



Our Vision

- To be a CHRIST-CENTERED church, positively impacting our neighborhood and world by helping our community replace intolerance with love and justice for all.

Our Mission

- Reaching and building up ALL people for CHRIST.

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Millian Newsletter

Volume V Issue V

May 2018

5 DO'S AND 5 DON'TS

FOR USING YOUR CHURCH BUILDING WELL *by Donna Schaper*

A physical space can be at the vital center of ministry—if you don't make it an idol. April 11, 2018

A church is both building and people, bricks and mortals. First came the attendance decline among mortals; a bricks crisis followed. Now church buildings are an endangered species. Drive through any American town and you might see a former church with weeds coming up out of the sidewalks, the door half hinged, the sign unpainted. There are 50 church buildings in Newburgh, New York, population 28,000; community organizers there estimate 2,000 people in worship on Sundays. One church in Rhode Island has a thousand pews, a famous collection of stained glass and murals, and 14 members. David Greenhaw, president of Eden Seminary in St. Louis, reports that 80 percent of the church buildings within 500 miles of Eden were built before 1960. These buildings have enormous maintenance needs—and they were built for another time and another

people.

The holy is not threatened by these changes. God will find a way to continue to touch people's lives. But between now and God's next revelation, a lot of people are going to be spiritually homeless.

The church I serve, Judson Memorial, is in Manhattan, where one church building after another has been converted into luxury housing or a high-priced restaurant. Judson is growing and thriving—in part because of the wide variety of ways our building is being used.

We took out the pews in 1969. According to congregational lore, there was less energy on Sunday mornings than on Saturday nights, when a postmodern dance group was experimenting in the meeting room. Why not give them more space? With the pews gone, we became a center for dance, theater, music, protest, and more. Our guests enhance our membership and Sunday morning participation. And we have become dependent on the income

from these events, events we see as central to our ministry. .

A space-use policy was devised a decade ago to manage our large building and obtain income for its care—while being able to continue offering free use of the building as well. Every quarter, the staff asks whether we are sticking to the policy: Are we giving away half the available time and space? Are we making money on the other half? More than a third of our million-dollar budget comes from building use. Of the many groups that don't pay, my favorite is Morning Gloryville, a Wednesday morning dance party without alcohol or drugs.

This two-point policy—maximize income for maintenance and maximize mission for ministry—is expensive. Half of our full-time staff is focused on managing the building and our tenants. Each week, 2,200 people come through our doors. Our congregation of 380 or so worships

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alongside three other congregations. The building's gym is now a theater available for rent. A dance company and school use the building on Monday nights; Tuesday nights the West Village Chorale rehearses. We also rent to movie companies and other market-rate groups as space is available. It rarely is.

Most places are not like Manhattan. Yet congregations in a wide variety of contexts have a common need: to recognize the church building problem and move into some kind of adaptive activity.

To that end, here are five dos and five don'ts, beginning with the don'ts.

1. Don't keep denying the problem. What you may imagine as unthinkable is in fact thinkable. When you move out of denial, an array of possibilities opens up for your land, your ar-

chitecture, your memories, and your hopes. You have an asset along with your deficit, an open window along with the closing door.

2. Don't rush to take the lowest offer. Giving up too soon is almost as bad a strategy as giving up too late. Un-scrupulous developers would love to hold your land long enough to get some profit out of it; local politicians often just want it back on the tax roll. Churches' notorious lack of business skills can make us sell too soon. If endowments are for rainy days and it is raining now, why not repurpose the building yourself or with a strong partner? It takes great discernment to know when it's time to give up and when you're not there yet.

3. Don't set up a binary between the building and the people. Remember the finger

game about the church with the steeple and the people? The game is right. The spiritual and the material, the communal and the physical—it's all related. They are not enemies but friends. The binary says the building is profane and the people and their worship and mission are holy. But the building and the people alike are both profane and holy. Polishing the building without doing a ministry with it is silly. But the building, if it is not idolized, can be part of the mission. The two are one.

4. Don't let the pastor off the hook. The building committee shouldn't be the only ones in charge. Refuse to hire pastors who think they are incapable of fundraising or above it. Pastors are the ones who can

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Millian Memorial United Methodist Church

Reaching and building up ALL people CHRIST!

OUR STAFF

Bishop:

Rev. Dr. LaTrelle Easterling

District Superintendent:

Rev. Gerard A. Green, Jr.

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Miguel A. Balderas

Director of Music:

Roberto Villeda

Lay Leader:

John Kelley

Preschool Director:

Margaret Jackson

Church Administrator:

Linda Canelas

Minister: All baptized members



Sunday Worship Services

10:00 a.m. in English/Spanish

12:45 p.m. en Español

Sunday School

8:30 a.m. in English - Adults

10:00a.m. in English

Wednesday Bible Studies

CONTACT US

Address:

13016 Parkland Dr.
Rockville, MD 20853

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday
9:00am to 3:00 pm

Phone: 301.946.2500

Fax: 301.946.9357

Email: millianumc@gmail.com

Web: www.millianchurch.org

lead you out. Make them preach about embodiment and incarnation. Get them to help you study the spiritual why long enough to become open to the imaginative how. Why bother to save church buildings? That is the most important question. Don't ignore it by futzing with the physical details.

5. Don't go it alone.

There are probably five other congregations nearby that are going through the same thing. Don't think of them as your competition. Together, you might be able to hire and coordinate the resources you need to make smart, future-oriented, demographically based decisions.

The dos follow from the don'ts. They emerge after you clear the deck of denial and its detailed obsessions. After denial—once we're free from the cobwebs of fear and the monkey mind of intersecting messes—we often find a way to think.

1. Remove the pews from your head, then your heart, and then your sanctuary.

When the sanctuary is static, the energy of worship is often static as well. When the worship space can change, it can look full with 20 people in it or 200. A full set of chairs is spiritually uplifting to those leading worship as well as those participating in it. And the flexibility of chairs means you can use the room for different activities all week long. The possibilities are endless with chairs; they are highly limited with pews.

2. Imagine five congregations in your building.

Muslims on Friday, Jews on Saturdays. On Sunday, legacy Christians at 11, Pentecostals at two, new immigrants at five. Why would one building not accommodate lots of different worshipers? The building was built for worship. If the specific kind of worship it was built for continues to fill people's hearts and fill the room, great. If it doesn't, why not be more inclusive? God won't be hurt. And many people will honor this approach to the divine. They will be less allergic to religion and its imperialism. They may even brag, "My church is open to all faiths."

3. Open the space to arts groups and other mission-consistent gatherings.

Encourage group sings. Let dancers rehearse and perform. Bring in musicians of all kinds and invite them to also play in worship. Open your doors to a theater company. An empty space needs partners.

4. Go green—by using your building more.

The more people use the space, the more efficient its maintenance and energy use are. People who work remotely during the week could use your Sunday school rooms—instead of coffee shops or co-working spaces—and help with the Internet bill. Sunday school parents may want to have a parents' night with child care at the church. Yoga classes can thrive in sacred space. Once your space is being used more and

bringing in some income, it's easier to prioritize investing in things like energy conservation, solar power, or even accessibility.

5. Build partnerships. The evidence is overwhelming: churches need help raising capital. We need fundraising expertise. Most denominations have offices that attend to building matters. Why not use them? Or work with other churches in your denomination or community to get the help you need. Those same politicians and developers who might want to use you can also help you. There is no reason to go it alone. There are multiple reasons to get together.

Even if you do the dos and don't do the don'ts, your church may not survive. That is not a crime. Things come and go; when they die, they make space for what's next. People, like buildings, will evolve and adapt. They will find a way to the divine—and the holy will find a habitation. It will be interesting to see where God decides to be housed. A version of this article appears in the print edition under the title "Opening up God's house."

Donna Schaper is senior minister at Judson Memorial Church in New York City and founder of Bricks and Mortals in New York City, a consortium of denominations and congregations working on zoning issues that affect churches.





OUTREACH NEWS

EASTER EGG ROLL.

THANK YOU for your support for the Easter Egg Roll. The weather was frigid—we had the egg hunt outside and all other activities in Fellowship Hall. A team of 16 adults and 20 teen volunteers from Millian and the community provided leadership for an array of child friendly hands-on activities. Young children received a new book by an anonymous donor and discards from our library. The children ended their spring vacation with lots of fun while patient parents looked on. Photos by Gene Pearson and the lists of volunteers are on display on the bulletin board in the narthex. We also thank Wheaton Woods Elementary School for distribution of the flyers.

APRIL 2ND SATURDAY.

Fifty-seven families participated in April activities. MedStar provided free blood pressure screenings. Free clothing was available for self-selection. Community Ministries shared information about nutrition, health and the Kasey Health Clinic in Rockville. Gabriella from Harmony Hills Linkages program provided translation and gave out the bags of food. Five agency's personnel provided resources and five teens received SSL hours. Donations received: MUM's – stuffed animals, macaroni and cheese and snack packs; St John's Lutheran Church –

eight bags of food; clothing. Children visiting the food pantry received a stuffed animal and a book. There were inquires for men's clothing and shoes.

I appeal to you for donations of food or funds for the 2nd Saturday. We spent over \$900 for food for April. A donation of \$15.93 will buy one bag of grocery. Food was provided for 57 families that included 132 adults, 112 children totaling 244 persons. The 2nd Saturday is a valuable resource to the community, please let's sustain it. Groceries may be placed in the cart in the narthex on Sunday or in the cart near Linda's office. Checks, noting the food pantry may be placed in offering weekly. Thank you for your cooperation.

STAY-at-HOME TEA.

Mark your calendar for May 6 for the Stay-at-Home Tea. This is an opportunity to contribute to Outreach Programs. The church's budget doesn't fund the Easter Egg Roll, 4th of July Picnic, Camp Scholarships, Africa University or the Food Pantry. Settle in your comfy chair with a good book and enjoy your tea and cookies. THANK YOU for your continued support!

FRESH BREAD and SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT. A diverse group of 10 men and

women made Irish Soda Bread in March. April 21 the group will make a cheese stuffed crusty bread in **FELLOWSHIP HALL**. There **will not** be a workshop in May.

SMART SACKS. Smart Sacks under the leadership of Nancy Gray is now packing 60 bags of food for the weekend for Wheaton Woods. The food is donated by MANNA, picked up, packed and delivered to Linkages at Wheaton Woods for distribution. They delivered 300 bags in April; a total of 1,799 bags for the 2017-2018 school year.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who are the foundation to meeting real needs in the community!

"The vocation of every man and woman is to serve other people." Leo Tolstoy

Edith C. Williams,
Outreach Chair
(301-933-3681)

**"Reaching and
building up ALL
people for
CHRIST".**

A.S.K.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Everyone is cordially invited to a special United Methodist Women session, May 7th, 10:30am in the chapel. Fifty years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a world still ravaged by racism, United Methodist Women are asking again: "Where do we go from here"? King is a widely remembered, beloved leader, but many of us still have more to learn about his faith,

work, and yet-unrealized dream. Join us to dive deeper, asking: Who inspired Dr. King's theology? How did he live out a call to life-giving interruption? What does his example of deep discipleship mean for United Methodist Women, then and now? Come join us as we engage and share answers to these questions and begin a deeper conversation about King's work and

our call toward justice. Light refreshments will be served.



FLOWERS FOR PENTECOST

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire,
and it sat upon each of them.
And they were filled with the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:3

The Worship Committee needs your help in filling the sanctuary with the traditional red color of the season! And to do that, we invite you to sponsor a red geranium for the altar on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. Plants will come in 4.5 inch pots at a cost of \$5.00 each. Please place your order form with payment in the offering plate or at the church office by Sunday, May 6, 2018.

Questions? Call the church office at (301) 946-2500.

Please Print Clearly

Sponsors _____

E-mail address or phone number _____

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Red Geraniums, Number of plants _____ at \$5.00 each, total of \$ _____

PLEASE take your plants home after the 10 a.m. service on **MAY 20, 2018!**

Thank you!

Date received _____ Verified _____



We Witness

BY OUR PRAYERS: The people listed in our Prayer Ministry appreciate your prayers. If you have additional prayer requests, please call the church office. We ask that the person to be listed has given permission for his/her name to be printed, and that the office staff is updated so that the prayer list can remain current. The person's name will remain on the list for 30 days. If additional time is needed, please call the church office. Names in italics are new additions.

DECEASED:

Jim Ostrander

Passed away April 2nd

Kyle Murray

Passed away April 17, Kathy Martin's nephew

HOSPITAL:

HOME/ RECUPERATING

Lulu TaTe

Infant recuperating from surgery and several infectious complications

Rachel Tate

Job related concerns

Bryan Greene

Health concerns

Cecilia Bailey Crawford

Recuperating from auto accident

Suzanne Kim

Battling cancer; friend of Nora Gallagher

Jean Schoen

Recovering from broken wrist

Donna Shirata

Health Concerns

Joy Wheatley

Health concerns; friend of Nora Gallagher

HOME/LONG TERM

José Abad

In Mexico, diagnosed with cancer; Pastor Miguel's personal friend

Kimberly Angell

Serious health concerns, daughter of Jean Hudgins

Kathy Blakeley

Mother of two children, life threatening illness

Deborah Bussard

Serious health problems; daughter of Earl and Beverly Pallas

Earl Pallas

Health concerns

Kelley Campbell

Chronic illness, granddaughter of Anne and Bill Matthews

Jane Cumings

Health concerns due to MS

William Daniel; Cody

Atrophy of the spinal cerebellum; great grandsons of Jean and Garry Brown

& Cameron Daniel

Health concerns

Ethel Gammon

Health concerns in Mexico; Ruth Wong's Uncle

Oscar Guzmán

Health concerns

Nancy Hinkle

Congestive heart failure; John Kelley's sister

Pamela Kelley

Serious health concerns, Carolyn Goldman's niece

Sarah King

Health concerns; at daughter's home

Catherine Leizear

Health concerns

John Lee Lillibridge

Health concerns

Bill Matthews

Health concerns, daughter of Jo Hagner

Jackie Maphis

Health concerns

Martha Nelson

Receiving cancer treatment. Granddaughter of Dora Martinez

Beverly Ochoa

Cerebral malaria, sister of Lily Boateng

Ernestine Okrah

Health concerns

Annabell Ostrander

Health concerns, Terri Sheetz' cousin

Jack Richards

Health concerns

Bob Sawyer

Health concerns

Pat Smyrk

Health concerns

Alma Spaid

Health concerns

Sybil Stathoplos

Health concerns; at Greg Staggers home

Juanita Staggers

Lillian Stough	Health Concerns
Juanita Sulmonetti	Declining health
Laurie Weaver	Serious health concerns.; Barbara Smith's friend
Gudelia Zuleta de Wong	Health concerns, mother of Ruth Wong de Balderas

HOSPICE CARE:**NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING/REHABILITATION CENTERS:**

Daniel Dorsey	In Baltimore; brother in law of Dave and Janet Snively
Norm Brautigam	Fairhaven - 7200 Third Ave. Apt M- 115 Sykesville, MD 21784
Vesta Galate	Brighton Gardens 7110 Mistrel Way #112 Columbia, Md. 21045
Mary Matlock	Shady Grove Rehab Center, daughter of Emma Beaver
Wanda Sonnenberg	Asbury Wilson Rehab Center Rm. 116
Mescal Wimberly	Alfred House 18114 Cashell Road, Room 6, Rockville, MD 20853

SERVING IN THE MILITARY OVERSEAS:**PRAYER CHAIN**

Millian Church has been blessed for many years with a prayer chain that keeps us all informed of the needs of our family.

Currently these prayer requests are being sent by email. If you do not have

email and you would like to receive the prayer requests by a telephone call, please call me at 301-509-5915 or call the church office. If I am not able to answer your call, please leave me a voice mail with

your name and phone number clearly stated.

Let's keep this tradition going strong!

Barbara Smith



A.S.K.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

FOR (date) _____

I will be: ☐ TAKING ☐ LEAVING the flowers after the service.

The Chancel Flowers are given in MEMORY HONOR

of _____

Given by: _____

Please mark payments "Chancel Flowers" and put it in the offering plate, or send it to the church office no later than the Sunday they are placed in the church. Cost is \$30.00 per vase, and is tax deductible.



MAY 2018

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
8:30am Adult Sunday School (C) 9:00am Choir (S) 10:00am Sunday School all ages 10:00am Worship in English & español (S) 12:45pm Culto 1:00pm Methodist Church [Ghanaian] (S & Rm5/7) 3:00pm Church Of God (C)	7:00pm NA [Narcotics Anonymous] (FH)	7:00pm Bolivian dance Group (FH)	10:00am Holy Communion (S) 10:30am Bible Study (C) 7:00pm Wheaton Spanish SDA Prayer Service (YR) 7:30pm AA [Alcoholics Anonymous] (Rm. 5/7)	1:00pm Smart Sack Delivery (C) 7:00pm Church of God (C)	7:00pm Millian Youth Group (SH)	8:30am Wheaton Spanish SDA Worship (S) 5:15pm Wheaton Spanish SDA Youth Ministry (S)

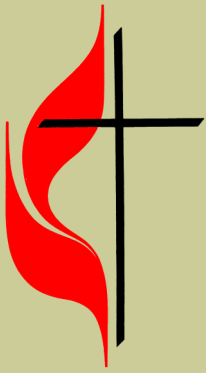
**May Birthdays**

4-May	Jim	Turner
5-May	Chuck	Thompson
6-May	Jan	Wisor
11-May	Miguel	Balderas
13-May	Pat	Smyrk
23-May	Ruth	Wong de Balderas
25-May	Sheila	Hopkins
26-May	Mickey	Wimberly
31-May	Roger	Arnold
31-May	Andrea	Sharp

A.S.K.

MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		9:00am Smart Sacks Packing (C) 6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8)		11:00am Seniors (C) 6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8) 7:00pm SDA Adventurers (FH)	6:00pm Girl Scouts (5/7)	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11:30am Stephen Ministry (YR) 4:00pm SDA Adventurers (5/7)	10:30am UMW Meeting (C) 6:00pm Cub Scouts (SH) 7:00pm Trustees Meeting (C)	6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8) 7:30pm Finance Meeting (C)		6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8)	5:30pm Girls Scouts (5/7-YR) 6:00pm Girl Scouts (FH)	9:00am UMM Breakfast (FH) 10:00am Food Pantry (Ed.B.) 12:30pm SDA Fellowship (FH)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
2:00pm MUM Food truck (Park. Lot)	6:00pm Cub Scouts (SH)	6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8)		11:00am Seniors (C) 6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8) 7:00pm SDA Adventurers (YR) 7:00pm Kaleidoscope Orchestra (FH)	6:00pm Girl Scouts (5/7-YR)	5:00pm Ghana church (FH)
PENTECOST 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	6:00pm Cub Scouts (SH) 7:00pm Admin Board Meeting (S)	11:00am Worship Team (C) 6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8)		6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8)	5:30pm Girls Scouts (5/7-YR) 6:00pm Girl Scouts (FH) 6:30pm Church of God (S,FH)	3:00pm SDA Wmm's Min. (5/7) 6:30pm Church of God (S,FH)
27	28	29	30	31		
	6:00pm Cub Scouts (SH)	9:00 am Newsletter collation(C) 6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8)		6:00pm Comm Minis-tries(N,3,5/7,8)	Key: C = Chapel Room CR = Choir Room CL = Committee Lounge N= Nursery FH = Fellowship Hall S = Sanctuary YR = Youth Room SH = Social Hall PR= Puppet Room	



MILLIAN NEWSLETTER

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NEW SEASON / ÉPOCA NUEVA

