

## “What’s at Your Core?”

One day in my seminary preaching class, we were given a piece of paper and told to write on it our “Core Conviction.” Of all the doctrines and scriptures in the world, we were to choose one sentence as a foundational truth for the preaching we would do with our words and our lives. No pressure! The point was not to make every sermon explicitly about just a few ideas, but to identify what our basic life-sermons were. What keeps the fire stirred in you? What truth do you fall back on or return to for sustenance?

And so I took my paper and I wrote, “**God is community.**” At 22 years old, that core conviction had been putting down roots in my soul for several years. I grew up in a beautiful church that closed when I was in high school. Those church people were my village; my first teachers; a web of safety and unconditional love. I was burned by institutional religion (and particularly the Methodist Church) after that church closed, but sometime in college I found God (actually God found me) again, this time in a quirky and vibrant campus ministry at UNC--the Wesley Foundation. Wesley was both a place of belonging and of challenge, as my limited ideas about God and the world came into contact with deep questions and strong differences. The more I studied and traveled, the more I became convinced that God is found in community--and that I am not the center of that community. “God is community, and I can know only a piece of the bigger picture,” I wrote that day in preaching class.

Ten years later, I have two other core convictions that I would add to that list. The first is “**God shows up.**” That is my understanding of incarnation--God coming to earth as one of us, in solidarity with us, as Jesus Christ. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” When I feel utterly alone, like I am in the wrong place doing the wrong thing, God shows up. When I am out of my league and quite irretrievably lost--(it happens a lot; I have a poor sense of direction)--God shows up. God has felt what we feel and chooses to endure alongside us rather than watch from a safe distance. Nothing that we do is done alone. God shows up, and God understands.

The last sentence I would write on my paper if Professor Troeger handed it to me today is, “**The worst day is not the last day.**” To me, that is Easter. That’s what it means to be resurrection people. The past couple of years have brought some pretty intense worst days--for me personally, for the people in the church I was serving, and certainly for us as a nation sickened with racism and a world in a devastating pandemic. We look back on those worst days and some of them still seem irredeemable. Some jagged edges have not softened; some tragedies can and will not be explained away in this life. And still, God doesn’t leave us crying on the floor forever. We might be there for a night, the Psalm goes, but the morning’s going to come with a new song, and we’re going to make it ‘til then. God is carrying us through.

So that’s me! Apologies for the spoiler, but those are the three main sermons that I hope to preach and live. What about you? What truth do you “hold to be self-evident,” as the famous Declaration begins? What props you up when you’re unsure of everything else? I really do want to know, especially in (but not limited to!) these first months of getting to know you. If we haven’t sat down together yet (by Zoom or in person!) give me a call/email and let’s find a time. It is an honor and a gift to be your pastor, and I look forward to all that we will share.

Peace, Rev. Kara





- 1 Sara Barakat
- 2 Nana Appiah Korang
- 5 Wayne Huff
- 9 Jack Enders
- 13 Michael Replogle
- 14 Jackie Spang
- 16 Lorraine London
- 17 Gail Hazelrigg
- 17 Carl Deanell
- 22 Pat McSpadden
- 23 David Early
- 24 Isabelle Hammond
- 25 Joanna Voight
- 26 Clare Follmann
- 30 Eline Aworaadjo Asase
- 31 Steve McSpadden
- 31 Grace Mobley



- 1 Rose Ahle
- 3 Matt Ghaman
- 7 Ardoth Hassler-Short
- 7 Flora Milans
- 8 Alice Wang
- 10 Richard McManus
- 10 Kumbi Kasambira
- 13 Irving Williams
- 13 Charlene Tugwete
- 17 Kimberly Santoro
- 17 Nathaniel Clarke
- 18 Joshua Hurley-Bruno
- 18 Astrid Mobley
- 25 Natalie McManus
- 25 Richard Leidl
- 27 Patience Ball
- 27 Chris Matos
- 27 Jane Ward
- 29 Debbie Matos

If you have corrections or additions, please contact Diane Tabatabai at [diane@linktech.org](mailto:diane@linktech.org) or 301-983-6878

## North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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

E-mail: [nbumc.office@gmail.com](mailto:nbumc.office@gmail.com)

Website: [www.NorthBethesdaumc.org](http://www.NorthBethesdaumc.org)

Office Manager: Chris Lee

Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 8:30AM- 3:00PM

Pastor: Rev. Kara Scroggins 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

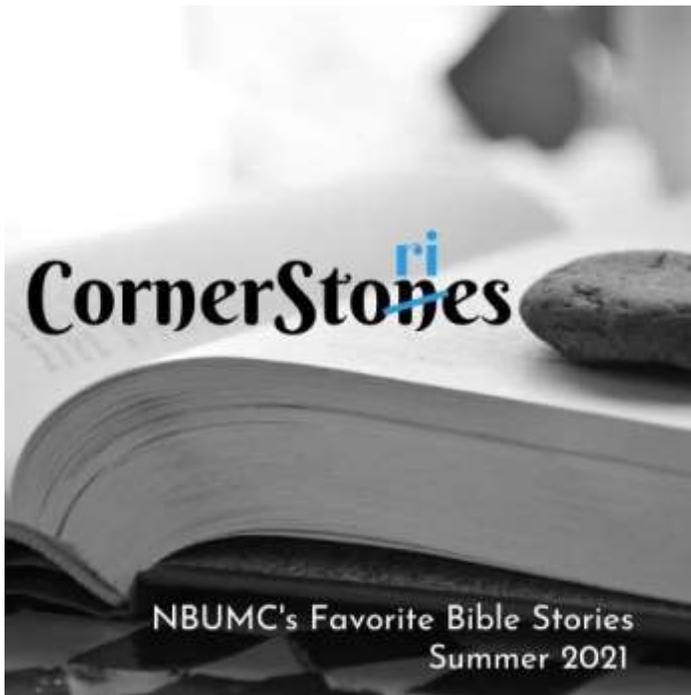
Rev. Kara's email address is kara at northbethesdaumc.org, and she tries to respond in a timely manner (although her bedtime is early...think 9pm!). She uses a Google Voice account for work calls; that number is 202-618-1078 and can receive calls, texts, and voicemails. Rev. Kara takes Fridays and Saturdays as her weekend. Friday is a Sabbath day for her, when she avoids screens as much as possible and spends time recharging. Saturday is generally for friends, family, errands, etc., but she can be reached as needed and is also available for Saturday church events as they come up.

Coming soon! We are in the process of implementing new email addresses for the NBUMC staff in the form of "username@northbethesdaumc.org". Here to fore, the staff needed to use their personal email address for their NBUMC work. What is this? "Google Workspace for Non-Profits." We will continue to expand use of these tools to facilitate church business.

A special Thank you to Carol Malmi. With her right arm in a sling, and typing left-handed with one finger, she still made significant editorial contributions to this issue of the Contact. - AAHS

*Contact Deadline for Fall Issue:*  
August 15, 2021

Photo Credits: Ardoth Hassler, Andy Jones, Peggy Lamoreaux, Christine Lee, Carol Malmi, Ken Ow, Jim Short, and Tsitsi Sithole. Identified pictures of youth and children printed in this issue are used with parental permission.



## CORNERSTORIES

- July 11: Hagar
  - Genesis 21:5-21
- July 18: Joseph and His Brothers
  - Genesis 37:1-8; 17b-28
  - Matthew 22:23-40
- July 25: Daniel and the Lions' Den
  - Daniel 6:1-23
- August 1: David and Goliath
  - 1 Samuel 17:1-50
- Aug 8: Mary and Martha
  - Luke 10:38-42
- Aug 15: Prodigal Son
  - Luke 15:11-32
- Aug 22: Woman at the Well
  - John 4:1-29
- Aug 29: Loaves & Fishes
  - John 6:1-21

In worship on July 4, those in attendance by Zoom or in person each shared one Bible story that is foundational to their faith. Rev. Kara collected and tallied up all the responses, and there was an amazing scope and variety of stories! She chose the eight most frequently-mentioned stories to preach on for the rest of the summer, and hopes to touch on other stories and verses you named in future months. This is the summer lineup--thanks for participating!

## The Lectionary

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>July 4: 6th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10</li> <li>• Psalm 123</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians 12:2-10</li> <li>• Mark 6:1-13</li> </ul> <p>July 11: 7th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19</li> <li>• Psalm 24</li> <li>• Ephesians 1:3-14</li> <li>• Mark 6:14-29</li> </ul> <p>July 18: 8th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Samuel 7:1-14a</li> <li>• Psalm 89:20-37</li> <li>• Ephesians 2:11-22</li> <li>• Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</li> </ul> <p>July 25: 9th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Samuel 11:1-15</li> <li>• Psalm 14</li> <li>• Ephesians 3:14-21</li> <li>• John 6:1-21</li> </ul> <p>August 1: 10th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a</li> <li>• Psalm 51:1-12</li> <li>• Ephesians 4:1-16</li> <li>• John 6:24-35</li> </ul> | <p>August 8: 11th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33</li> <li>• Psalm 130</li> <li>• Ephesians 4:25-5:2</li> <li>• John 6:35, 41-51</li> </ul> <p>August 15: 12th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14</li> <li>• Psalm 111</li> <li>• Ephesians 5:15-20</li> <li>• John 6:51-58</li> </ul> <p>August 22: 13th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43</li> <li>• Psalm 84</li> <li>• Ephesians 6:10-20</li> <li>• John 6:56-69</li> </ul> <p>August 29: 14th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Song of Solomon 2:8-13</li> <li>• Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9</li> <li>• James 1:17-27</li> <li>• Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</li> </ul> <p>September 5: 15th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23</li> <li>• Psalm 125</li> <li>• James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17</li> <li>• Mark 7:24-37</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

# HAPPENINGS

Our food drive for Bethesda Help May 22 netted 200 pounds of food. Thanks to all who contributed.



## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Fully-vaccinated choir members gathered with Director of Music, Tony Ashur, to record anthems for Pentecost and Fannie Shelton's celebration of life. It was the first time they'd sung together since March 15, 2020.

Rev. Jeff Jones and the chancel area decked out in red!

## Preparing for our first in-person worship service on June 20



Ken Ow, setting up the A-V for remote worship



Rose Aehle and Sara Barakat checking the candles



Gordon and Jacqui Cragg setting up for Pastor Jeff's Retirement Reception



Elvira and Irving Williams checking attendees in to enable contact tracing (if needed)

# HAPPENINGS

Our First In-person Worship Service June 20, 2021 since March 15, 2020!  
Honoring Pastor Jeff on his Retirement



Others joined by Zoom.



Left: Rev. Gerard A. Green, Jr., Greater Washington District Superintendent celebrated Pastor Jeff's accomplishments in his almost 47-years of ministry.

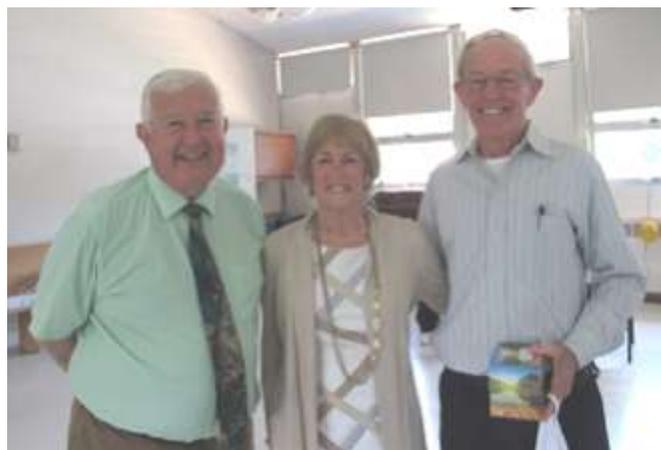
Rev. Green quoted the UM Hymn, "Whom Shall I Send?" Jeffrey Jones replied, "Send me." "PJ" served 7 churches in nearly 47 years of ministry. And, "God is not yet finished with him." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Kara Beers Stanton was commissioned to paint a watercolor with a compass to commemorate Pastor Jeff's retirement. It references his guidance through a compass and life: **W**orship God, **N**ourish our Souls, **E**mbrace your Neighbor, and **S**hare and **S**erve.



Rev. Jeff and Elaine Jones



Pastor Jeff with Flora (SPRC, Chair) and Tark Milans, at the festive celebration following worship.

## Founders of Women's Society Had a Global Outlook

While the men of our church were busy in 1957 raising funds to house the fledgling congregation, as reported in the last *Contact*, the women were hardly idle. They too raised funds to build our church. At the same time, they adopted a global outlook for their organization, as an article in the April 1957 issue of our church newsletter, then called the *Synopsis*, makes clear.

Called the "Women's Society of Christian Service" (WSCS), the organization announced that its "Purpose" (with a capital *P*) was to:

- unite all women of the church in Christian living and service
- help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world
- develop the spiritual life
- study the needs of the world
- take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local church and improve civic, community and world conditions

To be sure, the group had a set of more parochial "aims" (with a small *a*.) These included having, "interesting programs and worship services and brief but adequate business meetings," along with raising "money for the new building," and establishing "a parsonage property committee."

"ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE URGED TO JOIN THIS GROUP," editor Betty Cline concluded (in all caps) in her introductory article on the group.

The first officers of the WSCS, elected at an organizational meeting January 13, 1957, were:

- President: Irma Ray
- Vice-President: Margery Smith
- Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Kavanaugh
- Treasurer: Gladys Sherrow
- Promotion Secretary: Betty Cline
- Secretary of Missionary Education and Service: Pat DeSpain
- Secretary of Literature and Publications: Kathryn Wynkoop
- Chairman of Local Church Activities: Mary McCain

Meeting a month later, 15 women heard a District officer, Mrs. Robert Winters\*, give "an overall picture of the mission work at home and abroad, with many interesting illustrations." A third meeting focused on the "Church and Mental Health," with a presentation by Dr. Robert Gibson.

Besides monthly meetings, the WSCS sponsored monthly Church Fellowship Suppers, where "the men pitched in to help with the dishes."

Fifty years later, groups that became the United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women joined together "in a show of unity" to form the United Methodists Together. In 2009, the UMT held a Prayer Breakfast in January, and sponsored a Crab Feast and Chicken BBQ in September. In addition, they have supported many other activities in the life of the church, a role they continue to play.

\* Unfortunately, Mrs. Winters' given name is lost to history.



Founding members of the Women's Society are included in a photo, taken 44 years later, in 2001, of charter members of NBUMC. (L-R) Donald & Margery Smith, Patricia DeSpain, Kathryn Wynkoop, Helen Poole (today's church matriarch), and Vivian & Warner Bogley.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT AND YOUTH UPDATES

Hello NBUMC Family and Friends: Goodbye 2020-2021 and Hello 2021-2022! This past year brought many challenges for most of us. As a community and nation, we were forced to cope with new situations that we had never imagined. Parents and educators struggled to determine how much our children should be exposed to as we watched history unfold before our eyes. After Malaika and I discussed these matters with some NBUMC parents, we decided to leave the world news out as much as possible and stick with the good news of Jesus Christ! So, we continue to remind our children that, "God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble" (Psalm 46:1 for Kids).

God has been good to us at NBUMC. Several of our children are consistently engaged and faithfully attending Saturday Devotion Zoom Services. They are successfully overcoming anxieties about communicating through the Zoom platform. Their contributions during special programs, i.e., the Christmas and Black History celebrations, etc. have been remarkable.

Now that things are beginning to re-open, we should expect to see attendance drop as children resume their extra-curricular activities. Some parents shared that their children need a break after being on Zoom for the entire school year. Nevertheless, we will continue to hold Primetime Zoom Devotion on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

As churches and businesses transition to re-opening, the Christian Education Ministry will face new challenges. Since last year, four families have moved and, while Zoom worship may still be convenient for some, these families may no longer be able to attend due to long commutes.

Our Christian Education Ministry is facing growing pains. As we strive to maintain consistent growth, we must consider outreach strategies to bring in new families and continue to engage those who are still with us. So, continue to help by inviting friends without a church home, neighbors, and relatives to worship with us. We are looking forward to Rev. Kara Scroggins leadership and spiritual guidance.

May the world become a better place than it is right now for the sake of our children's future.

Peace and Blessings!

Renee Newman,  
Director of Christian Education

Renee's assistant, her daughter Malaika, has left NBUMC to grow her Non-Profit Mental Health Initiative online magazine called [Boldly Mental](#). We are going to miss her. Best of luck, Malaika!



**Congratulations to Ikaia, moving on to Middle School!**



**Emily (center) in Action**



**Sydney in the cheer squad at WJ (front, 2nd from right)**

# Welcome, Reverend Kara!

## CELEBRATION OF REV. KARA SCROGGINS APPOINTMENT

Flora Milans, SPRC Chair, Gordon Cragg, Lay Leader, and the Rev. Joye Jones welcomed Rev. Kara Scroggins as our Pastor on Sunday, July 4, 2021. She is sent to, “live among us as a bearer of the Word of God; a minister of the Sacraments; and a sustainer of the love, order, service and discipleship of the people of God.” Rev. Kara reaffirmed this commitment in the presence of this congregation, and the congregation reaffirmed our commitment to support her with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Following prayers for Rev. Kara and her ministry, these representatives of NBUMC presented her with representative symbols that will form her ministry.



- A Bible, to be among us as one who proclaims the Word.
- Water, to baptize new Christians in this place.
- A plate and cup, to keep us in communion with Christ and his Church.
- A hymnal and book of worship, to guide us in our prayer and praise.
- The Book of Discipline, to help us keep the covenant that strengthens our connections as United Methodists.
- A symbol of the church’s global commitment, to lead us in our mission to this community and all the world.



Rev. Kara led the closing prayer:

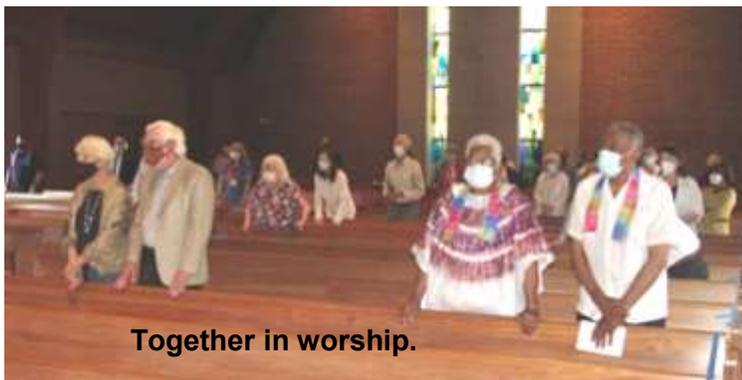
**Lord God, bless the ministries of your Church.  
We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us.  
Draw us together in one Spirit,  
that each of us may use our differing gifts as members of one body.  
May your Word be proclaimed with faithfulness,  
and may we be doers of your Word and not hearers only.  
As we who have died and risen with Christ in baptism  
gather at his table and then scatter into the world,  
may we be one in service to others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***May the peace of the Lord be with us all.***

*Excerpted from The United Methodist Book of Worship, ©1992, The United Methodist Publishing House. Reprinted with permission.*



Rev. Kara delivers her first sermon at NBUMC. "Packing Light." Scripture readings: Psalm 48 and Mark 6:1-13.



Thank you for welcoming me with such kindness and grace this last week. What a beautiful congregation--I'm grateful and excited to journey alongside you into this next season. - Rev. Kara



Our choir (above).

Kim Santoro, Pat and Lee Hilling welcome Rev. Kara (right) at a reception in Johnson Hall.



## WORSHIPING TOGETHER GOING FORWARD

As we continue in the uncharted territory of church in a sort-of-but-not-fully post-pandemic world, things are (as usual) evolving. Our re-entry task force will meet again in the next weeks to have conversations about Communion, children, and other pressing questions that have come up regarding building re-entry. I've been talking with staff members and volunteers as well, and here are some things to know right now:

The hope is to continue worship with virtual and in-person options, with two adjustments:

1) Virtual worship will be offered weekly via Zoom and YouTube, but rather than a livestream from the sanctuary, it will be a pre-recorded video that is made intentionally for online participants. This is mainly so that people who are worshipping virtually have a service specifically meant to engage them, rather than feeling like they're observing from a distance. The video will include the same sermon that will be preached live on Sunday, plus recordings of scripture readings, prayers, and music.

2) On the last Sunday of each month, worship for everybody will take place only via Zoom (or YouTube for those who don't sign in to Zoom.) This gives us a chance to all be together once a month, regardless of physical ability to be in the sanctuary from week to week. Zurch, as you all so whimsically dubbed it, is a unique experience with its own value and possibilities, and I myself would like the chance to engage regularly with people who worship exclusively on Zoom. So, that means July 25, August 29, and September 26, we will all be worshipping via Zoom.

We'll see how it goes after that.

- Rev. Kara

# Pastor Jeff's Preacher Feature

Dear Church Family:

I wrote to you before my last Holy Communion service with you that we might sense God's Holy Spirit at work in us as we broke bread and took the cup, separated by distance on the Internet through Zoom, but as one in the special mystery which is the body of Christ, no matter where we are. I hope you felt the presence of God as we shared in communion.



Holy Communion has always been very special for me. It truly feels like I can share the love of God in this very act of breaking the bread and sharing the cup with you. I hope you feel the special way I do, that this is the best way to connect ourselves to God, and while joining in the same actions wherever we are, we are connected to one another. This empowering by God through communion gives us a chance to get connected to great causes, to heal a broken and hurting world, and because we have the spirit and attitude and gifts of Jesus within us, to be able to make a difference.

This year has not been how I wanted to end my time with you. I love being in the sanctuary at North Bethesda church. It's one of the most beautiful in my ministry. It feels awkward to have been away from it for so long. At least we got to be in the building one last time before I left. I was pleased to see so many of you were truly comfortable being in our building with each other, even under easing pandemic circumstances. My mind will always keep the image of our church family standing around the wall of the sanctuary breaking bread and sharing the cup, and then singing the Lord's Prayer together. It will always give me goosebumps when I think of it. I hope you have felt connected to one another as well.

We have had 33 services of Death & Resurrection in these last 7 years. It fills me with sadness that so many of our vital members have been transferred to their eternal home. Yet, we've had 12 baptisms, too. I will continue to pray for all the families, that you continue to offer encouragement and support to one another going forward.

We have seen significant work done to the building. We enter on a bright red carpet. We listen to a new organ. The stained glass windows have been sealed and protected. We have new lights, which will come in handy now that we may broadcast our services from the Sanctuary. A new sound system will help there, too. The screen also allows for participation, now that contact with hymnals and bulletins has been a concern, as well as aid our online worship. We've replaced the flat roof over the hall and office and parlor, and we've replaced the A/C unit in this area as well. We upgraded the sound system in Johnson Hall to make it easier to have our awesome talent shows and other gatherings there. We've added a Rainbow Reconciling Cross to the front yard. The parking lot has been resurfaced. We sold the parsonage, and this investment will make it possible to cover the pastor's housing allowance for years to come. This seems like a pretty extensive list for just seven short years.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for such a warm and heartfelt farewell celebration on Sunday, June 20th, to recognize my last Sunday with you. I am overwhelmed with your kind words, your notes, your gifts and the ways you supported and encouraged me during my time with you as your pastor.

Thanks to the leaders who put together the reception after worship and the beautiful poster. Thank you for the work that went on during Saturday morning preparations to enable us to worship in our Sanctuary after such a long absence.

I leave you in good hands with Rev. Kara Scroggins. I humbly ask that you give her the chance to become your pastor. As our Conference Policy insists, we cannot have the former pastor providing any service to church people, without the prior invitation of your present pastor. This will help her to fit in and provide better pastoral care sooner and for the long run. Thank you.

May God continue to bless you in all you do, and remember I pray for your continued ministry going forward with the Holy Spirit leading you.

- Pastor Jeff



# In Other News...

## HELP WANTED! USHERS NEEDED

After 26 years of faithful service, our wonderful Jesse Jennings is retiring as Head Usher. While it will be a challenge to replace his gracious and knowledgeable service, Rose Aehle is working to form an usher pool.

We're reaching out to all who might be interested in being a part of this ministry. There will always be two usher's every Sunday. We already have 7 people who have volunteered but more are always welcome. Within this pool of ushers, we have seasoned people who can assist in mentoring new ushers. Those who join the usher pool may choose the Sundays they are available to serve and signing up on the [Worship Participation](#) log, or by contacting Rose who will oversee the schedule.

This is a wonderful way to serve the church. Prayerfully consider this request. And thank you, Jesse, for your years of marvelous service.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO WORK WITH TEENS

Malaika Newman, has left her position as Assistant to the Director of Christian Education for a new position conducting mental health workshops for college students. We will miss her work with our older children and youth, but wish her well in her new endeavors!

We are seeking a volunteer to work with our junior and senior high youth starting in September. We are in transition between using Zoom and in-person services, so flexibility is needed.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, and willing to undergo a background check. Please contact [Renee Newman](#) or Rev. Kara.

## 2021-2022 Budget Update

The Church Council met Sunday, June 27th, and unanimously approved the 2021-2022 fiscal-year budget of \$377,725. It includes a projected deficit of \$15,810. Provisions were made that this budget would be re-evaluated within six months, once Reverend Kara is on board.

- Jesse Jennings, Assistant Treasurer



NBUMC is pleased to be serving meals at the Rockville Women's Center July 11, 15 and 17.



As we once again are enjoying the beauty of our sanctuary, we need members to sign up to provide altar flowers. Nancy Kane is our volunteer coordinator for altar flowers. She provides the following guidance:

1. It is up to you to decide how much you would like to spend. The normal range is \$45-\$60, but some folks like to spend more, which is lovely, but totally up to the donor. If you wish to know what you can purchase for a certain amount, Nancy will gladly assist. Flowers are provided by Suburban Florist (or you may provide your own arrangement).

2. At least a week in advance, please provide Nancy the amount, shape (round or flat-back), the colors/flowers you would like (or do NOT want), and your dedication. The orders are placed first thing Monday.

3. If you know you are going to be away/not attending church the day your flowers are on the altar, please arrange to pick them up or for someone to pick them up for you (and check that they do). If you would like them to be given away, please makes arrangements with whomever you would like to have them to take the flowers (if they are going to be in church), or ask Linda Thompson ahead of time to bring them to a shut-in or someone hospitalized.

4. Please remember to send your check to the office, noting "Altar Flowers" in the memo; or, you may pay online from northbethesdaumc.org if you prefer to use a debit or credit card.

Thanks for your help!

- Nancy Kane

# In Memoriam

## Fannie Louise Cocke Shelton



Fannie Louise Cocke was born February 6, 1929, in Bogalusa, Louisiana to Annie and Jared Cocke, Sr. She was raised Baptist and attended Catholic School. She briefly attended college at LSU where she met Jesse West Shelton on a blind double date. Fannie and Jesse fell in love, and they were married on March 25, 1948. Fannie worked in a laundromat while Jesse finished his degree. Jesse accepted a job with IBM in New Orleans. The inside joke was that IBM stood for “I’ve Been Moved” and the Shelton’s relocated often in those early years. They raised their six children, while moving between IBM branch offices in the south. Then, Jesse was promoted to lead Product Scheduling in White Plains, NY in 1967. The family moved “up north” to Wilton, Connecticut—over the Mason-Dixon Line to deal with winter weather, much to Fannie’s chagrin. In 1973, IBM moved its headquarters to Bethesda and the family moved again to Potomac, joining NBUMC almost immediately.

Fannie was very special to a whole lot of people, especially to her church family. She regularly participated in a Wednesday Prayer Group, and for many years hosted a Monday Night Bible Study with Jesse at their home. She led by example, supporting many church mission projects, and opening her home to those in need. There was always room for one more at the table, with or without advanced notice. Fannie had a special connection with many NBUMC families and their young children. She had a special touch for calming crying babies, and helped many young parents catch a needed break during potluck suppers and church events. Believing God sends guardian angels to guide and protect us, she passed out angel pins as often as possible to total strangers as well as friends and family, acknowledging acts of kindness.



Just like King Lemuel in Proverbs Chapter 31, the Shelton boys received lots of strong advice from their mother for how to act, how to be respectful and how to give back. That advice was freely given to all of her children, grandchildren and great-grands, as well as the many youth placed in her path, likely by those guardian angels! Here are few of examples:

- Remember who you are!
- Be sweet and watch crossing the street
- Watch yourself when “bending your elbow”
- Follow your heart to choose right from wrong
- Speak up for those who need your voice
- Stand up for what you believe is right
- Drive safe!
- Always wear clean underwear

Granfan was always interested in hearing from her grandkids to learn about their dreams and accomplishments, and especially to stay up to date on everyone’s “love life”!

We all know Fannie was definitely a Proverbs 31 “Woman of God.” She was a capable wife and mother... “hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds” for sure! Pop always said Granfan was the glue that kept our family together. She always put us first and taught us to watch out for each other. She loved each of us fiercely and unconditionally, always and forever.

When Jesse retired, the couple started traveling to see the world. They spent lots of quality time with each of their thirteen grandchildren. The grandkids each got their own week during the summer where they could be “the only child” at Granfan and Pop’s house.



Fannie and Jesse began hosting “Shelton Beach Week” annually for their extended family starting in 1980 with “Numero Uno” granddaughter Kaira. As the family grew, the accommodations expanded from Ocean City, MD to the Outer Banks in North Carolina with one oceanfront place and one across the street. As grandkids started having babies, beach houses got bigger also.

Continued on page 13



Ed Swanson has begun work restoring NBUMC’s four outdoor benches. (Left) [Ed is donating his time. If you would like to contribute to the cost of materials, make a donation via the Church Office or via online giving.]

Lilly Poole (Right) has been helping Ed with the bench restorations. She is the artist who painted this bench. Lilly wants to dedicate the bench in honor of “Grandma Fannie”, Fannie Shelton. And, congratulations to Lilly as she moves on to High School.



## Fannie Shelton

(continued from page 12)

COVID postponed our 40th Beach Week in 2020. Fannie was so happy when vaccines became available, and we made reservations for August 2021. She called it her “swan song,” with travel getting increasingly hard for both her and Pop.

For reasons only He fully understands, God had other plans. Fannie suffered a heart attack and peacefully passed away on May 1, 2021. She is survived by her loving husband of 73 years, Jesse, along with their six children, thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grands. Fannie donated her body to George Washington University Medical School. She continues to give back even in death.

The Shelton family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and phone calls we received from our church family during this difficult time. Please continue to pray for Jesse as he tries to go on without his soul mate, and for our family when we gather in August for Beach Week 2021.

**God loves you and so do we!**

- Peggy Shelton Lamoreaux

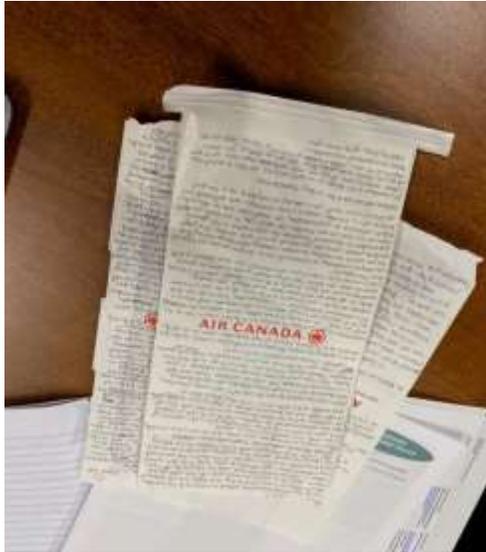


### A LETTER TO NBUMC

Please accept this small donation in memory of my mother, Margie Ellis, and my Godmother, Kathryn Wynkoop. The church was a large part of both their lives and I know they enjoyed all of their church activities. ...

- Gary Ellis, June 10, 2021

# Miscellany



The draft of Rev. Kara's first sermon at NBUMC—written at 37,000 feet on Air Canada!



It's Official!



Who Knew?!? We have Slim Jim holders on the back of the pews!



Liquor boxes in a Methodist church?!?! They made great boxes for Pastor Jeff's books. And, the building IS still standing.



Joanna Voight put a Christmas gift amaryllis out on her back porch two years ago. There, neglected, it braved two winters of snow, ice, and storm, summers of unseasonal weather, and cicadas. It just bloomed this May, one flower set low and the other shooting for the stars.



We love our children. However, for reasons of security and privacy, we do not identify them by name in our publications or online without parental permission.

# July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	2	3 Int'l Plastic Bag Free Day 
4 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee Hour	5	6 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	7	8 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	9	10 Nat'l Kitten Day  11:00 am Prime Time
11 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee Hour	12 Nat'l Pecan Pie Day  7:00 pm Trustees	13 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Endowment 7:00 pm Finance	14 Bastille Day	15 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee Hour	19	20 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	21 Nat'l Hot Dog Day	22 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	23	24 Amelia Earhart Day 11:00 am Prime Time
25 10:00 am Worship (Zoom) 11:30 am Breakout Coffee	26	27 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	28	29	30	31

# AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee Hour	2	3 Nat'l Watermelon Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	4	5 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	6	7 Campfire Day 
8 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee Hour	9 Book Lover's Day  7:00 pm Trustees	10 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Finance	11	12 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	13	14 11:00 am Prime Time
15 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee Hour	16	17 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	18	19 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	20	21 Senior Citizen's Day 
22 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee Hour	23	24 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	25	26 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	27	28 11:00 am Prime Time
29 10:00 am Worship (Zoom) 11:30 am Breakout Coffee	30	31 Nat'l Eat Outside Day  10:00 am Fit for Eternity				

# North Bethesda United Methodist Church

10100 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Time/Value Dated Material

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #7010  
Suburban MD



## JULY AND AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

This is the schedule for worship participants for the months of July and August. Please note on your calendar. If there is a conflict with your schedule, **please arrange for a substitute and inform the office of that change so it can be published in the weekly bulletin.** Liturgists are for individual Sundays. **Greeters and ushers are for the whole month.** Communion Stewards are for the first Sunday of the month. Stewards are for the first Sunday of the month.

DATE	LITURGIST	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Sunday Worship 10:00am</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="margin: 0;">Contact the Church Office to be added to the mailing list for weekly updates.</p>
July 4	Gordon Cragg	
July 11	Irving Williams	
July 18	Rich McManus	
July 25	Mary Lou Griffin	
August 1	Natalie McManus	
August 8	Pat Haas McSpadden	
August 15	Carol Malmi	
August 22	Gordon Cragg	
August 29	Elvira Williams	