



Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church

The Point



February 2013

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Staff

Rev. Gary
Sheffield-James
Pastor

Beth Woody
Secretary
&
Editor of "The Point"

O. J. Spikes
Music Director

Jim Holford
Praise Leader

Service Schedule

9:00 AM
Praise Worship

10:00 AM
Traditional
Worship

10:00 AM
Sunday School

**Hunt's Church
Preschool**
www.huntscps.com

Friends:

Lent is just around the corner. Over the centuries, the church's understanding of lent has changed. Today, according to the church calendar, lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days (not counting Sundays) to observing the events of Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Low Saturday). Theologically, lent is a time of preparation before Easter Day. Yet lent is a word which may seem incongruent to the way the world works in these following areas of life.

First, our western way of approaching things states that knowledge comes first and then comes the practice related to that knowledge. In other words, we get our 'Degree' or 'Diploma' first and then later come the actions.

Second, we live in a society that bases its advertising emphasis on the needs of its consumers. Thus we are bombarded with daily messages that encourage us to satiate our desires.

This second area leads us to the third area – nourishment. Nourishment is not just about satisfying our physical appetites. When Jesus is tempted in the wilderness, he says, "*No one lives by bread alone.*"

Fourth, our society's norms tend to reinforce independence rather than interdependence.

In essence, the practice of lent is really about practicing disciplines that are counter-cultural. So how do we observe the season of Lent? I have constructed this acronym (**L-E-N-T**) to help us start the journey.

L – Learning

E – Emptying

N – Nourishing

T – Turning

Lent is about learning: learning about ourselves, others, and the world. As people of the Christian faith, the practice of observing lent is vitally important for it's about learning how to follow Jesus and the path Jesus shows us. The Greek word 'Disciple' literally means 'to be a pupil of a teacher.' Jesus, as a teacher, never asked his disciples to take this class first and afterwards I will determine if you are fit for service. Jesus simply said, "*Come, follow me.*"

Lent is about learning the art of emptying ourselves. I am reminded of the seeker who goes to the Buddhist priest to inquire about the path of enlightenment. The seeker sits at the table across from the priest and begins asking all of his questions. As the priest is listening, he begins pouring tea into the seeker's cup. The traveling sojourner is shocked however when the priest keeps pouring the tea even when the tea cup is completely full. The tea begins to splash onto the table. The Buddhist priest then says, "*Always remember the lesson of the overflowing tea cup. A full cup can never be filled.*"

Jesus teaches us the art of emptying ourselves. Jesus goes into the desert and there he is tempted. It is here Jesus empties himself: he empties himself of the ambition for political power, he empties himself of making economic security the pinnacle of his faith, he empties himself of the impulse to use religion as a way of manipulating others and God. In the book of Philippians, the Apostle Paul says of Jesus, *“Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God, as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant . . .”* (Philippians 2:5-7a)

Lent is about finding nourishment for the soul. Someone once said, *“The one who has no inner life becomes a slave to his or her surroundings.”* As we examine our culture, we realize that this maxim is vitally important. We are saturated with stories of violence. Many movies glorify gratuitous violence. Violent video games are created whereby the player becomes an active pursuer of violence. Whether it’s violence or some other social issue in the world, you and I are called to be nourished in something greater than ourselves so that we can see the world and each other in a different way. The late Mother Theresa once said, *“If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten we belong to one another.”*

Lent is about opening our lives to God’s nourishing grace so that we are able to turn ourselves around. Repentance is a strange word for many of us today. Most of us assume we are always traveling the right way and thus we don’t really need any course correction. We have been taught to be rugged individualists who can make it through life on our own. Yet Jesus teaches us that we are interdependent. He teaches us that we need each other and we need God.

The question that remains is this – how do we make a course correction. From a theological perspective, repentance means *‘to turn around’* or turn away from those things that separate us from God and from others. Generally speaking, the common definition of repentance is *‘to feel remorse or contrition.’* One contemporary theologian defines contrition in this tongue-and-cheek fashion: **Contrition (n.):** “The public display that follows getting caught.”

Needless to say, repentance is a process we participate in without having as the pre-requisite the act of *‘getting caught’*. Self-examination is a continual process for each one of us. Observing lent helps us to see the church in a different way. As one pastor states: *“The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, and sanctification center, where flawed people place their faith in Christ, gather to know and love him better, and learn to love others as he designed.”* I think that’s a good way to see ourselves. As pastor of Hunt’s, I invite us to observe a Holy Lent.



Grace & Peace,

Gary

		Pastor Gary will be on vacation February 14-18			1 7:30 am Men's Fellowship 8:30 pm AA	2 9:00 am Worship Com. Meeting Senior High Sub Pick-Up 10:30 am to 11:30 am
3 Communion 9:00 am Praise Service 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School Make cards 11:10 am Handbell Rehearsal 2:00 pm Pickersgill 3:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Sr. High	4 Noon Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees 8:30 AA	5 7:30 pm Praise Band	6 12:30 pm AA	7 7:30 pm Choir	8 7:30 am Men's Fellowship NO Funhunters 8:30 pm AA	9 9:00 am Women's Fellowship Breakfast 10:00 am Preschool Sponsored Winter Event
10 "Scout Sunday" 9:00 am Praise Service 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:10 am Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Sr. High	11 Noon Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:30 pm AA	12 10 am Lenten Study 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting (Agapé House) 7:30 pm Praise Band	13  12:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Service	14 7:30 pm Choir	15 7:30 am Men's Fellowship 8:30 pm AA	16 
17 Lent Sunday 1 9:00 am Praise Service 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:10 am Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Sr. High	18 Noon Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:30 pm AA	19 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting 7:30 pm Praise Band	20 12:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Lenten Dinner & 7:15 pm Service at St. John's UMC	21 7:30 pm Choir	22 7:30 am Men's Fellowship 8:30 pm AA	23 10 am to Noon Pinewood Derby Set-Up (VanMetre Hall)
24 Lent Sunday 2 9:00 am Praise Service 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:10 am Handbell Rehearsal 2 pm Pinewood Derby 6:30 pm Sr. High	25 Noon Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:30 pm AA	26 10 am Lenten Study 7:00 pm SPPRC Mtg. 7:30 pm Praise Band	27 12:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Lenten Dinner & 7:15 pm Service at Hunt's Memorial UMC	28 7:30 pm Choir		



INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the case of inclement weather, please listen to WBAL Radio AM 1090.

A decision will be made by 7:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings as to the church holding services that day.



USHERS:

During the 10 o'clock service in February: Hope Pollard
David Young

LAY READERS:



February 3
February 10
February 17
February 24

9:00 service

Kathy Davis
Jody Waters
Mary Foster
Howard Lin

10:00 service

Dan Funderburk
Melissa Regan
Rich Goodale
Alan MacEwen

Dear Hunt's Family:

On behalf of myself and my wife, I would like to thank the Hunts Family for their support during my recent heart surgery and subsequent recovery. Your prayers, thoughts, cards and meals were greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry for their special gift. Pastor Gary's visits were a great comfort to me and my entire family.

David & Suzanne Young

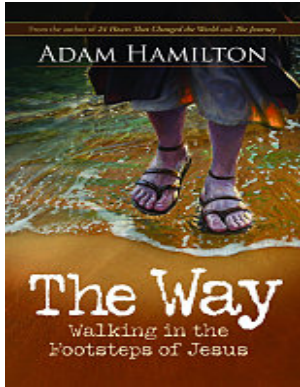


Dave and I were so fortunate to be part of organizing the pageant for the Christmas Eve Family Service. This year 40 midhigh, elementary, and preschool children participated in the worship service! Kristina Bayne again organized the costumes and everyone was so adorable. Special thanks also go to Karen Powell, Mandi Muth, Donna Sibley, and all the other people who helped! This year we felt especially sentimental as we looked at the 7 wonderful midhighs who helped lead the service and we could remember what costumes some of them had worn in the pageant as preschoolers and young elementary students. For many years, Nancy Kennedy and I have worked together planning for the Christmas Eve family service, so I know that Nancy really especially loves seeing one of our Hunt's families with a baby portray the Holy Family. Nancy wasn't able to come to the service this year, so I had to get tears in my eyes on her behalf when the beautiful family of Greg and Katie Permison and Finley and Thomas Robert came up the aisle! Midhigh Casey Kuhn played a piano prelude again this year and the Children's Choir led by OJ did a wonderful job. I think everyone had a worshipful, moving, sentimental, wonderful time. I wish I could remember Pastor Gary's exact words at the end when he asked the children to look at the manger and think about how the Christmas story is part of our lives today. We are very happy to have been part of the service.

-Lisa McMillan

LENTEN STUDY 2013

The Way – Walking in the Way of Jesus - Journey with Adam Hamilton as he takes a fascinating look at the ministry of Jesus.



Once again, Hamilton approaches his subject matter with thoughtfulness and wisdom in this third volume of his study series on the life of Christ – just as he did with Jesus' crucifixion in 24 Hours That Changed the World and Jesus' birth in The Journey.

Using historical information, archaeological data, and signature stores of faith, Hamilton follows the footsteps of Jesus, examining the people he loved, the healing he brought, the parables he taught, and the enemies he made.

Tuesday – February 12, 2013	Week 1 - "Baptism and Temptation"
Tuesday – February 26, 2013	Week 2 - "The Healing Ministry"
Tuesday – March 5, 2013	Week 3 - "Proclaiming the Kingdom"
Tuesday – March 12, 2013	Week 4 - "Calming the Storm"
Tuesday – March 19, 2013	Week 5 – "Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor"
Tuesday – March 26, 2013	Week 6 – "The Final Week"

The cost for the book is \$12.00. The devotional book is \$6.30. If you are interested in participating in the study, please place your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board located in the hallway leading to VanMetre Hall. The class will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.



Thank You



Please join me in thanking Wilma Lippy, Susan Schubert, and Robert Sparks for completing their term on the Trustees committee, which ended in December. While I don't have any names, thank everyone who ended their term on any of the other committees. I also want to welcome Rusty Erdman and Susan Meyers coming on the Trustees in January.

--- Ken Parrish ---

Dear Members and Friends of Hunt's church,

Laurie and I thank you for your generous gift at Christmas time. As pastor of Hunt's, I am privileged to serve a congregation which exemplifies the spirit of giving every day of the year. I know that we can make 2013 an even better year to engage in Christ's mission to the community and world.

With appreciation,
Gary



To Hunt's Congregation:

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the wonderful Christmas gift. It was greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Shawn Cook & Family



Hunt's Church Family,

Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift. I appreciate your kindness.

In Christian Love,
Beth Woody



Thanks so much to everyone at Hunt's for your generous Christmas gift.
It is a great blessing to be a part of Hunt's family. - *Jim Holford*



Trustees Activity

Our first meeting in January was largely spent discussing the projects currently under way. Those projects include the Agapé basement renovation, scheduled work on the Agapé chimney and gutters on part of the church building (the more expensive gutter project will be later this spring), and the seemingly never-ending project of the new handicap door installed on VanMetre Hall. I keep telling myself that the long term benefits of having this door will outweigh the short term difficulty of getting it fully operational. At the time of this writing, the door has been repaired and is operating as expected. We are also happy to cross off recently completed projects from our list: new outside lighting, replacement of a concrete slab outside VanMetre Hall, other masonry repairs on both the church and Agapé, new doors with side windows on the nursery and 2's classroom, and 2 new exterior doors on the church building.

Turning toward the future, the Church Council approved the 2013 Operating budget at January's meeting. This budget has almost an 8% increase over 2012 but only a 6% increase over the 2012 actual income. In other words, Hunt's congregation outperformed the budget in 2012 - Thank you very much. The Trustees can account for a large portion of the increase of the expenses budgeted in two areas. The first is the large capital projects list we completed last year. That cost well above our capital funds balance, so we needed to borrow money. Not surprisingly, we had been experiencing mixed returns on our market investments, so we decided to borrow \$55,000 from ourselves and pay the cash back with interest over 7 years. Consider this one of my few capital campaign pleas: Anyone wishing to designate an extra contribution to the loan principle will be appreciated and also shorten the loan term. The second budget impact we requested is the conversion of our cleaning contractor to a 3/4 time custodial staff position. Neither of these additions was an easy decision, but this one proved more difficult. After many discussions at Trustees, PPRC, and Finance committee meetings and the Council meeting, we ultimately believe this change will allow us to be more responsive to many maintenance tasks by having someone onsite with more regular hours throughout the year. We also recognize that we are asking a lot from the congregation with these changes. With a little faith, we'll make it.

--- Ken Parrish ---



(Permission to use this photograph in this newsletter was given by Ashley Dietrich)

Baptism of Elsie Dianna Dietrich
on January 8, 2013

Parents: Stephen & Ashley (Forester) Dietrich

Committees

A new member of the Finance committee moved to this area and joined Hunt's last year. We spent some time at the January Finance meeting discussing the attraction to new families and some insight on what we do and why. A comment made during our discussion was of the many different ways people give, all of it is in the glory of God. The spectrum of the gifts we share includes service hours, money, friendliness, wisdom, devotion, visitation, and many other attributes often unconsidered. I have been on several committees over the years, and much like pledging a financial gift, committing to a committee term strikes fear in a lot of people. What if I can't fulfill the term? What do I know about ____? What can I contribute? What if I don't have the time? What if...? We all have these questions, and unless we take the first step, we'll never know the answer. Someone who just ended their term on Trustees believed that since they know very little about fixing things, they couldn't contribute value to the committee. What they offered was simply a different perspective, an opinion from a congregation member, and a helping hand on some projects. What they brought to the table was as invaluable as the skills brought by someone else. There is a committee whose job is to recruit people to serve on the church committees. They had a tough job last fall, and many committees still have vacancies. I don't know if anyone's ever suggested this, but try attending a committee meeting just to see what's going on. Other than the Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC), all committees have an open invitation. Most meetings' dates and times are in the Sunday bulletin, and the meetings are typically either in the Adult Education room or Agapé. No commitment or specialization necessary, just an hour or so of your time. Try a couple different committees so by next fall you can officially join one.

--- Ken Parrish ---

HUNT'S MISSIONS

If anyone has an idea or would like more information on any project, please contact Melissa Regan at melissa.regan2@gmail.com.



Got Talent? The missions committee is hoping to hold a Hunt's Talent Show to raise money for missions. If you have a talent you would enjoy sharing individually or in an ensemble in May, please let Melissa Regan know RIGHT NOW so planning can begin.

Any talent would be considered – the usual as well as the unusual.



December/January Report– **THANK YOU** to the congregation for your support and donations:

- **\$1295 for the Advent Special Offering! This offering supports both the summer Sr. High Youth Group mission to repair homes in Western Maryland during Camp Hope and the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp during which homes are repaired throughout Baltimore County.**
- **\$495 for Child Fund International! This money helps Hunt's support five children abroad.**
- **About 24 dozen cookies for the Earl's Place Resolution Run! Earl's Place, in Baltimore City, is a home for men recovering from substance abuse.**
- **\$250 to date for The Wesley! This is a United Methodist organization that currently helps support eight residents at Springwell. Some history provided by Gordon Fronk:
The Wesley was founded in 1867 by Dr. George C. M. Roberts and 24 Methodist Church ladies as a home for women who had become widowed by the casualties of the Civil War. In the 1930's, The Wesley moved to the campus at 2211 West Rogers Avenue in Mt. Washington MD, where it continued to serve the elderly who need some assistance in the activities of daily living.**

In April 2008, the real property and substantially all the operating assets of The Wesley were sold and transferred to Age Wave Partners LLC, a for-profit limited liability company, which operates under the name of "Springwell Assisted Living Residence." However, The Wesley is continuing to fulfill its mission to the eight remaining residents who had entered The Wesley under the premise of life time care by paying for their costs of care out of contributions, gifts, bequests and income from the Milton Roberts Trust. The Wesley has been extraordinarily blessed to have received both great and small bequests and gifts from churches of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church and from individuals.



February Missions –

- 1) The Lent special offering, as with the Advent offering, goes to the Baltimore Christian Workcamp and Camp Hope, both important hands-on missions that Hunt's participates in.**
- 2) Bring in all of those box tops you have saved! They will be counted and taken in the next few weeks to the Board of Child Care.**

3) Would volunteering at the Baer School be something you might consider? The Baer School is a school for disabled children in the Mondawmin Community of Baltimore City. You can learn more about it and what their needs are when a group from Hunt's goes down for a 45-minute introduction and tour. No future commitment is required. If you are interested, please let Melissa Regan or Jim Foster (410-296-2355, jfoster57@gmail.com) know. A group will be going down on Thursday, Feb. 7 leaving Hunt's at 1:30 p.m and returning by 3:30 p.m.



Some of our Ongoing Missions



Angel Readers - a group of volunteers continues to read to and help mentor children at the Charles Carroll Barrister Elementary school in Baltimore City. For more information contact Ellen Thompson.

Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) (ecumenical program supported by 48 churches and other organizations, based at Calvary Baptist in Towson, providing food and emergency assistance to the needy in our community) – Contact Pat Barkdoll at 443-275-1865 for more information or to volunteer.

Board of Child Care (assisting disadvantaged and needy children in residential settings and other programs) – For more information, contact Mary Ellen Lippy. **The annual cookie drive will be in March; details will be in the March Point.**

Casserole Ministry – Currently, fourteen members of the congregation are signed up to cook casseroles monthly according to a set recipe and freeze them, and they are delivered, along with those cooked by other area congregations, to an HIV-AIDS outpatient treatment center, a charter elementary school in an impoverished area of Baltimore, and a women's shelter. Nine casseroles were contributed by Hunt's members in January! If you would like more information, or to be added to the list of cooks, please contact Nell Kirby at Nell21204@gmail.com.

Child Fund International (assisting the schooling and living conditions of needy children throughout the world. Hunt's now sponsors five children.) – **Some news: One of our sponsored children, Wandera Emmanuel, who had been our sixth child, has graduated from the CFI program as he is now 24 years old. According to the report we were sent, "While on program, Emmanuel and family members benefited from 3 female goats, trainings on animal rearing, child protection, savings, how to generate and manage income generating activities, safe water access, and received improved bean and maize seeds for planting and therefore had good yields and adequate food for the household throughout that were instrumental in improving the nutritional status of the child, supporting his other siblings in Education, general improvement in the life of the family thus putting a smile in all faces of the family members."**

It sounds like he benefited a lot from our support. This letter will be put up on the bulletin board where you can also see new letters from Mary, Joel, and Patipon (and a cute drawing from Patipon)! Contact Melissa Regan for more information.

Cru (formerly Campus Crusade) - (Jeff and Lisa Highfield, on-campus missionaries at Virginia Tech) -- See their monthly report on the Missions bulletin board.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Members of the congregation meet to knit and crochet prayer shawls and blankets to present to members and friends of the congregation. **To date, 120 prayer shawls have been given away.** If anyone knows of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please let Beth Woody know. New knitters are always welcome. Contact Lucy Otto for more information at 410-828-5310.



A goal of the Hunt's Missions Committee is to increase communication and participation among area churches in shared missions projects. Here are two opportunities from Timonium UMC for you to consider:

1. There is a need for people to serve as "Kids in Safety Seats" (KISS) coordinators. It is a state program to provide car seats to families with limited economic means. A member of our (Timonium) congregation did it for several years, but he has decided to step down. The need is still there, though, as families come to Timonium from all over the county. Here is a website with additional information about the program:

<http://fha.dhmdh.maryland.gov/ohpetup/kiss/SitePages/Home.aspx>

2. Members of our (Timonium) church will be participating in a VIM trip to the Dominican Republic from July 27 to Aug. 4, and there is room for 7 more volunteers to go. They chose these dates to encourage college students to participate. While all willing volunteers are welcome, it would be great if medical professionals could go.

If anyone is interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Melissa Regan at 410-823-3350 or melissa.regan2@gmail.com, and she will put you in touch with the coordinators.

EMPTY BOWLS

- **Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013**
- **Location: Timonium Fairgrounds**

Be a part of one of the fastest growing events in Baltimore that is fun for the whole family!



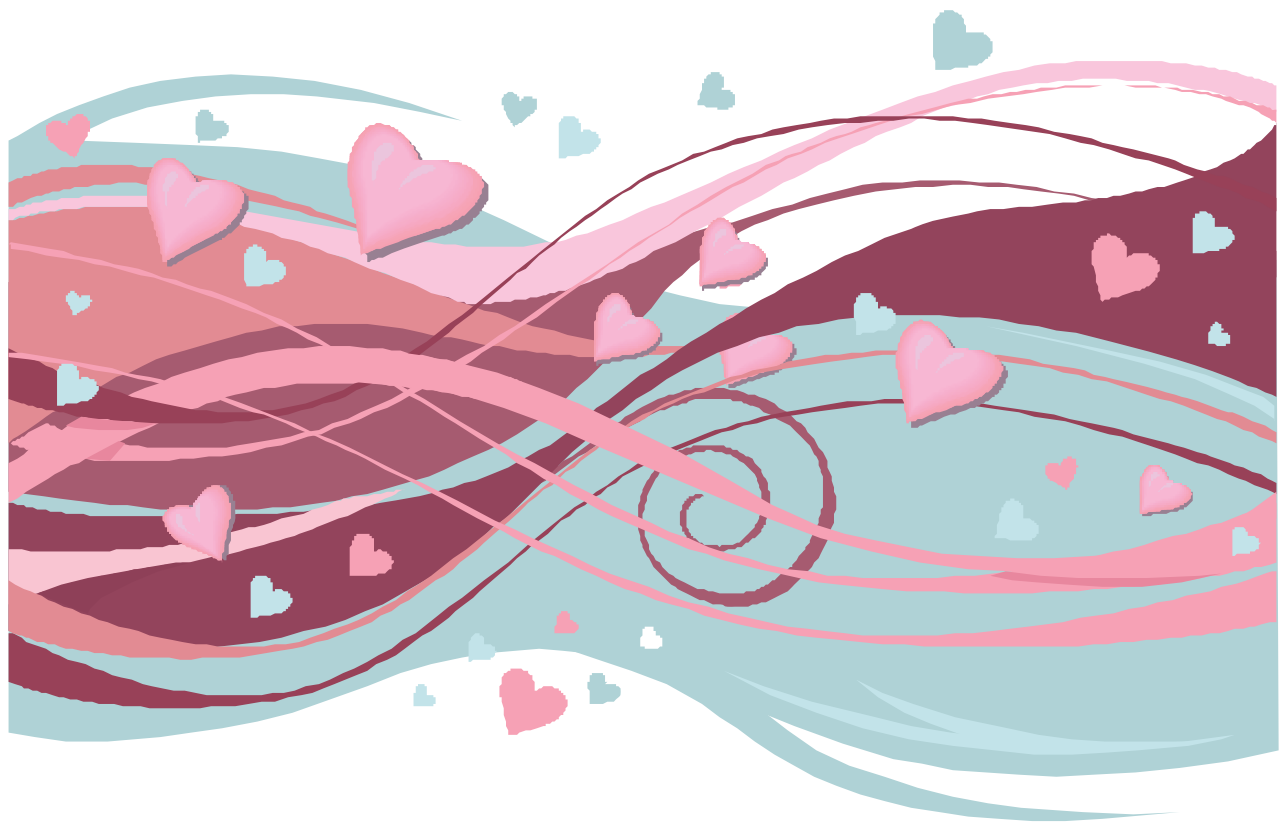
- ❖ **Soups from Baltimore's top restaurants**
- ❖ **Hundreds of handcrafted ceramic bowls**
- ❖ **Huge array of silent auction items**
- ❖ **Live music and entertainment**
- ❖ **Fun children's activities**



Lunch seatings from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. or dinner seatings from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per person (children 5 and under are free).
5 tickers for \$85 10 tickets for \$160

Call 410-662-0500, ext. 201 to order tickets



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*Address Service
Requested*