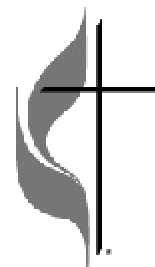


# ***ILLUMINATI***

A publication of **Severn United Methodist Church**  
**Serving** God's People, **United** as a family,  
**Members** of the community, **Committed** to Christ  
November-December 2011



## **Faith, Hope, and Love**

*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. ~  
1 Corinthians 13:13*



Let me start by thanking God for the ministry of Leah Sparks, who passed away on August 31. Leah is a beloved child of God, and she was a wonderful member of Severn United Methodist Church. I will especially remember the dedication she showed in designing the bulletins for worship and the *Illuminati* newsletter. I also thank God for Mike Cizek and the new ministries which he has taken on. In addition to being the regular liturgist in worship, Mike is now designing the worship bulletins and the newsletter.

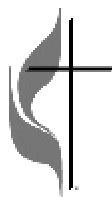
There is a lot going on in November and December, on the church calendar and in our everyday lives. Three of the biggest events on the calendar are Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. I would like to look at these events through the lens of the three things which abide, according to Paul: faith, hope, and love. Faith is the basis for giving thanks to God. Think about the ongoing debate in this country about taxes. This debate is usually about how much of a person's money should go to the government. Very few people take the time to remember that money, and the resources we use to earn it, are gifts from God. Money does not really belong to the government, and it does not really belong to the individual. Rather, it is given to us by God so we can do God's work in the world. It is only through our faith in God that we can recognize this fact. This Thanksgiving, take a few minutes to remember that the food on the table and the people around the table are gifts from God for which we should be thankful.

Hope is what we celebrate during the season of Advent. Advent starts on Sunday, November 27, and goes until Christmas Eve. During Advent, we remember the Old Testament hope for a Messiah, which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. However, we also celebrate our hope for the time when Christ will return and usher in the complete kingdom of God. When we celebrate Advent this year, remember that this is not just a time to do Christmas shopping. It is a time to hope for the completion of the kingdom of God with the same anticipation which the prophets had for the Messiah.

Love is the basis for our Christmas celebration. The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus Christ is the Word of God Incarnate. In Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus tells us that love of God and neighbor is the heart of God's Word. Jesus Christ is love incarnate. At Christmas, we do not just celebrate the birth of a baby; we celebrate the fact that, as the hymn writer says, "Love came down at Christmas." As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." Faith and hope are incredibly important; they are the appropriate response to God's love. However, love is the greatest of these, because love is truly eternal. This Christmas, remember that Jesus Christ is love, and that is the reason for our faith and hope.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Andrew



# CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

By Jean McHenry

We have been having increasing amounts of new people come to us for assistance with groceries. When our crew picked up food from the Anne Arundel Food Bank on 14 October we were surprised at the small amount of food they were able to give us. Hopefully this will change in the future, but, in the meanwhile, we need to appeal to our CAP churches to help us out. Whatever you can give will be deeply appreciated. During November we are emphasizing collection of canned vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, etc.).

We will be giving out 180 holiday baskets of food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. At the rate people are signing up, the list will soon be full.

Praying for our CAP clients is deeply appreciated. One of the ladies told me this week that she has been feeling so much better and she asked that we continue to pray for her.

God bless you for all your support.

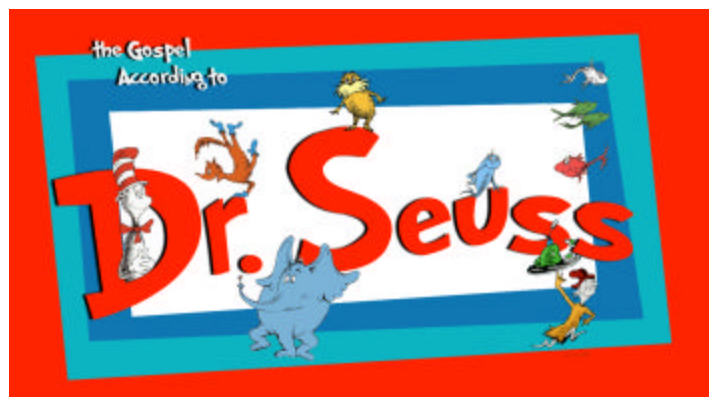
CAP Clients asking for prayers during October are:

- Delores – Cancer
- Jean – Better health
- Marsha and family, help with allergies and improved financial health
- Frank – Allergies
- Laura – Dealing with cancer, loss of job and her dad is having heart bypass surgery
- Betty – Raising someone else’s children and working many jobs to do so.
- Rachel – Needs a job
- James – Needs a job
- John – Cancer
- Patricia – Needs financial help and has physical problems
- Patty – Has ulcers
- Robert and family – Dealing with cancer, kidney disease and son’s multiple sclerosis
- Bernice – Has felt better, continue prayers (brain grown to skull).
- Kelley – Suffers from renal failure

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## The Gospel according to Dr. Seuss

The Gospel according to Dr. Seuss will resume Nov 17th. Thursdays from 7 to 8pm lead by Serina Wilson if any one wants more information they can contact Serina at [SerinaWilson77@gmail.com](mailto:SerinaWilson77@gmail.com)





## Trustees Corner

By Ken Parcher

Thanks to your generous donations, we have enough funding to replace the church roof. A contract was signed with Roy Ladd, Jr. to replace the entire roof. Work on the roof will start shortly and will be followed by repairs to the water damage in the Narthex.

## Donation to SUMC from the Leary Estate

Ed and Bernice Leary were long-time members of Severn United Methodist Church. They were both active in the choir, attended all church functions, loved camping, and were always fun to be around. Mr. Ed, who was active with the United Methodist Men, had a special interest in snakes and could always be counted on to capture snakes when neighbors called. After Mr. Ed passed away recently, Neil Leary, their younger son, was generous enough to make a substantial donation to the church in honor of his parents, Ed and Bernice Leary. Many thanks to Neil and his wife Pam for their generosity.



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## Girl Scout Community 633 Lights Way Ahead for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouts

By Tambra Walker

### GIRL SCOUTS

On Sunday, October 23, 2011, over 40 Girl Scouts were formally “invested” into the 2011-2012 Girl Scout year at a multi-level Investiture and Rededication ceremony. Six of the eleven GS community 633 troops attended the ceremony held in the SUMC Fellowship Hall. The ceremony included the girls reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Pastor Greenwood giving the invocation, and a special candle-lighting ceremony with candles that could be traced back to one used by the founder of Girls Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low, who established the Girl Scouts of America in March of 1912.

Severn UMC has been a supporter of scouting programs for many years. This year, SUMC is hosting 3 Girl Scout troops, Daisy Troop 30 (grades K-1), Brownie Troop 4239 (Grades 2-3) and Senior/Ambassador Troop 3130; sister Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Cadette Troops meet at Wesley Grove and Saint Mark United Methodist Churches. For more information, click on “Scouting Programs” on the SUMC website.

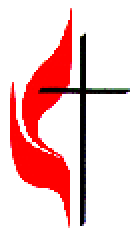


## SUMC Choir

by Myra Sparks

The Severn UMC choir rehearses every Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm. We rehearse our anthems five to six weeks in advance of performing them. If you would like to join the choir and can attend at least fifty percent of the rehearsals we would love to have you! The choir will be performing a Christmas cantata on Sunday morning, December 18 titled "He Has Come". We will also be performing the cantata that evening at the Ronald McDonald House on Lexington Street in Baltimore. Come and help us make a joyful noise!

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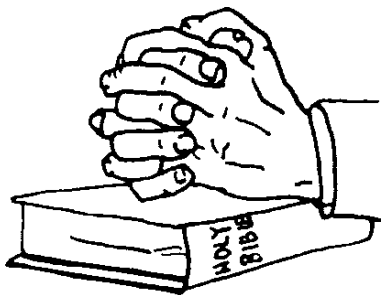


## A Note from the Editor

by Mike Cizek

You may notice that this month's *Illuminati* is considerably smaller than issues from the past few years. Leah Sparks did a tremendous amount of work for our church, and the small size of this newsletter will show you just how much she did for us. Input from any member of the congregation is most welcome. If anyone has ANY interest in contributing, please let me know. We don't need Pulitzer Prize caliber material (but won't reject it, either), any news or stories concerning our congregation, our community, or the United Methodist Church in general are welcome. ALL committee chairs are strongly encouraged to submit a report for every issue. Thanks for your input and support.

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## Thank You!

Dear Church family,

Thank you so very much for your outpouring of love and support shown to our family during Leah's illness and death. Thank you for your prayers, cards, concern and your donations to the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore in Leah's memory. A special thank you to Joan Christopher and Kathy Baker

who stayed with Leah while I was at church on Sunday mornings when Leah was too ill to attend. Leah loved her church family and loved being a part of Severn UMC.

Love,

Kelly and Myra

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# CALENDAR AND EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2011

## **6 November, Sunday**

Celebration of All Saints Remembrance at the Sunday Morning Service

## **20 November, Sunday**

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON at 11:30 am after the morning service.

Turkey, Ham, Beverages will be provided by SUMC.

Congregation members are invited to bring side dishes to share. A sign-up list will be available beginning Sunday, November 6 in the Narthex. Please choose one dish from the list. Side dishes include dressing, salads, vegetables, and desserts.

This is also **Christ the King Sunday**, the last Sunday of the Church Year.

**ADVENT** begins November 27. Dates and events are noted below.

## **27 November, Sunday 1st Sunday of Advent**

HANGING OF THE GREENS immediately following the morning service.

Lunch will be provided for those helping with our first activity of Advent.

## **4 December, 2nd Sunday of Advent**

## **11 December, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

## **17 December, Saturday.**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA (Time to be announced in Sunday bulletin.)

## **18 December, 4th Sunday of Advent**

10:00 Service, CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

CAROLING in the afternoon for those not able to attend SUMC church services.

Please let the Pastor know of someone you know would appreciate some Carolers to visit them.

## **24 December, Saturday, CHRISTMAS EVE**

7:00 pm Family Service

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

Sharing of Christmas Fellowship between services. Special food treats.

## **25 December, Sunday, CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 Service

*“I wish you Christmas”*

Rev. John Olan Price, former SUMC Pastor

