

Contact

North Bethesda
United Methodist Church

Fall 2022
Volume 51 Issue 3

For everything there is a season...

We fed the hungry



We attended to
social justice



We are:

We taught the young





Steeple Drawing Found

Ardoth Hassler rescued an original pen-and-ink drawing of our steeple from a box on the floor last summer. The drawing is by Lillianna Beck, who also designed our beautiful stained-glass window installed behind the altar in the sanctuary. The art was professionally reframed and presented to the Trustees, who are determining its placement in the church.



Save the Date!
NBUMC Charge Conference
November 2, 2022

**Deadline for Next Issue:
September 23, 2022**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up to provide Altar Flowers in the "Worship Participation" [Worksheet](#)-the same place you sign up to be liturgist, usher and/or greeter. You have three options for altar flowers. You may:

- order flowers from our florist. To do so, please contact Nancy Kane. Please specify the amount (minimum \$45), shape (round or one-sided), and the desired flowers (seasonal arrangement is fine.) Please send payment to the Church Office-via check or online from our web page. In general, orders are due on Monday.
- provide your own flowers from your garden or that you purchase
- use one of two beautiful arrangements of artificial flowers that NBUMC has. If you want to use one of them, please make a donation of any amount.



Please email your dedication ("in honor of", "in memory of" or for a special occasion) to the church office no later than Wednesday morning for the following Sunday.

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

10100 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda MD 20814
Phone: (301) 530-4342

E-mail: office at northbethesdaumc.com

Website: www.NorthBethesdaumc.org

Office Manager: Chris Lee

Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday

8:30AM- 3:00PM

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cell: 202-618-1078

Minister of Visitation: Linda Thompson

Music Director: Tony Ashur

Coordinator of Education: Renee Newman

Contact Newsletter Editors: Ardoth Hassler-Short,
Carol Malmi

Contact Newsletter Publisher: Chris Lee

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA UPDATE

It's hard to find homes for 80 poinsettias after Christmas! The Altar Guild plans to decorate the altar and not purchase so many poinsettias this year. Memorial contributions may still be made and will be recognized.



WORSHIP THEMES: A NOTE FROM REV. KARA

I don't know about you, but I am feeling a little harried this August; I just can't seem to keep my feet under me. Between relentless news headlines, Covid setbacks and case spikes, travel, work, family, and community obligations, this summer hasn't felt particularly rejuvenating. I'm looking toward the fall already wincing a little: Please, September, go easy on us! Keeping up even simple routines—like, um, laundry—has been challenging, and my spiritual practices haven't fared much better. And I'm picking up from the folks around me that I'm not alone in this.

The start of the new school and church program year is one of those “New Year” moments that invites us to take a breath and begin again, with a bit of intentionality. I think that most of us—whether our lives are touched by a school calendar or not—could benefit from this invitation as summer winds down and we look toward the fall.

Our September worship series (graciously provided by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the UMC) is called “Reset.” The series calls us to “hit the reset button” in our lives and live into the new beginnings that God makes available to us. Let's pause together at this threshold and step forward with a clearer sense of ourselves, our values, our purpose, and our direction.

October 2nd will be a turning point in our fall worship as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and begin a month-long focus on generosity. As you may remember, our Finance Committee voted to change our church's budget year to a January-December calendar. This means that we'll be basing our 2023 budget on pledges that come in during our fall stewardship season. Throughout the month of October, our worship theme will be “All Hands on Deck,” as we read some of the best New Testament boat stories and consider how generous giving is part of faithful discipleship. I'm very excited for this theme! Be on the lookout for ways you can participate in worship in the coming months!

September & October Worship Themes/Scriptures

September 11: Soul Reset - Psalm 23, Luke 3:21-23

Themes: Resetting your soul begins with remembering who you are in relation to God. You are beloved. You are provided for, welcomed, shepherded.

September 18: Reset Purpose - Mark 1:32-39

Themes: Spending time with God enables us to start our year with intention. Centered living comes from understanding God's purpose in this season.

September 25: Reset Values - Galatians 5:24-6:10

Themes: What does it mean to live by God's Spirit and not our own, to live according to God's values and not those of the world?

October 2: World Communion Sunday, Reset Direction/Stewardship 1 - Let Go - Luke 5:1-11

Themes: Whether we've been in the church for a long time or are exploring the faith, Jesus sometimes calls us to move in a new direction, even when we think we are already heading in the right direction.

October 9: Stewardship 2: Show Up - Luke 8:22-25. Jesus napping in the boat, then calming the waters.

Themes: It's a hard, tumultuous time to be in a boat. How do we carry on? How do we rely on God? “Where is your faith?”

October 16: Stewardship 3: Tend - Mark 4:1-9. Jesus teaching the crowds from the boat.

Theme: The church gives us a place from which to minister.

October 23: Stewardship 4: Trust - Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus walking on water.

Theme: We learn to trust and to give sacrificially as part of that trust.

October 30: Stewardship 5/Pledge Sunday: Launch - John 21:1-17. Jesus and Peter post-resurrection.

Theme: We show love by giving and feeding. We respond to Jesus' abundance with generosity. We look ahead to the people we are asked to feed/nurture in the coming year.



Our People

Hail and Farewell to Tony Ashur

Tony Ashur, Director of Music, is leaving NBUMC. We will celebrate Tony in worship August 28th; there will be a reception following the service.



A note from Tony...

For many years I passed NBUMC on my way to and from work at Georgetown Prep. One thing I always noticed was the sayings on the church sign on Old Georgetown Road. In 2006, I applied for the position of music director, accepting it on a “temporary” basis. That temporary basis turned into 16 years of wonderful services, memories and friends. My decision to leave came after a lot of thought and prayer. I have been playing for church services since I was 13 years old. I have worked for many different Christian denominations. The longest church I have worked at is NBUMC. The most friends I have made have been at NBUMC. The most joy I have received from my work with church communities has been from NBUMC.

If I were to recount every memory from my time here, it would take up this entire newsletter. For 16 years I have celebrated with you, mourned with you, laughed with you and cried with you. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” My season at NBUMC has come to an end. I will forever be grateful for your friendship and support. I will never forget who you have been for me, for my wife and for my family. If I were to add one saying to that sign on Old Georgetown Road, I would write; Faith, Friends, Forever!

With love and gratitude, Tony

With grateful thanks...

Tony, your NBUMC family is so grateful for your past 16 years of dedicated service to our church. We have been blessed by your leadership of our choir and with the inspiration of your music. Your music has lifted us up and consoled us in times of need and sorrow, and celebrated our elation in times of joy, all while helping us experience the glory of God.

We wish you and your family much happiness and health, and so appreciate all your dedicated years to our church and its members. We are happy that you now can devote more time to your chosen pursuits and family in this next season of your life. - Christena Johnston-Pulliam, Chair, SPRC

Small Group Bible Study

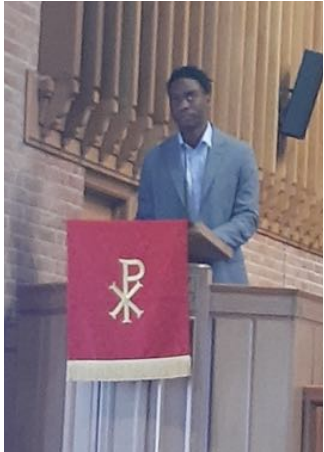
In conjunction with our September Reset worship series, we'll be offering two small group Bible studies that will go deeper into the texts we're reading in worship. One group will meet in person after Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings (11:15-12:15). If you prefer to join us on Zoom, we'll have a Monday morning group meeting at 10am. Please let Rev. Kara know if you'd like to participate in either group so we can plan accordingly.

Bible Distribution

It is traditional in many churches to present elementary-aged students (usually in the third grade) with a new Bible, as a bit of encouragement for them to explore the stories and lessons of Scripture with their own growing minds and curiosity. This year, because it has been quite a few years since we've been able to do this, we are presenting Bibles to all students entering grades 3 through 6. We will present the Bibles during worship on the first Sunday of the fall program year, September 11th.

Our People

Congratulations, Tendai Ball



Tendai graduated from St. Albans School in June. He is heading to the University of Pennsylvania to study bioengineering in the fall. As is NBUMC's tradition, a graduating senior delivers the sermon on Youth Sunday. Tendai's **sermon**, based on the Book of Job, was heartfelt and very moving.

He integrated his own message beautifully with the text. Congratulations, Tendai! Go with all our best wishes.

A Call to Ministry



Nydiaris Hernandez-Santos, former member and alto extraordinaire, has completed her seminary studies in her native Puerto Rico. She was interning at NIH when she was with us. She went on to complete a PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and a Post-Doc at Wisconsin. Then, she got the call... God Speed, Nydiaris!

Welcome, Sessey!



Please welcome and introduce yourself to Sessey Bermudez of Housekeeping Authority, who replaces Abel. She has worked with the Housekeeping Authority for many years and is happy to come on board at NBUMC. She will be working in the evenings. Please give her a warm NBUMC welcome when you see her!

Late Breaking News as we go to press! The Ashur family welcomed Aurelia Hope, born August 12th to their older son, Nick, and daughter-in-law, Molly!

Celebrating Jennifer!

Long-time member and friend, Jennifer Fellows and her husband, Spencer, have relocated to Florida to be near family. A accomplished pianist and piano teacher, Jennifer graced NBUMC with piano and later vocal music for many years. As Jennifer's ability to play the piano declined, she turned to writing poetry. Two of her poems are included on page 15.



Kumbi and Sy Kasambira celebrated 50 years of marriage August 12, 2022.



Lukas Chandler, above, with his parents, finally got to participate in a graduation ceremony this May after completing his MA at Georgetown U in 2020.



Ana-Clara (nee Caldwell) and Andrew Ashur (left) at their April wedding. Andrew is the younger son of Tony and Brigid Ashur.

Greetings from Rev. Jeanne Klauda



Pastor Jeanne with Nancy Kane (L) and Flora Milans.

Simplified Accountability Structure

Exploration

Our Lay Leadership Committee is tasked with noticing, naming, developing, and recruiting leaders to serve on all of the committees of the church. At the end of 2021/beginning of 2022, the members of our committee read a book and watched webinars put on by the BW Conference about a new way to structure leadership, called the Simplified Accountability Structure, or the Unified/One Board Model. We have been in conversation about this as a committee, and we brought the idea to the Church Council in August for their blessing to move forward with congregational conversations about the potential change.

In a unified board model, a single board made up of 9-13 people replaces the traditional administrative committee structure of Trustees, Finance, SPRC, and Church Council. All of the other committees (like Arts, Service & Outreach, etc.) remain in place and continue to fulfill their ministries with support from the board. The board meets monthly and has an annual planning retreat. Their tasks are to articulate goals that connect with the mission/vision of the church, and to care for the resources (building, staff, money) so that the people serving on the other committees/ministry teams are empowered to achieve the goals and further the mission.

The reasons we're considering this are many and varied, but to summarize the main ones:

- We're hoping that leaders in a single governing body can do discernment work together to articulate a vision and help guide NBUMC into this next post-pandemic season. Together as a church, we need to get clear on our mission, and to hone in on a vision that excites and draws people in. The unified board model is designed to make this a priority.
- A unified board model helps to have better integration between finance, trustees, and SPRC, reminding us that we're all on the same team.
- A unified board model helps with leadership burnout by requiring people to attend fewer meetings, and facilitating better delegation of ministry tasks to teams and committees outside the board.
- This new simplified structure can help us move more nimbly as a church. (i.e. we don't need to have three separate meetings between Finance, Trustees, and Church Council to decide about a building issue; the single board can take up the issue in one meeting.)

Members of the Lay Leadership Committee will be presenting the ideas more fully in congregational meetings, both in person and on Zoom, over the next several weeks. We will also be in prayer and conversation about people whose gifts and passions might be a good fit for service on the board, should this change be approved. If you are interested in learning more about potentially serving on the board, please don't be shy! Talk with Rev. Kara or any member of the Lay Leadership Committee. A vote to adopt this new structure wouldn't happen until our Church Conference, scheduled for November 2, and we will only move forward if there is consensus that the congregation is amenable to the idea.

- Rev. Kara



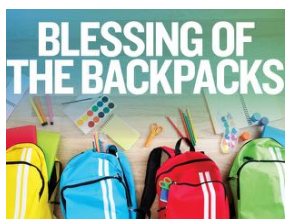
New Members

It's time to launch another New Members class for those who are interested in learning more about and potentially becoming a member of NBUMC! We'll plan to meet four times on a to-be-determined schedule of days that works for everyone who would like to join the class, beginning mid-September. If you have connected with our church in recent months (or have been around for awhile but never officially joined!) and would like to be included in planning for the class, please contact Rev. Kara.

RUMMAGE SALE Saturday, November 5th

Because of Covid, NBUMC has not held its Spring Rummage Sale since 2019. If the virus is at an acceptable level, with careful planning, we hope to once again host the Rummage Sale as it is the biggest fund-raiser for the Service and Outreach Committee (SOC). It is also a wonderful place for NBUMC members to work together and get to know each other better.

A meeting is planned during August to discuss how the sale might be updated for the current environment. Past and future participants are invited to be part of the planning process. Some areas for consideration will be to: include furniture (can we limit how big?); collectibles (merge with housewares?); and the Café (should we move it outdoors?). We will need to figure out the logistics of handling the expected crowds: traffic flows, masks, limiting numbers, etc. Meanwhile, save November 5th (and the week leading up to it) for a potential Fall Rummage Sale.



On Sunday, August 28th (the day before Montgomery County Public Schools begin classes), we will take time in worship to pray for our students of all ages who are beginning a new year. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship so that we might offer a blessing and a small token of our love and God's love. We will also hold in our hearts and in prayer teachers, administrators, school staff, bus drivers, parents, and all who give of themselves to guide and equip children. This is a great service to invite a friend or neighbor to join us!

Arts Committee: Save the Dates!

**Family
Movie
Night
Saturday
October 22
Details to follow**

BLESSINGS OF PETS

**Sunday October 23rd
4:00 p.m.
Outside by
the Cross**



Our Active Church

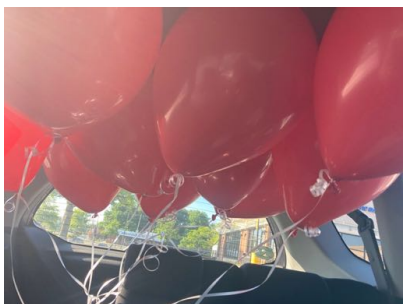
We Rose Against Hunger

Members and new friends gathered May 7, 2022, to pack meals for a global aid organization called Rise Against Hunger. There were lots of familiar faces and several new ones who saw the outside sign and signed up to join us. Many had never been to our church before. A small group of NBUMC volunteers met the representatives from Rise Against Hunger at 8:30am to help unload the van, prepare the materials and set up the filling, weighing, sealing, and packing stations in Johnson Hall. By 10am, the rest of our 50 volunteers arrived to begin the 10,000 meal-packing marathon. Teams of four worked at funnel stations to fill bags with soy protein, dehydrated vegetables, and rice; "runners" brought the filled bags to weighing station; scale volunteers adjusted the amount of rice in each bag to make sure it was within four grams of the weight acceptable for shipping; sealers used a hot press to seal the bags; and packers counted out and placed 36 bags in each cardboard box. Our efficient and focused group completed the 10,000-meal task in just over an hour and a half!

Thank you to all who participated and to all who gave money to help us reach (and surpass) our fundraising goal of \$3500 to cover the cost of the meals and shipping. The additional money raised will be put toward another meal-packing event that we hope to do together in the fall.



June 5th: Pentecost and the Start of Pride Month



Rev. Kara and celebratory balloons for Pentecost!



We now have reusable communion cups in a Pride theme!

Our Active Church

Marching for our Lives

On Saturday, June 11th, several NBUMC members and friends participated in March for Our Lives. The march was organized in response to the mass shootings of the previous few weeks.



DC PRIDE March

NBUMC was part of a large group of United Methodist churches at the DC Pride March on Saturday, June 11th. There was a float, and many banners and signs.



L-R: Rich McManus, Jacqui and Gordon Cragg, Rev. Kara, and Clayton Clark



Our Active Church

DC Pride Festival

NBUMC co-hosted a booth at the DC Pride Festival on Sunday, June 12th, noon-8pm.



Youth and young adults helped host our booth.

Vacation Bible School

It was a Food Truck Party! June 20th-24th at Bethesda UMC. (Photo right, L-R) Ardoth Hassler, Paula Chipman, Rev. Kara, Lily Swanson, Natalie McManus, Renee Newman, and Flora Milans were leaders of scripture and song. DJ Cupcake (aka Julie Petrossian) was the MC for the party. Ardoth crafted the cupcake costume out of hula hoops, cardboard, tulle, poly fiberfill, and an old baseball cap!

Daily Biblical Themes

- Monday: God sends the Israelites manna in the wilderness each morning and quail at night.
- Tuesday: Elijah visits a poor widow and her son who have only enough dough for one loaf of bread. Elijah asks her to share it with him and she finds that the ingredients are not used up and there is more for the following days.
- Wednesday: Daniel and his friends eat vegetables and show that they are stronger than the men who eat the king's rich food.
- Thursday: Jesus feeds the crowd with the 5 fish and 2 loaves of bread that the disciples gathered from a boy in the crowd.
- Friday: John and Peter go fishing but catch nothing. When they get close to shore, Jesus tells them to throw their net over the other side and they catch many fish.



Our Active Church

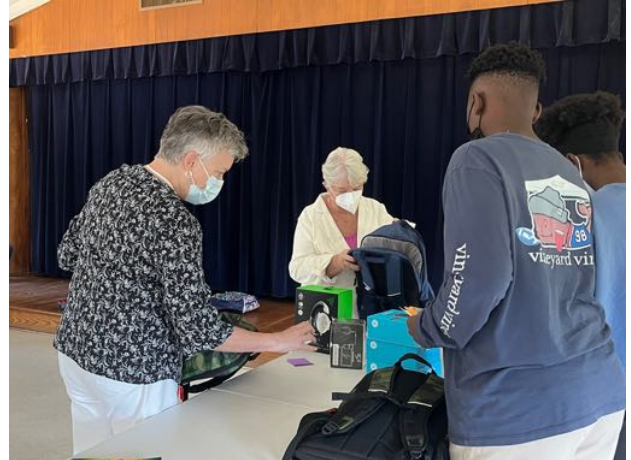


Youth Sunday

The theme of the August 7th worship service was "Redemption. Liturgists were Ikaia and Anela (right) who read from Lamentations 3:55-58 and Luke 19:1-10. Sofia (far left) and Rev. Kara both preached. Nadia (left center) served as a communion assistant.

SCHOOL SUPPLY ROUNDUP

Our Service and Outreach Committee (SOC) spearheaded the effort to provide filled backpacks to twelve middle schoolers who are served by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH). Congregational donations included: backpacks, headphones/ear buds, pens, pencils, highlighters, notebooks, colored pencils and more! Backpack packers worked diligently after worship on August 14th to fill the backpacks. Thank you to all who contributed and help pack. They were delivered August 16th--just in time for school to start!



WE HAVE A NEW AED!

A new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was installed Sunday, May 22. It is located in the hallway, in a wall-mounted case, opposite the Office. The AED was partially funded by a grant from the AEDGrant Corporation.

In the event of a health emergency where the AED is needed, always have someone call 911. Several church members are trained in CPR/AED, and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Squad is moments away. If you are trained in CPR/AED, please let Ardoth Hassler or Diane Walsh-Barberesi know.



Building Update

As many of you are aware, in the early hours of Saturday, July 9th, and Sunday, July 10th, a person allegedly vandalized three churches on Old Georgetown Road. A youth was arrested within a week and will be tried in Juvenile Court.

What we did not know at the time was that a wooden cross and historic headstones were vandalized the same night at the Wildwood Baptist Church. Sunday morning, July 10th, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church suffered vandalism and arson incurring significant damage inside their sanctuary.

NBUMC's damages were limited to Johnson Hall, the kitchen and hallway. The young person set fire to our "Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds" poster which burned the hallway door. Fortunately, it was located directly underneath a smoke detector/fire alarm!

We are grateful to Ken Ow and Rose Aehle for responding to the call from our Fireline Monitoring system and working with both the Montgomery County Police and Fire and Rescue teams at our church. Volunteers worked diligently on Saturday to clean up allowing us to hold services on Sunday. Joel Owen, owner of AllCounty Carpet Cleaning, LLC., was our angel. Not only did he clean the carpets, but steam cleaned the floors in Johnson Hall, the kitchen and hallway. Thanks go out to The Craggs who replaced the supplies that were needed for the Women's Shelter the following week.

Trustees met and are keenly aware that some type of surveillance is needed to help monitor the happenings in our building and on our church grounds. Members of Trustees are working on finding and installing an appropriate camera system to be installed ASAP.

We pray the court deals with the young person appropriately, and s/he receives the help needed. We are thankful for the swift work that the County Police and Fire and Rescue Arson Team provided. Their swift action and investigation ended this path of vandalism.

God Bless All of You, Diane Walsh Barberesi, Chair of Trustees

A special thank you *must* go to Diane Walsh-Barberesi, Chair of Trustees. She coordinated the clean-up efforts, and has been working with our insurer and contractors to make the church whole and safe. - Ed.



Rev Kara wrote: "We are saddened by these destructive acts, and we feel tinges of the heartache and fear that arise in communities of all types when a sacred space is desecrated. We cannot know the hurt of the person or people who vandalized churches in our neighborhood, and so we lift their hurt and our own hurt up to God. We lament, we clean up, and then we return to the work that is ours to do: welcoming the stranger, loving our neighbor, and walking humbly with God."

Thank you to all those who assisted by being contacts, talking with the press, cleaning up, providing food and supplies, and more:
Mark Aehle
Rose Aehle
Sara Barakat
Gordon and Jacqui Cragg
Kathy Devadas
Kathleen Edelman
Dixie Harper
Ardoth Hassler
Rev. Joye Jones
Christine Lee
Richard McManus
Ken Ow
Diane Walsh-Barberesi

LOOKING BACK

Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian

Were the 1960s Really the Heyday of Our Church?

As another church-school year begins, we can look back with wonder at the robust education program of our church in the early 1960s. It was no doubt one of the most prominent activities of the young church, second only to fund-raising for our sanctuary (built 1965). Classrooms existed under Fellowship Hall (Johnson Hall), where worship was being held, and several more classrooms were being planned for the sanctuary basement.



Pat DeSpain with a room full of children during Sunday school in the early 1960s.

The October 1963 issue of our church newsletter, then called the North Bethesda News, listed a staff of 43 teachers, music leaders and department superintendents under Church School General Superintendent Pat DeSpain. Two other church members led the Junior and Senior Methodist Youth Fellowships.

While preoccupied with expansion in facilities and membership, our church was also engaged in outreach activities during the early 1960s. For example, members of our church were involved in efforts to settle refugees after the Communist takeover of Cuba. The church school was raising funds to buy heifers for farmers in Bolivia.

Closer to home, the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom," led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others was held on the National Mall, August 28, 1963. There is no mention of the march, or participation in it, of our church members in the North Bethesda News. However, the National Council of Churches, along with organized labor, was actively involved and many Methodist clergy and laypeople from around the country took part.

Perhaps our church was still grappling with the concept of a multicultural church, which some denominational leaders then stressed was the key to the future. Based on "Discussion Notes" taken by John ("Jack") Enders at a Church Council Retreat, September 14, 2002, members looking back on the development of our church recalled the 1960s as a time of ambivalence for Methodists and our church. "Racism and discrimination occasionally were reflected in the church's activities," Enders writes. "Diversity and inclusiveness had not yet begun to become part of UMC's credo."

Yes, it could be said that our church was in its heyday in the 1960s, but its finest period may have been decades away. Today, we have a much smaller church congregation, reflecting a nationwide falling away from so-called mainline churches. Yet, never have we approached more closely the beloved community that Dr. King envisioned with our current amazing, intergenerational, multicultural North Bethesda United Methodist Church.

A Snapshot of the NBUMC Endowment Fund

What is the NBUMC Endowment Fund? The NBUMC Endowment Fund was started in 1996 with a generous gift from members Loyse and Warren Hardin. Since then, members and friends have donated, in amounts of \$5,000, \$15,000, or more) a total of \$694,864. The Fund consists of 1) gifts and bequests made by NBUMC members and friends and 2) investment gain from the total amount in the Fund. Some gifts and bequests are un-designated, with no strings attached, and can be spent as Endowment Policy allows. Other gifts and bequests are designated for a particular purpose by the donor and can be used only for that purpose. The principal value of all designated gifts is protected in accordance with Federal and Maryland law and cannot be spent, but it accumulates investment gain. Each year, a portion of investment gain is released for NBUMC to use for unbudgeted projects. Since its founding in 1996, the Endowment has released \$745,065 of investment gain for use by our church .

Tax and Investment Status. The Fund is non-taxable because it belongs to NBUMC, classified as a non-profit organization in the IRS tax code. The Fund complies with Federal and Maryland State laws about non-profit Fund management, United Methodist Church Book of Discipline rules. The high-water mark of the fund was \$1,160,000 in 2021. Its value at any time reflects the rise or fall of stock market earnings. In view of recent market activity, the fund has dropped about 15%. Fund investments are allocated to cash equivalents, domestic equities, foreign equities, and bonds.

Who manages the Endowment? The Investment Committee was formed in 1996 to oversee the Fund investments in accordance with an investment plan, manage Fund releases, maintain accurate records, and ensure compliance with Fund policy.

What does the Investment Committee do? The Committee works closely with the NBUMC Treasurer, the Trustees, and the Church Council to ensure that fund withdrawals meet well-defined needs and comply with policy. It meets quarterly and reports quarterly to the Church Council.

How can NBUMC members access Endowment funds? Any NBUMC member can propose an idea for an activity to benefit the Church and a request for funding from the Capital Improvements Fund or Enabling Ministries Fund. The Investment Committee can help proposers understand the applicable policies and direct the request to the appropriate Fund.

How has the Endowment Fund helped NBUMC in the past? Between its start in 1996 and this year, 2022, the Endowment has contributed all but \$50,000 of released investment gain to pay for church projects.

How can I support the Endowment? Donate or make a bequest to the Endowment. All donors' names appear on the leaves of the Tree of Life located in the Narthex corridor. If you would like to have more information about donating a gift or making a bequest to the NBUMC Endowment, please contact the Investment Committee to learn more.

Looking to the Future. After 26 years, the original documents guiding the Endowment are out of date. Updated policies are being drafted for Church Council approval this year.

Current Investment Committee members: Carol Malmi (chair), Rich McManus (treasurer), Marv Burt (investment advisor), Michele Bernot (secretary), Stephen McSpadden (Trustee representative).

Finance Committee Update

NBUMC closed its Fiscal 2021/2022 financial budget on June 30 with a deficit of **\$102.98**. Revenue for the Fiscal year was \$396,052.87. Expenditures for the Fiscal year was \$396,155.85 We paid 100% of our Apportionments to the BWC Conference.

Our financial budget, with the approval of Church Council, will be on a calendar year budget starting January 1, 2023. The Finance Committee has adopted a "GAP" budget for the period July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, with a projected deficit of \$4,966.64. Anticipated revenue is \$197,845.50 and expenses are projected to be \$202,812.14.

- Jesse Jennings, Assistant Treasurer

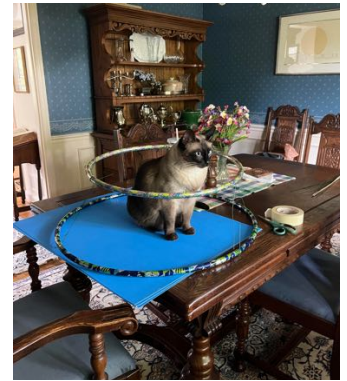
Miscellany

Saving Honey Bees!

Kathleen and Peter Edelman were out to dinner in Bethesda on May 15th. They looked up and saw an active bee hive! Kathleen posted the pictures on Facebook.

Ardoth Hassler saw the post and contacted a friend and neighbor who is a beekeeper! Next morning, Marilyn and Keith Emery visited the tree, snipped the branch and put it in a "bee box". The Queen soon joined the workers, and the hive was successfully rescued and relocated. As a reward and "thank you," both Ardoth and Kathleen received jars of honey.

Honey bees are vital to our environment. If you see a hive where it doesn't belong, contact a local bee keeper! SAVE THE BEES!



Kalani, the cupcake costume maker's helper! Good help is hard to find.

Poetry of Jennifer Fellows

AGING PRODIGY

Bach Inventions at five,
Look at me go!
Let me mix with the older kids.

Let me hurry to adulthood.
Let me begin work in my early teens.
Let me skip college and marry at twenty.
Already cultured and working,
let me teach doctors to play the piano.

Let me remarry at thirty.
An even older guy! Now I've arrived!
Now we can fight major illnesses together.
Precocious again!
But God's generous sense of humor trumps my plans,
and look at this, life goes on for the best.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Freefall is over.
The parachute has opened.
My diseased body slowly descends.

Destination is certain,
the caprices and favors of the winds
Unknown.

I hit the ground still alive,
naked
in my body's betrayal.

I crawl like a worm,
feeling inside the dreams of an artist,
a woman's desires.

Lord I give my life to You.
Make real the beauty
You desire from my destiny.

© Fellows, Jennifer. ***Making Room for the New: Selected Poems***. Bethesda Communications Group. 2012. *Printed with permission of the author.*

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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Fall 2022

RUMMAGE SALE

Save the date: Saturday, November 5th

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.
and via YouTube

Visit us at
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