

THE SPIRE

BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

21 Linwood Avenue Bel Air, MD 21014 • 410-838-5181

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF BEL AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday Worship Services

Bel Air UMC

(21 Linwood Avenue)

Sanctuary

8:00 & 9:20 AM ~ Traditional

McComas Hall

9:20 AM ~ "Ignite" Youth Worship

11:00 AM ~ Contemporary

Mt. Carmel Chapel

(Wheel & Old Emmorton Rds)

5:00 PM ~ Traditional

Sunday Christian Learning

Bel Air UMC

(21 Linwood Avenue)

C4 Kids

9:20 AM Infants-Grade 5

11:00 Confirmation (January - May)

Adult Christian Learning

9:20 & 11:00 AM

Message from the Pastor

By the time that I arrived on the planet in 1970, the grinding toil of the civil rights movement and the women's rights movement, had already come to pass. I grew up at a time when it was generally assumed that all people, regardless of ethnicity or gender, would have the same opportunities. I was blessed to have parents who upheld these values as part of what defined us as people of faith. The road to get us to that point in our history has not always been easy, and there have been many pioneers who have gone before us who have struggled to achieve basic human dignity.

As long as I've been alive, women have served as clergy in our denomination. I was surprised to learn, however, that women have only been granted the full rite of ordination since 1956; that really wasn't that long ago. The Church universal has been so slow to embrace the God-given gift of ordained women pastors.

That's difficult for me to imagine, in light of all of the biblical examples of women who have been called by God to serve God's purposes, from Deborah, to Hannah, to Mary of Nazareth, to Mary Magdalene, to Phoebe, to Priscilla, to Lydia among many others.

Despite the fact that there is more widespread acceptance of women in ministry today, there are still pockets of resistance. Though no path to ministry is easy, I believe that women have had a much harder time reaching that same status than men. For their past, and ongoing, willingness to persevere in that struggle, I say thank you, and thanks be to God!

I'd like to celebrate the women in ministry who have served at BAUMC: Rev. Dell Hinton, Rev. Peggy Groseclose, Rev. Carol Pazdersky, Rev. Cindy Caldwell and Rev. Elizabeth Jackson. Each of them has held a special place in our hearts, and each of them has held a special place in ministry here with and among our congregation. I know that we're thankful for their gifts and service to us.

Today, we are blessed to have Rev. Deb Lampton, who, although not ordained in The United Methodist Church, is a Methodist at heart. Not only is she articulate in our theology, she also lives out a great big loving Wesleyan style of grace both in her ministry and her personal life. She serves as our Director of Children and Family Ministries. She loves to serve our kids, and she loves to watch folks grow in their faith. She's also a brilliant pianist and has a wonderful singing voice. If you haven't had the opportunity to hear her lead worship music, you're missing out.

More recently, we are blessed to have Rev. Lynn Boyd who now serves as our Associate Pastor. Pastor Lynn has a wonderful gift of relational ministry. Have you noticed how she can light up a room just by her smile? She brings a warmth and a love to our congregation that has been easily received. We have welcomed her, but through her Christian love, we also feel that she has welcomed us.

We look forward to a continued bright and positive future, as we are blessed to share some time with these strong women of faith, who are called by God to lead us, to challenge us, to inspire us, and to love us. Again, thanks be to God. Amen.

See you Sunday!
Byron

BRING-A-FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY February 5

Share the warmth and love of Jesus Christ as we celebrate it here at BAUMC!

On Bring-a-Friend Sunday, we will be handing out beautiful new BAUMC coffee mugs with our Vision statement, "Love as Jesus Loves." If you like the mugs, and would like one for yourself, we ask a simple favor: contribute \$5. That will cover the cost of two mugs: one for you, and one for us to give away. This is one fun and easy way for you to help us be a welcoming congregation.



A Fond Farewell to Linda Ey - Linda Ey resigned as our bookkeeper effective Friday, January 27th. Linda expressed a need to spend more time caring for her aging parents and an interest in pursuing new opportunities outside of bookkeeping. Linda has served our congregation faithfully for the past six years; her attention to detail and process, and her willingness to help in any way has been greatly appreciated. She has been a valued member of the BAUMC staff and will be missed. Please join us in thanking her for her service to BAUMC and wishing her luck in her future endeavors.

Employment Opportunity - Effective immediately, we will begin searching for Linda's replacement. We will soon have a job announcement and description on our website. Interested individuals may also send a resume to employment@baumc.com.



Ash Wednesday Services
March 1st at 12 Noon and 7 PM in the Sanctuary
11:30 AM in Manna House.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

— *Adapted from The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Some Good News to Celebrate!

BAUMC finished 2016 in the black with our giving approximately \$21K ahead of our expenses.

We have met all of our financial obligations for the year; we have ZERO debt.

We've paid 100% of our apportionments to the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

We gave approximately \$300K of support to missions and ministries around the community and the world. Our average pledge amount for 2017 is higher than it's ever been.

Some things to work on: One of the reasons for this success is a collective effort from everyone working extra hard to **UNDERSPEND** our budget. Frugality is a virtue, unless it means that some ministries are not reaching their full potential. Secondly, the number of pledges turned in for 2017 was lower this year. This is a simple way to help your church and a simple way to demonstrate your faithfulness to God. It's not too late if you still want to show your support! Please see Pastor Byron with any comments or questions.

February 2nd Communion Class 6:30 p.m. Room 130

We will be having a time to explore and understand why we take communion and what the phrase “intends to lead a Christian life” means. We invite parents to come with their children because participation in communion is largely determined by the parents. The United Methodist Church states: “Do they understand the full meaning of this holy sacrament? No, and neither do any of us. It is a wonderful mystery, and children can sense wonder and mystery.” Let’s have a conversation about Communion!



Save the Date! March 3rd 7:30 p.m. through March 4th 8 a.m. Indoor Campout in McComas Hall for elementary kids. A parent stays the night with their kid(s).

Tiny Tot School

“I learned a lot as a Tiny Tot!”

*** Now registering for the 2017-18 school year ***

Tiny Tot School is an outreach program of BAUMC offering preschool classes for 3- and 4-year olds.

Our 3-year-old program focuses on socialization while introducing children to the joy of learning in a classroom setting. The curriculum includes monthly themes, colors, shapes, numbers, letters, fine motor skills and community helpers, as well as Chapel Time, outdoor play, musical experiences and field trips.

Our 4-year-old curriculum concentrates on readiness skills in preparation for kindergarten. The program includes pre-reading/pre-writing skills, sight words, math concepts, music appreciation, monthly artist and author studies, science exploration, social studies lessons, Spanish, Chapel Time, outdoor play and field trips.

For more information visit our website: tinytotsbelair.com
Call or email to schedule a tour.

Phone: 410-838-6399

E-mail: tinytots@baumc.com

Youth Events

February 7, 14, 21, 28	Mid High Youth (MHY)	6:30-8pm	(Tuesdays)
February 1, 8, 15, 22	Senior High Youth (SHY)	6:30-8:30pm	(Wednesdays)
	Lesson, games and fellowship. Bring your friends!		
February 5, 12, 19	Grades 6, 7, 8	9:45-10:30 am	(Sundays)

February 26, 9:20 am, Sanctuary

Senior High will be leading the worship service

AMPED Youth will worship in Sanctuary. This is a change!

Worship Planning meeting, Sunday, February 12, TBA



Baltimore Washington Conference Youth Rock Retreat

February 3 to 5, Ocean City, Maryland

Remember to pray for our youth!



Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Events



YAM First Sunday Brunch: All young adults are invited to gather together for brunch on the 1st Sunday of each month at 11:30am. The next gathering will take place on February 5th. The place is still TBD. See you there!



YAM Small Groups: All young adults are invited to a small group Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. In February, we will meet on the 13th and 27th in the Youth Room from 6:30-8pm. We look forward to you joining us as we grow together in the Lord!



For February's fun event, the Young Adults will be going to XP Laser Tag on February 25th. Times and pricing are determined by the number of people going. Please RSVP to Chris by February 15th. We hope to see you there!

Come, learn, and be engaged. The classes will help you take the next steps in your ministry.



2017 LEADERSHIP DAY Being held at Bel Air United Methodist Church

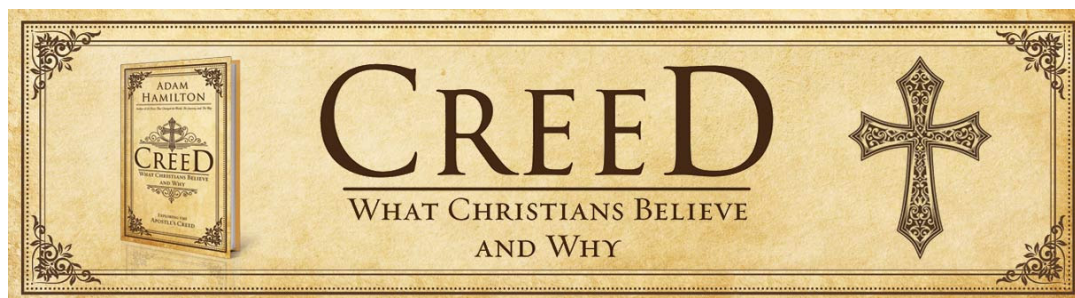
Saturday, February 11, 2017
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Training for Church Leaders, Laity, Clergy,
Young Adults, Youth

Visit <http://www.bwcumc.org/event/881525-2017-02-11-baltimore-region-leadership-day/>
for details and registration

Sunday Night at the Movies

"The Perfect Stranger" February 19, 6:30-8:30, room 201 (Youth Center) A troubled attorney one day receives a mysterious dinner invitation from a man claiming to be Jesus of Nazareth. Thinking it's a prank, she shows up, only to find herself in the middle of a whirlwind evening of debate and revelation with the most unforgettable man she would ever meet. (Based on the best-selling novel, *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger*, by David Gregory) Light refreshments and a short discussion afterwards.



Lenten Study - THE CREED, by Adam Hamilton

Tuesdays, March 7-April 11, 7-8:15PM, room 101

Adam Hamilton believes that powerful answers to many of our complicated questions are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In *Creed*, he explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe, and why it matters, which in turn leads readers to confront and examine their own core beliefs and go beyond reciting the Creed's familiar words.

Registration and books available for purchase (\$13) February 19, 26, & March 5 after worship.

We Welcome into the Community of Faith Through Baptism

Sean Levin Brannan

Son of Michael and Page Brannan

Bailee Elizabeth Schmidt

Daughter of David and Brittany Schmidt

Kellan Matthew Tracey

Son of Matthew and Heidi Tracey



Please wish a Happy Birthday to ...

02/01 - Wilson Gorrell
02/02 - Elaine Wilkinson
02/03 - Albert Dukes
02/09 - Patricia Mikkonen
02/11 - Dorothy Burns
02/12 - Johnnie Albizo

02/12 - Jane Brashears
02/20 - Ernestine Aberle
02/22 - Nancy Hanna
02/24 - Sarah Bowman
02/24 - Fletcher Ward

We are pleased to celebrate the birthdates of those who are at least 80 years young!

Please wish a Happy Anniversary to ...

Jim & Anne Brown who will celebrate their 57th anniversary on 2/27



We are pleased to celebrate anniversaries of those who have travelled more than 50 years in marriage together!

HIGHLIGHT EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2017

Wednesday, 01 February 2017

7:00 PM Food Allergy Support Group Room 202

Thursday, 02 February 2017

10:00 AM Mary Martha Circle Library

Friday, 03 February 2017

4:00 PM Youth Rock Retreat

7:00 PM CCC - Parents Night Out

Saturday, 04 February 2017

8:30 AM VIM Soup Sale - Prep McComas Kitchen

Sunday, 05 February 2017

VIM Soup Sale

Monday, 06 February 2017

11:30 AM AARP's WPS Friendship Circle Room 202

6:00 PM Russian Outreach Committee Parlor

6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 904 Room 125

7:00 PM District Boy Scout Committee Library

Tuesday, 07 February 2017

7:00 PM Covenant Library

Thursday, 09 February 2017

7:00 PM Simplify Library

Friday, 10 February 2017

7:00 AM Baltimore Region Leadership Day - Set-up

8:00 AM GAIN Meeting CR 101

Saturday, 11 February 2017

8:00 AM Baltimore Region Leadership Day

Sunday, 12 February 2017

Boy Scout Sunday

11:15 AM Confirmation Class Youth Center
Room 115, Room 116, Room 127

Monday, 13 February 2017

9:30 AM Friendship Garden Club Room 202

10:30 AM Communion @ Brightview

6:15 PM CCC Staff Meeting Room 127

7:00 PM CCC Mandatory 3 Hr Training Room 127

7:00 PM Board of Trustees Library

7:00 PM SPRC Meeting Byron's Office

Tuesday, 14 February 2017

2:00 PM Communion @ Forest Hill Health & Rehab

3:00 PM Communion @ Bel Air Health & Rehab

7:00 PM Covenant Library

10:00 AM Esther Circle Parlor

7:00 PM AA - District Meeting Room 202

Thursday, 16 February 2017

7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 777 Committee Meeting
Library

Friday, 17 February 2017

6:00 PM Set-Up for Family Food Distribution
McComas Hall

Saturday, 18 February 2017

8:00 AM United Way Stone Soup Volunteer Event
Room 202

9:00 AM Family Food Distribution McComas Hall

11:00 AM Agape House in Baltimore

2:00 PM Girl Scouts Thinking Day McComas Hall

Sunday, 19 February 2017

6:30 PM Bel Air UMC Movie Night Youth Center

6:30 PM Cub Scout 777 - Committee Meeting
Room 115

Monday, 20 February 2017

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

Tuesday, 21 February 2017

Spire Deadline

7:00 PM Covenant Library

7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting Byron's Office

Thursday, 23 February 2017

6:30 PM FCCAU Homeless Shelter Board Meeting
Room 115

Friday, 24 February 2017

7:00 PM Cub Scout 777 - Blue & Gold Set-Up
McComas Hall

Saturday, 25 February 2017

5:00 PM Cub Scout 777 - Blue & Gold McComas Hall

Sunday, 26 February 2017

11:15 AM Confirmation Class Youth Center

4:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 777 - Court of Honor /Dinner
McComas Hall

Monday, 27 February 2017

6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 904 Room 125

7:00 PM Ad Council Meeting Library

Tuesday, 28 February 2017

8:30 AM Spire Folding Team in McComas Hall

5:00 PM Pancake Supper-Benefit the Music Ministry
McComas Hall

7:00 PM Covenant Library

Church Office Hours Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:30 pm CHURCH CLOSED FEBRUARY 20, 2017

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2017

Monday

- 9:00 am Pass It On
- 9:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study (L)
- 5:00 pm Youth - Girls Bible Study (YC) 2nd & 4th Mondays
- 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 777 (M, 103) or (CR 101, 103 when McComas is not available. No meeting when schools are closed
- 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2 (130)
- 6:30 pm Young Adults Bible Study (YC) 2nd & 4th Mondays
- 7:00 pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study (115)

Tuesday

- 6:30 pm Middle High Youth (YC /McComas Hall)
- 7:00 pm 11am Worship Team Band Rehearsal (Stage)
- 7:00 pm AA / Sisters of Sobriety (127(Rm 125 on the 1st Tue))
- 7:00 pm GriefShare (115)
- 7:00 pm NAMI/National Alliance on Mental Illness (127) (1st Tue)

Wednesday

- 10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (L)
- 11:30 am Manna House Soup Kitchen (M)
- 6:15 pm Faith Under Fire Rehearsal (M-Stage)
- 6:30 pm Evening Prayer Meeting (PC)
- 6:30 pm Senior High Youth (YC)
- 6:30 pm Wesley Choir Rehearsal (130)
- 6:30 pm DivorceCare (115)
- 6:30 pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Deb's Office)
- 6:30 pm Grandparent Support Group 2nd & 4th Wednesday (202)
- 7:00 pm Venture Crew (116) 2nd & 4th Wednesday
- 7:00 pm NAMI/National Alliance on Mental Illness (127) (3rd Wed)

- 7:00 pm The Compassionate Friends - 3rd Wednesday (125)
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (AR 103)
- 7:30 pm NA/Free At Last (CR 101)

Thursday

- 10:00 am Mary Martha Circle (L) (1st Thursday)
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (P) (2nd Thursday)
- 6:30 pm TOPS Chapter 412 (AR 103)
- 6:30 pm Kingdom Affect Band Rehearsal (S)
- 6:30 pm Evening Prayer Meeting (PC)
- 7:00 pm Simplify (L)
- 7:00 pm Bible Study Fellowship (202)
- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study Fellowship (Mt Carmel Chapel)
- 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meetings (Room 114, 116, 125, 127, 130) or Cub Scout Pack Meeting (McComas Hall)
- 7:30 pm AA / Came to Believe (CR 101)

Friday

- 6:30 am Friday Morning Bible Study (202)
- 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 5299 - 1st & 3rd Fridays (127)

Sunday

- 7:30 am John Packard Men's Bible Study (115)
- 9:00 am AMPed—6th & 7th Graders (YC)
- 9:00 am Morning Fellowship (202)
- 9:20 am C4 Kids (CR 101)
- 9:20 am Walking with God Class (L)
- 10:30 am Youth Choir Rehearsal (AR 103)
- 11:00 am Faith in Community (L)
- 6:00 pm AA / Attraction Rather Than Promotion (CR 101)

FUTSAL

Sunday, February 12 - 7pm - Middle School and High School; 8pm - Adults
Sunday, February 19 - 8pm - Young Adults
McComas Hall

CR 101 - Community Room; L - Library - Room 203; YC - Youth Center - Room 201
 AR 103 - Assembly Room 103 (Choir Room)

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 2017

DivorceCare will begin on Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30pm in room 115.

DivorceCare is a structured 13-week class and support group to guide participants through the healing journey associated with recovery from separation and divorce. The only cost is \$15 for the workbook. The class is open to all members of our community experiencing separation or divorce. For more information, please see the DivorceCare web site, www.divorcecare.org, or contact Chuck Heatwole, 410-836-2947.

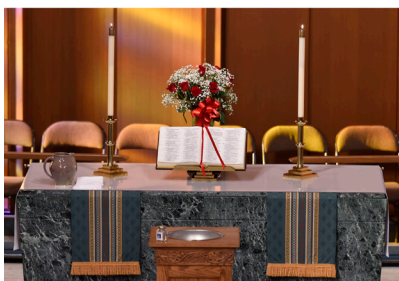


The Baltimore-Washington Conference will once again be offering college scholarships for the Fall 2017 semester. Students can apply online **January 3 – March 1, 2017**. For information and to apply, visit <http://www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/>.

Contact Cheryl Cook at ccook@bwcumc.org with questions.

GRIEF SHARE session begins TUESDAY, March 7 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Room 115. Please consider joining us.

GriefShare takes us through 13 weekly sessions and includes a workbook (\$15), video presentation and discussion time where we share one another's heartache. Christ is at the center of every class and discussion. **He** is our ultimate "burden bearer."



2017 sign up sheet for altar flowers is posted on the bulletin board outside of the Parlor. Sundays available to mark special occasions. Purchase the flowers yourself or contact Debbie Atteberry. Altar Guild can buy the flowers for \$35 and take care of arrangements and set up. Call 410-838-5181 x18 or email atteberryd@baumc.com.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 2017

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER to benefit
The Music Ministry
Tuesday, February 28 - 5 pm in McComas Hall**

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 - 11 and children age 4 and under are FREE. Tickets are available at the door and dinners are also available for carryout.



MARRIAGE WORKS OF MARYLAND

**Coming In March . . .to a McComas Hall Near You.
(tickets now available)**

On March 11, 2017 from 9AM-3:30PM BAUMC will be hosting Marriage Works of Maryland's 10th annual marriage conference. Marriage Works of Maryland is a faith-based coalition made of leaders from business, government and faith-based and civic organizations. Their purpose is to strengthen marriages and keep families together. They strive to prepare youth and singles for healthy relationships and marriage. This one day event is for singles, engaged couples, newlyweds and marriage veterans. For more information or to reserve your tickets, please visit www.marriageworksmd.org/events or call Rachel Lucas, 240-626-3274.



New Church Pictorial Directory this year! Picture taking dates beginning May 15 through May 27. We will be needing your smiles! More details closer to time.

We wish to thank everyone for the beautiful cards. Christmas and special occasion not just this year but for many past years, especially the personal words they carried inspired us and we are blessed by them. We feel privileged to be members of such a caring church. Many thanks, Love Ed & Auleen Leister

"SWEET" THANK YOU to those who provided baked goods or helped collect, load and deliver them for the Harford County Sheriff's Department Staff Appreciation. Recipients of the "baked bounty" from our church family send expressions of gratitude to everyone. It is encouraging to be recognized in this way for serving their community and they welcomed the delicious treats! Your generosity provided for the Detention Center, Sheriff's Office, Northern Precinct, Southern Precinct, Community Services Division, Parole and Probation as well as Bel Air and Abingdon Vol. Fire Departments. God bless you!

*Thank
you!*



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Non-Profit Org.

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PAID

Permit No. 21

Bel Air, MD 21014

The **e-Spire**, a weekly update of information, devotions, upcoming events and activities is distributed via e-mail. If you would like to receive the e-Spire, please send your e-mail address to wolfi@baumc.com.

CONFERENCE STAFF

Bishop - Rev. LaTrelle Miller Easterling
District Superintendent - Rev. Dr. Laura Easto

BEL AIR UMC STAFF

Lead Pastor - Rev. Byron E. Brought
Associate Pastor - Rev. L. Lynn Boyd
Director of Children & Family Ministries - Rev. Deb Lampton
Director of Student Ministries - Ashley Haugh
Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director - David Tramontana
Church Administrator - Tony Ciampaglio
Director of Young Adult Ministries - Christopher Pelfrey
Bookkeeper - TBD
Administrative/Congregational Care Asst. - Debbie Atteberry
Hospitality Coordinator - Alice Archer
aaarcher@comcast.net
Administrative and Youth Ministry Assistant/
Wedding Coordinator - Cheryl Firth
Administrative Specialist - Lisa Wong Wolf
Facilities & Maintenance Manager - Rick Schulte

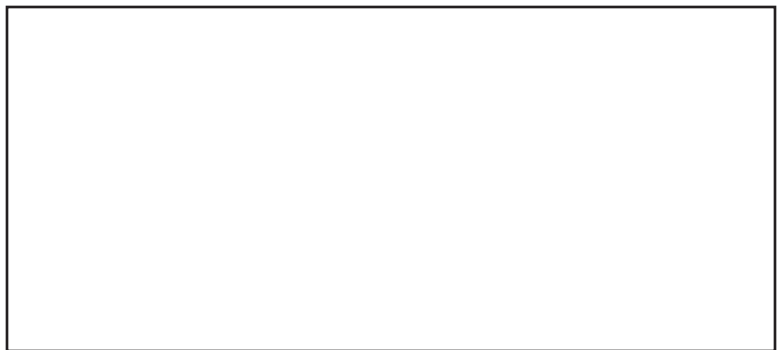
E-mail for BAUMC Staff: last name first initial @ baumc.com (ex: broughtb@baumc.com)

SUBMISSIONS FOR MARCH'S NEWSLETTER

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in **MARCH's** edition of the SPIRE? Send them to wolfi@baumc.com by noon, Tuesday, FEBRUARY 21st.

If you are receiving an electronic copy of the Spire and prefer to have one mailed to your home or if you are receiving only a hard copy and would like to see the SPIRE newsletter in color, please e-mail Lisa Wolf at wolfi@baumc.com or visit our web-site www.belairumc.org

Current addressee or



Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Soup Sale - February 5

VIM will be selling soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, between services. No pre-orders will be taken. Being offered are:

Crab	\$7.00	Chicken Corn	\$6.00
Chili	\$7.00	Vegetable Beef	\$6.00