Have you ever watched someone lose?

Remember the introduction to the old television show Wide World of Sports – “The thrill of victory – the agony of defeat?” I will always remember the video of that poor man wiping out as he skied down the hill, forever immortalized as the poster child for defeat. Losing is strangely captivating in a way. People are defined in losing moments.

Recently Jenny and I hosted two boys from Mexico in our home as part of the 2012 Cal Ripken World Series. The CRWS brings 12 and 13 year old boys from around the world to Aberdeen, MD to play baseball and, hopefully, win the world series trophy.

This year was an exercise in the “agony of defeat.” But also an exercise in resilience. It became clear early on in the series that the Mexican Team was not going to win the championship. They struggled to find their rhythm as a team and made mistake after mistake.

But they kept trying. Even down several runs they would trot out on the field with a good attitude and keep playing. Even at the end, when they were faced with playing two games in a row they continued to play hard.

I think we forget sometimes that life is not about winning. Life is about living – making the most of every opportunity we have to enjoy the life God has given us. When we fail, when we sin – we get back up – and try again. Resilience in the face of difficult circumstances and difficult battles. And we know that as we try, God stands with us. He reminds us each step of the way that His grace is enough for us even when we try and fail.

May God give you the strength to bounce back from the difficult circumstances in your life this month and may He help you as you battle against the temptation of sin and seek to live a life of love.

~PB

If you have anything you would like to put in future newsletters, please contact Stephanie Harkins at cheer@zoominternet.net or 410-836-1437
Where have you seen God?

We asked Emory UMC members where they have felt God or seen God at work!

This summer I was given the opportunity to spend a month in Haiti working with the organization Partners in Development. During this time I was able to experience and learn more about Haitian culture than I have been able to do in the past week long trips I have taken. My relationships with people in the Haitian community were strengthened and I was able to participate in some longer term projects. My main job was to teach English to basically anyone who was interested, which in turn helped with learning Haitian Creole. I was also able to witness the daily struggle that goes on for the people of Haiti. The constant sickness and the lack of food, water, shelter, jobs, and education. However, in spite of all of their hardships, their undoubted faith in God remains steadfast. I think the world that we live in is very fast paced and busy and we lose sight of what the center of everything is. The Haitian people are a testament to faith, hope, and an unrelenting belief in God. This is something we should all reflect on. Where is God in our daily lives? I want to thank the whole Emory family for their support and prayers while I was in Haiti. It was a life changing experience that will continue to guide the path that I am on in life.

Submitted by: Holly Phipps

When I was first asked to write a few words about how GOD has been present in my life, I immediately thought of my family and friends. These are blessings I give thanks for every day. I thought about seeing and feeling the presence of GOD which is there every time I walk the Ma and Pa trail on summer mornings.

But the most dramatic occurrence of GOD’s presence in my life took place over 30 years ago when my daughter, Lauren, underwent surgery to have a Harrington Rod inserted in her vertebrae to correct the curve caused by scoliosis. As you can imagine, this is major surgery, involving a three week stay in the hospital (at that time) and six more weeks in a body cast recovering at home as the vertebrae fused.

The surgery went well, but two days after the operation, Lauren attempted to get out of bed in the middle of the night, due to medication. Thanks to a vigilant roommate she didn’t get far in her wandering, but the next day she was in extreme pain; no medicine, including morphine, could help ease the pain.

As Steve and I sat helplessly by her bedside, a family friend, (and the pastor of Highland Church) Bill Netting, arrived to visit. Seeing Lauren’s distress he suggested we pray. As he asked GOD for relief from her pain and to grant her healing, a change took place—which I would not have believed had I not seen it.

Lauren became immediately calm, and slept. When she awoke sometime later, her pain was much less. The x-rays later that day showed no damage had been done from her midnight walk.

Today, over 30 years later, I thank GOD and Bill Netting, for her successful recovery and healing, and for helping me remember to call on HIM when things seem helpless.

Submitted by: Peggy Williams

If you would like to share where you have seen God recently, send an email to cheer@zoominternet.net. We would love to know of the wonderful ways that God is working in people’s lives everyday!
Save the Date:
October 2012
Oct. 28 – Fall Festival
Haiti Pot Luck
TBD – Charge Conference

Combined Worship on the Lawn!
Join us on September 16th for our annual worship service on the lawn at 10AM, followed by a church picnic after the service. This will be a combined service so that our whole church can celebrate together. Don’t miss this fantastic annual event!

Please write to Kent Caldwell, a member of Emory Church serving in Afghanistan.

Kent Caldwell
Not available online

Please keep Kent and all the troops in your prayers. Cards and packages you would like to send would be appreciated.

Submitted by: Alice Richardson
September Volunteer Schedule
9:00 Service

Greeters
2- Dick & Nancy Streett
9- Sheldon & Morgan Bair
16- Virginia Freeland & Cecelia Hamilton
23- Brenda Alexander & Sue Roberts
30- Tyler Zeigler & Nancy Crue

Ushers
2- Joe & Judy Galbreath
9- April & Brenda Alexander
16- Sue Roberts
23- Youth
30- Tyler & Toby Ziegler

**Greeters will help Ushers on sides

Acolyte
Toby Ziegler

Interested in studying the bible and discussing the word of God?

Women’s Bible Study will be resuming in September at the Giro’s home.

There will be 2 different group options:
Wednesday 7-8 pm
Monday or Thursday 10-11 am

Study considerations are: Joyce Meyer - Battlefield of the Mind, Beth Moore - To Live is Christ, Blackaby - Experiencing God, J. Baker - Principles from the Beatitudes and Beth Moore - Breaking Free.

If interested in having fellowship with other women while studying God’s Word call Deb Giro (410-983-0544 or cell 410-979-3705).

Donations Appreciated!

The Emory United Methodist Women will be collecting hand towels, wide tooth combs, nail clippers, and tooth brushes for the Church World Service health kits. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Mason Dixon:

We will continue to collect jars of jelly every Sunday due to the shortage that Mason Dixon is experiencing.
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Fall is in the air as students from Emory head back to school for another exciting year. This year three deserving students from Emory go back to college with scholarships to continue their education. They are: Matthew Tarbert, Ryan Foltz, and Zachary Bair.

Matthew is the son of Jackie and Steve Tarbert. He will be returning to Salisbury State University for his senior year. He is a business major. He is the first recipient of the Thomas and Oleta Snodgrass scholarship, given to the young person who has been exemplary in the life of the church.

Ryan is the son of Joe and Lisa Foltz. He will be returning to Win- gate University in North Carolina where he is doing well. He is a social studies education major.

Zachary is a recent graduate of Bel Air High School. He is the son of Barbara and Sheldon Bair. A talented musician who has shared his music with us over the years, he will be beginning his higher education at Harford Community College.

All three of these young people have been active in the life of Emory Church. We wish them well and we are proud to support them in their academic endeavors.

Submitted by: Peggy Williams

Attention!

Through God’s good grace and donations, our Emory trustees were recently able to put new carpet in our church sanctuary! If you haven’t had the opportunity to look at the gorgeous new carpet and clean pews, remember to marvel at God’s latest gift for EUMC. That being said, we would love to have the carpet stay as beautiful as it is now for many years to come. Please refrain from bringing any food or drink into the sanctuary at any time. All refreshments can be used in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Just Clarifying

The Removal of Church Property:

We are blessed to be able to loan certain church items to our members as a service to them. However, only certain church property can be removed (or borrowed) from the church (i.e., no white chairs or tables, no kitchen items, etc.) Prior to removing anything from the church, you must:

♦ Contact either a trustee or the pastor of the church.
♦ You must fill out the following information listed below on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex:

Name: Phone Number:
Item(s) Borrowed:
Date Borrowed: Date Returned:

We will have a complete listing of all items available to be checked out in next month’s newsletter.

Thank you!

Submitted by: Emory Trustees
There is a motivational movie titled, “Seeing Red Cars.” It encourages the viewer to focus on what they DO want instead of focusing on what they don’t. When you start looking for red cars, you see tons of red cars even though you never really noticed them before. By having a positive attitude and taking action, viewers are motivated to move in the right directions.

I think this connects to our recent focus on God Sightings. Pastor Brian has been asking us to share how we have seen God at work in our daily lives. We have started a celebration sharing along with our prayer requests during Sunday services.

Before we left for Haiti, the congregation helped to make God Sighting tubes to take with us. The colorful toilet paper tubes had bright stickers and friendly words written on them. I wondered how the kids in Haiti would respond when we asked them to look for God. Our team would model a response but almost every time the child’s response was, “I see God up in heaven.” We packed the tubes into their book bags and I hope that the kids took the time to peek through the tube and to look around them.

I know they would likely see dirt floors, hungry family members, and tarp walls of their homes but I hope they could see beyond that to focus on the smiling faces of their family, a book bag full of treasures that said that there are people in the world who thought about them, and hope. We talked a lot about the love of Jesus and I hope that they remember this and keep looking for positive, good life. There are several times when I just you are with me.” It puts a warm glow the past year, there have been times that God and put my trust in Him. He has own understandings – those words planning and preparing for this mission that we had several obstacles that would luggage there, traveling to the hotel in airport in Haiti, and finding our PID tian people. God was with us.

Haitian women. She sat next to Laura had mechanical issues and we were deplanes. She spent the time with us the airport she took all 15 of us under her wing to get through immigration, secure hand carts for luggage and helped to navigate all the helpful Haitian men in getting to our PID bus. I wish I had her contact information; I would love to send her my thanks and appreciation.

Another time that I just needed to chuckle was on our day we were to leave Haiti. PID had taken us on our bus into the city. We visited a museum, had lunch in a restaurant, and planned to stop to buy Haitian crafts and art. The traffic was terrible. (Driving in Haiti is an amazing feat of craziness at the best of times.) I had said my prayers telling God that I trusted that He would see us safely through the city and we would be on time to get to the airport. Well, some of the team began getting a bit anxious about our time and nervous. I could remember my feelings on our first trip and while I really loved the time we spent in Haiti, I was ready to leave and I certainly didn’t want to miss the plane.

I could feel that nervousness swell up in my mind and that tightness that comes from worry when I saw it. I saw a pretty clear message that God was in control and I really needed to trust in Him and lean not on my own understandings. In the midst of the craziness of cars, motorcycles, buses, tap-taps, trucks, and pedestrians was a water tanker truck and in big, bold, colorful letters was the message – TRUST IN GOD. I laughed out loud and I did just that.

So I encourage you to look for God in your daily life - trust in God – and remember that Jezi renmen ou (Jesus Loves You)

Submitted by: Jackie Chen (aka. Jackie Tarbert)
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

On behalf of the 2012 Haiti Mission team, I want to extend our appreciation for the overwhelming support from the congregation for our trip to Haiti. With your help, Emory was able to send a team of 17 people to work with 190 children and countless people in the medical clinic in the small village of Blanchard, Haiti.

This is not a small feat – we had to meet a large fundraising goal, collect school and self-care items for 200 kids, collect suitcases to transport all the supplies and materials, and prepare VBS craft materials for child of various ages to complete on the floor following directions that could be easily translated into Creole. Seventeen people made the physical trip but the congregation at large took the journey, too. We lovingly called you the “ground crew.”

You helped to make Easter candy eggs, you sold pizza, you attended the Old Biddies ice cream social, you donated items for our silent auction, you bought items from our silent action, you bought candy eggs/bon bons/nut clusters, you sent letters of encouragement, you sent money, you found suitcases on wheels, you ate at Season’s Pizza and Rita’s, you bought fabric and you sewed dresses, you told your friends about this awesome thing your church was doing, you read our blog, and you sent us on our trip with a lunch and greeted our bus with flying American flags when we returned.

Emory, you rock! It is amazing to think that our little country church has directly impacted the lives of over 400 kids in the third-world country of Haiti. We are giving to others when it could be so easy to just focus on ourselves. It was a pleasure to serve God on this trip!

Would you like to hear more about the adventures and stories of faith as experienced by the members of the Haiti Mission Team? You are invited to a Potluck luncheon on Sunday, October 28 at 12:00 noon. Plan to bring a covered dish or two to share. We are inviting our neighboring churches to join us. Following lunch, members of the Haiti team will share stories about their experiences and the way in which God has been working in their lives.

Nursery helpers needed!

To comply with the law, we need to have two unrelated adults in our nursery when we are working with children. Now that the summer is over and we are getting back into a routine, we need to restart our volunteer sign-up. Please consider giving your time to assist in the nursery during the 9:00 and/or the 11:00 services. The sign-up sheets are posted on the nursery door. Thank you!

Sunday school classes will begin on Sunday, September 16, 2012. Sunday school classes run from 10:10 – 11:00 am. We have classes for ALL ages – nursery through adult. Our children have a fun time while learning about Jesus’ love for them. Our teachers are amazing as they work to make lessons relevant and active. We hope to see tons of kids in our classes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jackie Tarbert.

We will be looking for a few Sunday School teachers for this school year. If you are interested in helping to co-teach a class, contact Pastor Brian or Jackie Tarbert.