Louis Bashimba of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who will be deliver a wonderful message. Last year we, along with other local congregations, supported the church in Africa with gifts enabling them to buy badly needed blood pressure monitors and glucose meters. We would love to have you all join us for our Pentecost celebration! We are at St. Leonard Firehouse each Sunday morning at 10:00.



## PENTECOST

Pentecost is one of the principal days of the Christian year, celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. The Greek word Pentecost means "fiftieth day." Pentecost is the day on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem at the first Pentecost following Christ's Ascension. With its focus on God's Spirit being poured out on believers, Pentecost is one of the most popular days for baptisms and confirmations in the Church's year.



## Friends of CareNet SOMD

**CareNet Banquet** – On April 19, 2024, two excellent speakers took the stage. What an inspiration these speakers were to the cause and effect this organization has on our community. Their address was shared with a full house.



Main points given were, our state is a Mecca for abortion. The availability of the abortion pill and the power to try to shut down any CareNet or Pregnancy Care Center are effective tools being used against us by Satan.

One of the main focuses of CareNet Pregnancy Centers of Southern Maryland is to help women explore their options when facing an unexpected pregnancy. They also support the community by providing programs in relationship education, abortion recovery and parenting skills. Each of their locations are committed to providing assistance in a caring and supportive environment. You are invited to stop and learn more about who they are and what they do. Please call to arrange a time for a visit.



**CareNet** is having a baby supply giveaway on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at both their Prince Frederick (2196 Solomons Island Road S – Suite 3) and their Lexington Park (20562 Thames Aves) locations. Join the event to get to know your local CareNet facility. There will be free diapers, wipes, baby and maternity clothes, crafts and facepainting. Should you know someone in need of any of these items, please spread the word about this event.

If God is calling you to be more involved with the life changing work of CareNet SoMD here is a way you can help. Call 301.737.4604 or click on this link to become a volunteer:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../care-net-somd-new...>

***Training is available for all you new volunteers:***



Here is another way to support CareNet. Their Annual Baby Bottle Drive. This year churches can participate with actual bottles or with virtual bottles. Please contact [LighthouseFellowshipSOMD.org](http://LighthouseFellowshipSOMD.org) if you would like a bottle. If you would prefer a [Virtual baby bottle](#) please click the link below.



You can also reach out to [hrissy@carenetsomd.org](mailto:hrissy@carenetsomd.org). The video link below explains what this campaign does.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8plfVr7DD4&t=86s>



In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May. The theme for the 2024 National Day of Prayer is Lift Up The Word, Light Up The World. "For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness. For by you I

can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. (2 Samuel 22:29-31)

The National Day of Prayer will be observed with a service at the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick from 12pm to 1pm on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A National Observance broadcast will be aired at 8pm and information about this can be found [here](#). Please consider spending some time in your own personal prayer closets and/or as a family to lift up our Nation in Prayer. You might include prayers for our government, our elected leaders, our judges, our military, our schools, our businesses, our churches, and our families. Most important is to ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers for His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.



## **The Global Methodist Church Northeast General Conference 2024**

It was a historical event for the new denomination of The Global Methodist Church, but not so new message and standards as they are holding up the traditional teachings of scriptural theology and the traditional Wesleyan teachings.

The meetings were organized for a worship style conference and to build unity among the group of members of delegates and clergy of the GMC which was very Holy and Reverent. I personally was privileged to be a witness of that worship and unity.



There was much anticipation of what the business portion was going to be presented to us. The meeting was a limited discussion on certain matters of business in the Transitional Book of Discipline. Many of us wished for more opportunities of group discussions of certain topics that are going to be brought to vote at the next higher meeting of GMC Annual Conference 9/24 which will be a final vote to solidify out of Transitional to THE Book of Discipline for the GMC Church Denomination.

There was a large group of clergy and Deacons ordained into the GMC that really brought great meaning and purpose to the Fathers business! ", and that definitely churches for good scriptural teachings. Many of those ordinands had dramatic stories as to why they had to wait for the GMC to ordain them and Thank God it was accomplished! To God be the Glory a Holy Christian family and help us build His church through the Global Methodist Church and their leadership.

*Jeri Mead, Delegate for Lighthouse Fellowship Church, Lusby, MD 4/24/2024*



Plans for the Global convening General Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, September 20 – 26, 2024, are gathering pace. Please keep this conference in your prayers from now through September. Delegates and

clergy will be flying from around the world to this conference and we pray that God be glorified in all the planning, worship business and fellowship at this conference.

# Northeast GMC Weekly Devotional

with Rev. Steven Taylor  
President Pro Tem, GMC Northeast

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds...

-Ephesians 4:22-23

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now. My wife, Stacy, and I have a new (to us) home, a new zip code, new neighborhood, new bank, new pizza place, new ministry role, and so much else

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confess that the attitude of my mind can often become anxious, overwhelmed, and downright obstinate. But my testimony continues to me that God has, is, and will keep sustaining us by the power of the Holy Spirit. I suspect that you have some things in your life that are new, as well. M  
same sustaining God that holds the universe in His hands.

Last week, we experienced a powerful move of the Holy Spirit doing something NEW in our midst. The Convening Annual Conference in Camp Hill, PA was an incredible time of worship, prayer, fellowship, inspiration, and celebration. God is doing something new in the Northeast Global Methodist Church, and we are witnessing a fresh wind blowing in our churches and ministries. May God continue to keep moving us by the Spirit. Many people commented to me that the freedom they felt, as opposed to the former way of doing things, was so refreshing and encouraging. Praise God!

The Apostle Paul, in our verse for today, is pretty clear that we are to keep being made new every day - becoming more and more like Jesus through the renewing of the attitude of our minds. M empowers us to shake off the

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voice of the Spirit. However, Paul reminds us that if we are to embrace that new

attitude of our minds, we must cast off the sin and deceitful desires that tend to want to keep us locked in our old ways of thinking. God calls us to a NEW way in Christ. When we experience change to new things, we tend to either want to go back to the way things were, or we get nervous and resistant to those changes. Paul calls the church to cast off the old ways in order to fully embrace

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Many of our 50+ ordinands wore new robes during the ordination service. They took the yoke of ministry in a new way, walking in the power of the Spirit in a renewed way. That is what each one of us, no matter whether laity or clergy, male or female, young and old, are called to receive today wherever we are serving the Lord! Put off the old way

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way in you to be faithful to the One who has called you, taught you, and equipped you to take on a new attitude! Today, live into your new attitude by giving praises to God and loving someone who God puts in your life!

~Steve



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