



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...  
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

**Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List:** If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom); Hayden Harris (Gemma’s cousin), Floyd Hughes Sr., Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

**Eunice Dumas**  
1909 Sheffield Court  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**  
9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Laura Dotson**  
Autumn Lake Healthcare  
9001 Cherry Lane  
Laurel, MD 20708  
301.498.8558

**Ruth Miller**  
1206 Peachwood Ln.  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Edlin Chambers**  
14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764

**Phillip Reese**  
Patuxent River Health  
and Rehabilitation Center  
14200 Laurel Park Drive  
Laurel, MD 20707  
410.792.4717

*St. Mark’s United Methodist Church*

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707  
301.776.8885 | [stmarksfmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksfmd@gmail.com)

*Annual Women’s Day*

*“Women of God—This Is Our Time”*



*“We come together at St. Mark’s to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world.”*

*Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor*

401.379.0600 | 443.257.2710 (cell) | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)

*Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling*

*Baltimore/Washington Conference*

*Rev. Sarah Schlieckert*

*District Superintendent  
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*

*Sunday, November 21, 2021*

*Annual Women's Day*

*"Women of God—This Is Our Time"*

*Christ the King Sunday*

*Order of Service*

*Ushers: Sharon Thomas and Joseph Daniels*

*Min. Nena Hughes, Worship Leader*

**Prelude ..... Brother Henry Tindal**

**Lighting of the Candles ..... Usher**

**Gathering Song..... St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**

*"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"*

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

**Greeting/Call to Worship ..... Min. Nena Hughes**

**Leader:** I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem

**People:** **For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

**Leader:** Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek they good.

3. You can use on-line giving (Give—St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarks1md>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



# Announcements

**Pastor's Hrs.** — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

**Millicent Hrs.** — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

## Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**“A FRESH START (NOW)”** — We desire to have many members as possible active in all the various areas of Ministry.

**Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>** (3:00 p.m.) — Rev. Matthews will be the guest pastor for **Mt. Gregory UMC's 154<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. A meal will be served 1:00–2:30 p.m. The church address: 2325 Rte. #97, Cooksville, MD.

**Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — Men's Bible Study. **Session 7: Survey of Various Letters**. Zoom information/call in: [Click Here To Join Zoom Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09). Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09>; **Meeting ID:** 848 7608 7048, **Passcode:** 803201; **Phone Option** — One tap mobile: +13017158592,,84876087048#,,, \*803201# US (Washington DC)

**Wednesday Night Experience** (7:00 p.m.) — **They will not meet this week, resume Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960**

**Choir** — **No rehearsal this week, but please be at the church on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for a rehearsal before service.**

**Note from Finance:** First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)

**People:** **Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

**Leader:** Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth.

**People:** **For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

**Leader:** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

**People:** **O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, and sing praises.**

**Hymn of Praise** ..... **St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**  
***“Blessed Assurance”***

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

### ***Refrain:***

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [***Refrain***]

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.  
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [***Refrain***]

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*In Unison*)

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We

judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)

**The Invocation**.....**Min. Nena Hughes**  
**Song of Meditation**..... **St. Mark's Choir**

**The Prayer of Illumination** (*In Unison*)

Almighty and everlasting God, you are the giver of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. It is your will to restore all things to Christ, whom you have anointed priest forever and ruler of creation. Open the eyes of our hearts this morning and teach us to know the hope to which you have called us, so that we might learn to see you in the face of those in need around us. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** .....**Min. Nena Hughes**  
(*2 Samuel 23:1-7*), *Common English Bible*)

**23** These are David's last words:

This is the declaration of Jesse's son David,  
the declaration of a man raised high,  
a man anointed by the God of Jacob,  
a man favored by the strong one of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord's spirit speaks through me;  
his word is on my tongue.

<sup>3</sup> Israel's God has spoken,  
Israel's rock said to me:

"Whoever rules rightly over people,  
whoever rules in the fear of God,

<sup>4</sup> is like the light of sunrise  
on a morning with no clouds,  
like the bright gleam after the rain  
that brings grass from the ground."

<sup>5</sup> Yes, my house is this way with God!  
He has made an eternal covenant with me,  
laid out and secure in every detail.

Yes, he provides every one of my victories  
and brings my every desire to pass.

<sup>6</sup> But despicable people are like thorns,  
all of them good for nothing,

**Interim Positions:**

Metropolitan UMC, Baltimore, MD

St. Matthew UMC, Dundalk, MD

Mt. Washington-Aldersgate UMC, Baltimore, MD

Supported Pastors of John Wesley, Wesley Memorial, and Homestead when not appointed.

**Virtual Facebook Church Service and  
Open Door Worship Service:**

**Mt. Washington-Aldersgate UMC**

***Virtual Ministries include:*** Virtual Choir, Zoom Bible Study, Zoom Youth Ministry, Mary Holmes Online DVD Outreach, Filipino Prayer Meeting and Twilight for Tots and Children Bible Reading/Video Presentation (**all COVID-19 inspired**)

*"And we know that all things work together for good  
to them that love the Lord." (Romans 8:28)*

# Biography

**Rev. Vera Mitchell, Retired Elder & Pastor**  
**Mt. Washington-Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
5800 Cottonworth Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21207 (410) 323-4314

## **Native of Tallulah, Louisiana**

Blessed to have had loving parents, Rev. Eddie and Mother Mary Mitchell. I am grateful for a beautiful family including three daughters, and a great-nephew with six grandchildren, and one great-grand daughter.

## **Education:**

Graduate of Tallulah High School as the honorary first Black Female Graduate in 1967

Attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA  
Graduated University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada

Earned a BS in Education

Mathematics Major

Biology Minor

## **Years of Commitment:**

Educator of Mathematics and Science for 25 years

UMC Ministry for 22 years at retirement, plus 6 additional years

## **Wesley Theological Seminary**

### **Masters of Divinity, Urban Ministry**

Ordination of Deacon in 1991 and Elder in 1993

Attended Loyola College in Pastoral Counseling

## **Served as Pastor:**

Homestead/Strawbridge United Methodist Church

St. Mark United Methodist Church

Church of the Redeemer United Methodist Church

Pastor of West Baltimore UMC, Baltimore, MD

because they can't be carried by hand.

<sup>7</sup>No one can touch them,  
except with iron bar or the shaft of a spear.

They must be burned up with fire right on the spot!

**Scripture Reading #2** .....**Min. Nena Hughes**  
(*Revelation 1:4b-8, Common English Bible*)

<sup>4</sup>John, to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace and peace to you from the one who is and was and is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before God's throne,

<sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ—the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To the one who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,  
<sup>6</sup>who made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and always. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look, he is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. This is so. Amen. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the one who is and was and is coming, the Almighty.”

**Selection** ..... **St. Mark's Choir**

**Special Presentation** ..... **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

**Blessing of the Offering** ..... **Min. Nena Hughes**  
**Offertory**

**A Women's Empowerment Moment** ..... **Sister Ardenia Myrick**  
*The Myrick Success Group*

**Introduction of Speaker** ..... **Sister Venita Stratford**

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Min. Nena Hughes**  
(*John 18:33-37, Common English Bible*)

## **Pilate questions Jesus**

<sup>33</sup>Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> Pilate responded, “I’m not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus replied, “My kingdom doesn’t originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn’t have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn’t from here.”

<sup>37</sup> “So you are a king?” Pilate said.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice.”

### **The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (Hymnal, #71)**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

**Amen.**

**Hymn of Preparation**..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

**Inspirational Message**..... **Rev. Vera Mitchell**

*Mt. Washington-Aldersgate UMC*

## ***“Stop the Block”***

### **Sermon Text** (*Esther 4:12–17*)

<sup>12</sup> When they told Mordecai Esther’s words, <sup>13</sup> he had them respond to Esther: “Don’t think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you’ll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. <sup>14</sup> In fact, if you don’t speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family.”

<sup>15</sup> Esther sent back this word to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> “Go, gather all the Jews who are in Susa and tell them to give up eating to help me be brave. They aren’t to eat or drink anything for three whole days, and I myself will do the same, along with my female servants. Then, even though it’s against the law, I will go to the king; and if I am to die, then die I will.” <sup>17</sup> So Mordecai left where he was and did exactly what Esther had ordered him.

### **Praise and Prayer Concerns**

#### **Invitation / Altar Call**

#### **Invitation Selection**

#### **Acknowledgement of Visitors / Announcements**

#### **Benediction**