

Contact

North Bethesda
United Methodist Church

Epiphany Issue 2021
Volume 50 Issue 1

MOVING FORWARD

Resolutions for our church family in this New Year of 2021. We all need the help, and the blessings these resolutions can give us.

1. Pray more, even quick thoughts to God work.
2. Invest in your Spiritual Gifts, nurture what God has given you to serve others.
3. Invite your friends to join you at NBUMC, it will make a huge difference
4. Care for your spiritual life, meditation, worship, reading good books, etc.
5. Make good decisions that should be made, especially if they are the tough ones.
6. Work hard to support our church community, blessing one another.
7. Keep an eye on what is going on around you; God does care about culture.
8. Don't compare yourself to other Christians, churches, or ministries.
9. Prioritize your family, prayers, love, comfort and encouragement.
10. Be open to change, we have to stay focused on God in times like these.

Think about these as we move into the New Year and beyond. Together we can make a difference when we focus on God's call to be a blessing for others.

(Pastor Jeff based these resolutions on a list from a pastor in North Carolina.)



JANUARY

Birthdays

2 Mame Amoa-Awua
3 Brendan Lewis
6 Isabel Nogues
8 Jacqulyn Thorpe
11 Andrew Follman
15 John Griffin
16 Kathy Devadas
18 Safohene Amua-Awua
28 Mark Santoro
30 Connor Leidl
30 Anita Deanell
31 Tendai Ball



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

1 Kyle Short
1 Emily Akpebu
2 Jenny Bartholomot
5 Sydney Akpebu
6 Fannie Shelton
7 Michael Haney
7 Eric McDaniel
8 Brandon Kesselly
9 Emily Lamoreaux
15 Rev. Joye Jones
15 Joy Burt
20 Lee Hilling
21 Heather Kopf
25 Sediname Appiah Asase
27 Helen Poole
27 Yuko Robinson
28 Amy Duroska

If you have corrections or additions, please contact Diane Tabatabai at diane@linktech.org or 301-983-6878

Contact: Deadline for Easter Issue:
February 15, 2021

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Coordinator of Education: Renee Newman
Contact Newsletter Editors: Ardoth Hassler-Short, Carol Malmi
Contact Newsletter Publisher: Chris Lee

Update: Our 2020 COVID-19 Related PPP Loan

My NBUMC Family:

This prayerful undertaking, Paycheck Protection Program was beneficial to the continuity of God's work at NBUMC. I am pleased to announce that NBUMC was granted forgiveness of the loan we received. We are grateful for **Jesse Jennings'** hard work and diligence guiding us through the PPP Forgiveness application process.

Please continue to pray for God's guidance of our stewardship of his resources here at NBUMC.

Happy New Year!!

Nathaniel Clarke,
Chair, NBUMC Finance Committee

Watch this Space!

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

If you notice the masthead of this issue of the *Contact*, it's "Volume 50, Issue 1". Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian, and I are starting to look into the archives for some of those first issues so we can look at NBUMC's communication history over the years. - AAHS, Ed.

Let us all remember to observe Pastor Jeff's Days of Rest: Thursday afternoons, Fridays and Monday mornings.



Preacher Feature

I greet you in this New Year with a sense of both grief and anticipation. Grief that I am leaving you at the end of June, and anticipating new things for you in this new year and new time, under the direction of a new pastor.

The process for selecting a new pastor involves a couple of steps you may not be familiar with since NBUMC has had the luxury of more lengthy appointments than most UMC churches. The decision is made by the Bishop in consultation with the 8 District Superintendents (DS). They use the church profile prepared by NBUMC's Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). The SPRC has interviewed 30 members and leaders of our church to determine some of the skills and concerns that the church has in describing what is hoped for in a pastor. Each District Superintendent will have a copy of the Profile. They will follow our DS Rev. Gerry Green's guidance in selecting the best candidate for our church, based on that description and who is actually available for an appointment this summer. That pastor will be asked if he/she is willing to serve at NBUMC. When the confirmation between the DS and the pastor is achieved, the new pastor will be introduced to our SPRC.

This process will take some time, so please be patient. The Cabinet and Bishop start with a review of all 600+ churches at their retreat at the end of January. They look at all the forms the churches complete annually about their pastoral assignment. Prioritizing the churches that have a natural vacancy, such as a pastor retiring, each DS will nominate someone they know whom they feel fits NBUMC's profile. They then discuss the various pastors to determine who should be asked to serve. Rev. Green will call the pastor so designated to ask if they are willing to serve NBUMC. The person selected is given time to pray and reflect about the assignment. When agreement is reached, DS Green will call Flora Milans, our chair of SPRC, to set up a meeting with the SPRC to meet the newly-considered pastor, and then begin the transition process for the July 1st assignment to NBUMC.

We hope to know something in March, but that is not up to us.

As you may know, I am retired as of January 1, 2021, in part, to allow for a reduction in salary for NBUMC to ease the financial burden. The new pastor will have a lower salary. In order to provide a smooth transition, I am not leaving NBUMC until the end of June. Retirement allows me to collect a pension and social security thus greatly reducing the salary obligations on NBUMC. I will receive a smaller salary from NBUMC to make up the difference between my retirement income and my current salary.

I am sad about leaving, I would love to spend several more years here, but the pandemic has made all of us review our plans. I am anticipating a fresh perspective from your new pastor, and potential for new and exciting ministries going forward. I will receive a small church, retired appointment to begin July 1. I won't know where for a while, either.

I urge you, above all things, to spend a lot of time praying for the Holy Spirit to guide this process. Pray for the Bishop, the DS's and for the new pastor. Pray for NBUMC to be prepared to welcome new leadership this summer.

I am truly thankful for all your love and support in these seven years we've been here. I am truly grateful for the awesome level of leadership you all have provided to me in this time as well. I just hope we have a time near the end to have a physical gathering for a farewell.

Blessings and a Healthy New Year.

- Pastor Jeff

The decision to retire was prayerfully and selflessly made by Pastor Jeff. We are hoping that the spring will bring not only control of the pandemic, but will allow us to have a great celebration of the 46 years of Pastor Jeff's ministry!

Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for your service to and love for North Bethesda United Methodist Church!

- Flora Milans, SPRC Chair

Bishop Easterling's Statement on Capitol Violence

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him, nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. -- John 1:1-5

The light of Epiphany rose with the sun this morning as people of faith celebrated the culmination of Christmastide. That light was met with darkness as a mob pushed past police and broke into the U.S. Capitol while senators and members of Congress debated the certification of the presidential election. As the scene unfolded, most could not comprehend that this insurrection is taking place in the United States of America.

It is tempting to call for peace, for order and unity. And while we do need to reclaim the peace, we can only do so while speaking the truth of today's horror. It is time to name our reality, to name the deep divisions and hatred being played out in the Senate chamber and throughout the People's House. It is another watershed moment; a time to raise our voices to heaven and take stock of who we, as Americans, have become.

This alarming occupation and violence at the U.S. Capitol are symptomatic of the vitriol and poison that now infects our culture. It disheartens. The rioters who climbed the steps and walls of the Capitol sought to overturn the law, a fair election, and justice, and claimed their motivation was to defend God and their freedoms. They waved banners emblazoned with the words, "Jesus Saves," but this is not what Emmanuel came to earth to embody. This is a perversion of the Gospel. This should drive all of us to our knees.

Since March, I have shared messages with you as we live through this liminal time of two pandemics. Today, the chasm of this in-between time grows deeper. As a church, we are called to profound and fervent prayer - prayer that will shake foundations and usher in a new age; prayer that will transform hearts and a nation; prayer that reminds us of what Christ has called us to be beyond partisan divides. I call on each of you to transcend fear and to resist the temptation to seek the reassurance of easy answers. Followers of Jesus Christ must prophetically embody, in word and deed, the precepts, practices and promises of the Gospel message. It is a message of love, but a love that speaks truth and stands against immorality.

As a church, as Christians, we must condemn all the forces that led to the unprecedented insurrection today - forces of hate, of white supremacy, of distorted self-interest, and abuse of power.

Lawmakers and national leaders are all invoking the name of God, asking that God bless America. That is my prayer as well. But, we must be instruments of that blessing, humbling ourselves to truly claim what Abraham Lincoln called, "the better angels of our nature," seeking to discern how to rebuild our nation and nurture the restoration that God demands. In this light, we continue to pray for and support the peaceful transfer of power that is a hallmark of the democratic process.

In my study, the word HOPE sits on my shelf. It's a word I claim. It is a primary foundation of our faith. I will not allow the actions of an angry mob to steal that hope for our nation, for our church, for our future. Our hope, if it is to be manifest, must be grounded in courage, in justice, in good order, and in fervent love. Our hope proclaims that our light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it - must not overcome it.

Blessings and peace,

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Baltimore-Washington Conference
The United Methodist Church

January 6, 2021

Worship Themes

Epiphany is traditionally the time in our church year when we explore how people have come to discover who Jesus really is. It begins with his baptism, and flows through encounters with various people during their signs of their discovery.

Mark's gospel will be heard a lot this year in the Lectionary cycle we call "Year B." You might want to read all of Mark. It's short and can be done in a few minutes. It is the basis for Matthew and Luke who were familiar with it when they put their gospels together. Matthew wrote for Jewish friends, and Luke wrote to explain the gospel to Roman officials and gentiles.

"Mark" could have been the John Mark of the Book of Acts. Some scholars feel he was the boy in the garden of Gethsemane who followed Jesus and his disciples from his house of the Upper Room.

JANUARY

1/10 Baptism of Jesus. Mark 1:4-11

Beginnings of Ministry

1/17 Call of Samuel. 1 Samuel 3:1-20

An Invitation You Can't Refuse

1/24 One of Pastor Jeff's Favorites

1/31 Praise with a Whole Heart. Psalm 111

Worship in the New World

FEBRUARY

Black History Month Celebration

2/7 Isaiah 40:21-31 & Mark 1:29-39

Wait on the Lord by Praying

2/14 Transfiguration Sunday Mark 9:2-9

Great Coming Out Party/God's Valentine

2/17 Ash Wednesday

2/28 Children and Youth

The Lectionary

January 10: 1st Sunday after Epiphany

- Genesis 1:1-5
- Psalm 29
- Acts 19:1-7
- Mark 1:4-11

January 17: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51

January 24: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

- Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Psalm 62:5-12
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- Mark 1:14-20

January 31: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111
- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- Mark 1:21-28

February 2: Presentation of the Lord

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7-10
- Hebrews 2:14-18
- Luke 2:22-40

February 7: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

February 14: Transfiguration Sunday
(Last Sunday before Lent)

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6 2
- Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

February 17: Ash Wednesday

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
- Psalm 51:1-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21: 1st Sunday in Lent

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Mark 1:9-15

February 28: 2nd Sunday in Lent

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25
- Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

March 7: 3rd Sunday in Lent

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- John 2:13-2

Postcards from the Pastor: 2020 in Review



Looking back at 2020 is not any fun. But often pain and suffering yield great learning that allows us to be better going forward. We can focus on what we are missing and discourage ourselves, or we can focus on what we may have learned and discovered when we had to do things differently. I hope and pray you will feel the same as you read these Pastoral Postcards from 2020.

- February. An awesome Black History Month celebration with guest speakers prepared us for the tragic challenges that our whole country experienced soon after. We continue to learn how to be more loving and appreciative in answer to so much struggle.
- March. Halfway through, Covid19 struck, and we went into our Pandemic Quarantine. We learned a lot about Zoom and discovered ways to keep our church family together in our virtual “Zurch.” Steady participation in our online services, and the great fellowship times before and after worship have been a real blessing.
- April. We realized it wouldn’t be over by Easter and we began to make preparations for the long haul. We are still learning how to do this well.
- May. We all learned how to do business in a pandemic. We had to cancel our spring Rummage Sale, replacing it with a rummage-by-virtual-gift to help our sponsored ministries through their difficult times. Our Annual Conference went virtual, but not until September.
- June, July, and August. More of the same Zooming and creative workarounds. With the church building closed, and people out of the way, the Trustees took the opportunity to do a lot of work on our building. Much still needs to be done, so pray mightily to help our Trustees prepare for our re-opening.
- September/October. Reports submitted at a Zoom Church Council meeting were presented at our Zoom Charge Conference. Everyone was invited to both Zoom meetings. Our technologically talented Youth Zoomed a Halloween party/Movie night.
- November. We celebrated All Saints and Holy Communion virtually, remembering over 30 of our church family and relatives, many with photos. On a sad note, we mourned the passing of longtime members, Florence Finlayson, Ray Gilbert, and Kathryn Wynkoop, as well as loyal members, Janet Mahaney and Ulric Gibson.
- All these and other services are recorded and available on NBUMC’s YouTube channel. You may go back and share them again and again. At our Zoom Thanksgiving service, we gave thanks for the many blessings we had, even in this difficult year.
- December. The season’s rush began with Advent and Chrismon making, and featured a Lessons and Carols service with our choir virtually sharing their singing. Our Children and Youth presented their Christmas Program on Zoom (you can see it again on our YouTube channel). Even Christmas Eve and a Blue Christmas provided a reminder that God is Emmanuel, With Us, in all of this. We, along with 600 other churches, ended December joining the Baltimore Washington Conference Leadership Team in their virtual worship service.

Faith is trust in the unseen future, remembering that God is able to do far more than we can even imagine when it comes to the work of the church we call home. We are learning about ourselves and our God in the middle of all of this. Our forebearers in faith had to learn to trust God in the waiting and in endurance, and so can we. We all know that some things will never be like they were before 2020. But we can all believe that God is moving with us and equipping us to sense his presence in all we do.

- Pastor Jeff

God of ages, in your sight nations rise and fall and pass through times of peril. Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and to save. May leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search for your will and see it clearly. In any ways we have turned from your way, help us to reverse them.. Give us your light and your truth to guide us; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen. (Prayer from the Washington National Cathedral, January 6, 2020)

Silver Linings 2020

Gordon Cragg, Lay Leader

The past year will certainly be remembered as the most challenging in the history of our church, but it will also be remembered as a time when new opportunities for outreach and community interactions emerged. Here are some of the Silver Linings of 2020.



- In February, NBUMC hosted its third Black History Month celebration organized by Penny Clarke, and enjoyed a Shrove Tuesday supper and a Talent Show organized by the Arts Committee led by Natalie McManus. These were the last of our revels.
- When we began our encounter with Zoom, we were richly blessed to have the selfless services and commitment of Ken Ow and Ardoth Hassler-Short who applied their knowledge and technical skills to keeping our church family connected and active with virtual Sunday and AWE worship services, children and youth worship sessions, church classes and Committee Meetings. We've had fun sharing virtual coffee hour banter sessions after Zurch with church family members.
- Tony and members of our choir contributed music to worship services, culminating in the Nine Lessons and Carols service on the third Sunday of Advent.
- We shared in a unique and stirring Baltimore Washington Conference service with over 600 other churches on the first Sunday after Christmas.
- Ken records the services to produce YouTube videos ([North Bethesda United Methodist Church - YouTube](#)), which have been accessed by members and visitors from far and wide.
- Coordinator of Education Renee Newman and her daughter, Malaika, hosted virtual Prime Time Devotion sessions with our children and youth on the second and fourth Saturdays each month, hosted a Halloween movie night online, and enabled the youth to share their thoughts and feelings about current events during Teen Chat sessions led by Malaika. On Sunday, December 20th, Renee and Malaika organized a special children's program. with the help of Brandon and Ken, where the children and youth delighted us with a variety of readings and musical presentations.
- Minister of Visitation Linda Thompson, together with the revitalized group of Connectors and Pastor Jeff, has kept in contact with homebound and elderly members, showing that their church cares about their well-being. She has encouraged all of us to keep in contact with each other to dispel feelings of loneliness.
- Chris Lee, our Office Manager, has been going to the office several days a week to perform the many administrative duties that do not stop during the pandemic,
- SOC (the Service and Outreach Committee) led by Sara Barakat, supports the needy in our community through food drives for Bethesda Help, and gifts and meal supplies for Interfaith Works Homeless Shelters. Financial donations to the Virtual Rummage Sale and the Gifts of Caring Program continue to provide support of local, national, and global charities. We supported our refugee family by purchasing and enjoying Chef Majed's delicious dinners.
- Committee Chairs kept NBUMC's business and facility matters in good order.
- Church Council Chair Penny Clarke provides inspiring leadership for the members of our church committees who have continued to meet virtually.
- Trustees Committee Chair Diane Walsh-Barberesi has handled the challenges of our aging facilities and attended to needed improvements, most notably replacement of the leaky roof above the Narthex. Diane supervises contractor custodian Abel, who has ensured that the facilities are kept clean, and who has kept an eye on the condition of the facilities and grounds.
- Finance Committee Chair Nathaniel Clarke, Treasurers Kathy Devadas and Jesse Jennings, and Investment Committee Chair Dick Getzinger diligently dealt with the challenging financial demands of recurring budget deficits. Contributing factors to these deficits are the loss of some of our church's long-time and loyal members as well as lower rental income and fundraising due to the restrictions on indoor meetings during the pandemic.

In the next six to nine months, we hope that we can resume our normal in-person worship and continue online services for homebound members and visitors. May God bless NBUMC!

HAPPENINGS

DONATIONS TO GREENTREE SHELTER

Members of the NBUMC congregation were a blessing for the eight (8) families, including 24 children, currently residing in the Greentree Shelter (GTS) when Natalie McManus (right), with a full trunk and backseat, delivered toys, diapers, coats and other items to the facility on December 11, 2020. You filled Natalie's car with your donations exceeding \$750.00. The Biggest collection for the Arts Committee toy drive was on the night of the Chef Majed dinner pickup.

The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) thanks you for continuing to support GTS. Your donation of time, goods or funds goes directly to supporting the most vulnerable children and families in our community.



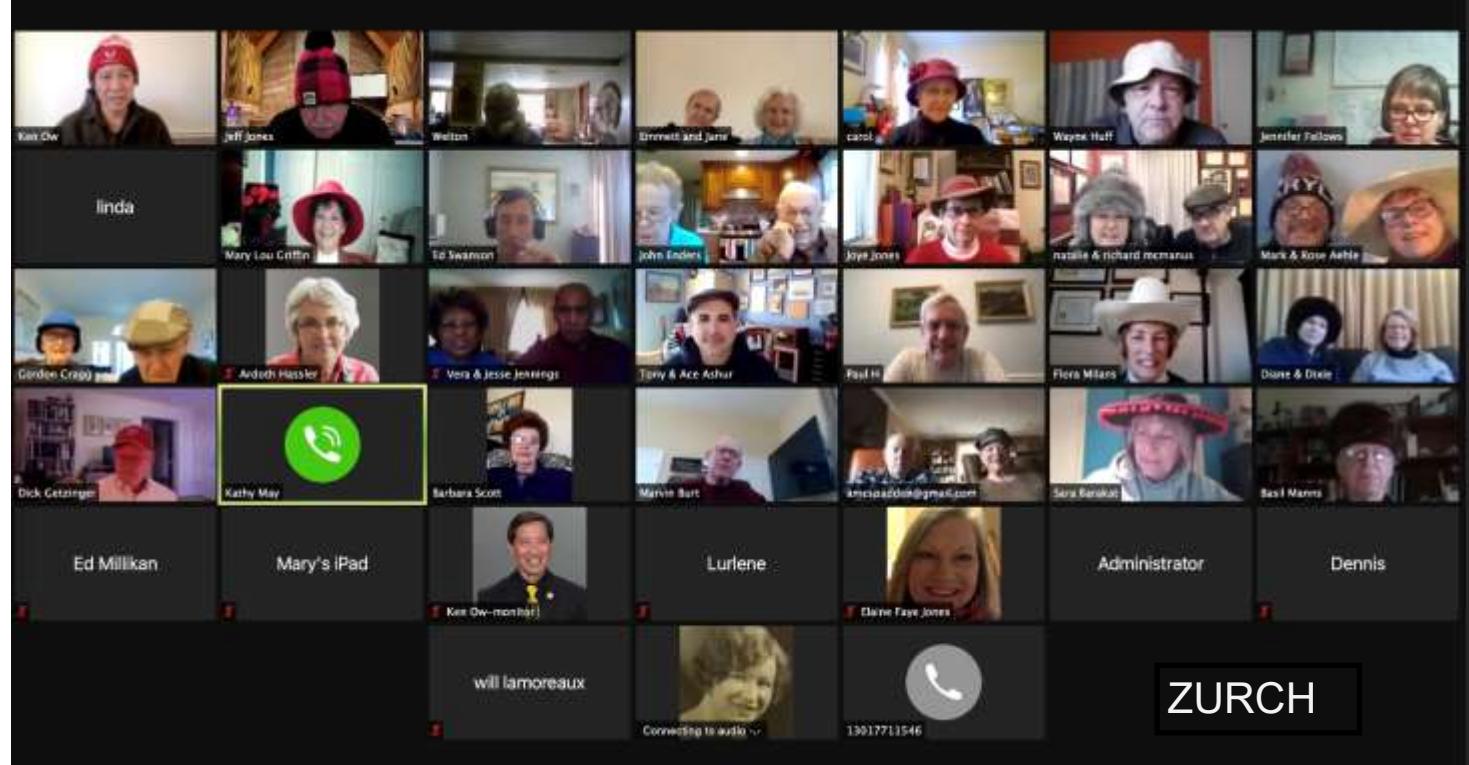
INTERFAITH WORKS

Thank you so much to everyone who made this holiday season extra special for our clients! We were able to give beautiful Christmas gifts to the 30 clients at Interfaith Works Women's Center and the 50 clients at Interfaith Works Emergency Shelter at Coffield! We couldn't do it without you! Thank you and happy holidays! - Samantha Cheakalos

Service and Outreach: Collections to Date

Gifts of Caring: \$2,140

Virtual Rummage Sale: \$3,640



HAPPENINGS



Chrismons!

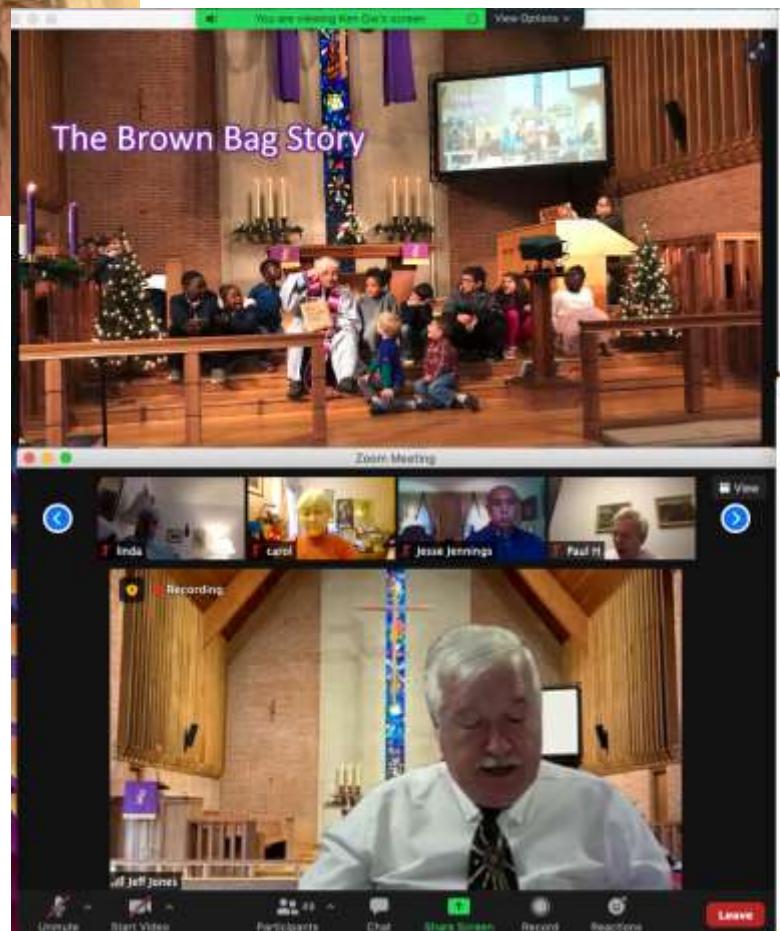


We were blessed to have Kumbi Kasambira serve as a liturgist during Advent.

A Very Different Advent, Christmas and New Years!



Sisters graced us with song during the Family Christmas Service
December 20th



2021 Here at last at the Sithole's!

To the Glory of God,
we honor our loved ones
with our virtual Poinsettias



From

Max Carroll In memory of my husband, Mike Carroll; in honor of my parents, Elizabeth & Bill German; in honor of my grandchildren, Chase, Cole, Cooper, Ella, and John.

Michael and Ping Din In loving memory of Peter and Linda Din.

John and Mary Lou Griffin In honor of the staff of NBUMC.

Ardoth Hassler and Jim Short In honor of Fannie and Jesse Shelton.

Nancy Kane In loving memory of my birthday-twin cousin Rex Robertson; in honor of my friend Lisa Bente who was my “shopping angel” for several months into the pandemic until Giant got back on its feet; in memory of Richard Lowe.

Flora and Tark Milans In memory of our parents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday February 16: Pancakes and Talent (Pandemic Style)

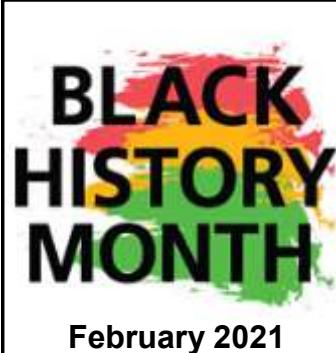
No pancakes at the church this year due to the pandemic - BUT - the Arts Committee is encouraging everyone to make pancakes at home for supper. We are asking people to submit videos of talent show acts from previous years, or send in video with something new! We'll have our show on YouTube so we can still share our talents!

Brandon Kesselly is collecting 3 to 5 minute videos and will put them on NBUMC's YouTube channel. Videos made from a standard cell phone or webcam (MP4 file or MOV file) are fine. Further information and details are available in the weekly email.

Deadline for submitting videos is Monday February 1, 2021.

- Natalie McManus, Arts Chair

Bethesda Help
Food Drive
Saturday
January 16
from 2pm-4pm



Mel Thompson: Living Legacy

By Carol Malmi

Our beloved Mel Thompson recently moved to Bright View Senior Care Living around the corner from the home he and Linda have lived in for many years. His eyes are as bright as the brilliant blue sky of his native Michigan, and the twinkle in those eyes registers his wry humor and a spark of mischief. But he has lost his bearings, in memory and in daily life. Linda, visiting nurses, and friends could no longer guarantee Mel's safety at home. At Bright View, in safe surroundings, he may regain some of those memories.



And what memories they are! Mel's quiet demeanor at NBUMC gives no clue of his life-long involvement with the 4-H Clubs (now International 4-H) in Michigan and later in the national headquarters, located in Chevy Chase, MD. The Lansing Journal newspaper tracked Mel's idealistic career from its early days. Mel was born in 1933 in Ravenna, Michigan, his home until he moved to Arlington, Virginia many years later. As a teenager he became a very active 4-H club member participating in county, state, and national 4-H activities, and for five years he was a Junior 4-H Leader. In 1949 he attended the National 4-H Congress and in 1952 he represented Michigan at the National 4-H Camp in Washington, D.C. By then, he was attending the Michigan State University, on a four-year 4-H scholarship and other scholarships. By 1955, he had earned a B.A. degree, and he later earned an M.A. degree from American University. During those years, in 1953 he was selected to serve as a 4-H Fellow. Michigan 4-H sent Mel to Turkey for a long summer as an International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) delegate. In 1956-1958 Mel spent two years on the staff of the IFYE in Washington, D.C. During this time, Mel earned a Master's degree at American University. Back in Michigan, in 1960, already a County Extension Agent working with the Monroe County 4-H, he was appointed to the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service.

In 1963, Mel and Linda married and relocated to Arlington, VA, where Mel served as a recruiter for the Peace Corps. In 1964 he and Linda moved to Nigeria for two years while Mel served as West Africa Director for the newly established Peace Corps volunteer program Community Development and Agriculture.



Mel in Turkey

When they returned to the States, Mel and Linda lived in Okemos, MI, where Mel served as Program Leader for 4-H youth. In November 1968, the Lansing State Journal reported that Mel had been appointed Associate Director of International Programs for the National 4-H Foundation in Washington, DC. Mel, Linda, and their son Dean moved to Bethesda. Dawn arrived a couple of years later. While serving in this position, Mel traveled to numerous countries around the world to develop exchanges and support ongoing programs.

During a long career with 4-H, Mel rose to become editor of the International Four-H Youth Exchange Association (IFYE) and a member of the IFYE Board of Directors. He is a member of the National 4-H History Preservation Leadership Team.

Mel's life of service to the 4-H ideals, and to national and international 4-H youth development, is the anchor of a whole-family dedication to service. Dawn spent 22 years as a teacher before relocating back to Maryland with her family in 2019. She is now serving as the Youth and Children's Director at Chevy Chase UMC. Dean is a U.S. State Department Foreign Service officer, serving at posts around the world.

(Continued on page 12)

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity to our pastor and staff during 2020. As you know, 2020 was a tough year for all, but those who could, gave generously to provide help to those who were affected by the pandemic. You also topped 2020 off with generous Christmas staff gifts. On behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), thank you for your gifts! Happy and Healthy New Year to all! - Flora Milans; Chair, SPRC

Elaine and I wish to thank the you for your generosity for our Christmas Gift. We are truly blessed to have your support and love. May the New Year bring you blessings and help you sense the presence of God's Holy Spirit in your life.

- Pastor Jeff

Dear Church Family: You will never know how grateful I am for your prayers when we were transitioning Mel to a care facility. It was the toughest thing I've had to do in our 57 years together. Mel has expressed how happy he is there, and I know that God's hand is in that because of all your prayers. Thank you each and everyone.

Mel is able to have visitors now. If you would like to visit, call the facility and ask what is available. The number is 301-615-0119.

On another note, I would like to thank you for the very generous Christmas check I received.

Happy New Year and may we all be blessed with good health. - Linda Thompson

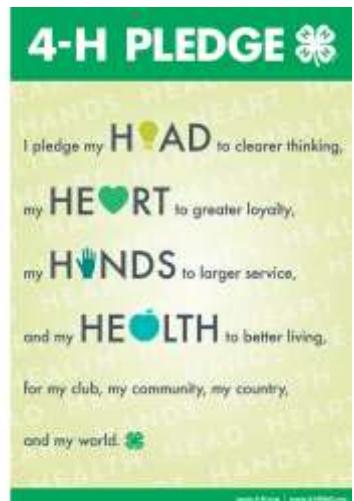
Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift and even more for your care for Brigid and me while we had COVID-19. We are almost fully recovered and attribute that to the power of your prayers. - Tony Ashur

Thank you from Chris Lee, Renee and Malika Newman, Tripta and Abel for your thoughtful and generous gifts! Warm wishes for a bright new year!

Mel Thompson: A Life and Legacy of Service (Continued from page 11)

Everyone here at NBUMC knows Linda as our Minister of Visitation. She is everywhere, doing everything, and helping many in need. Less well known is Mel's contribution as an early leader in the life of NBUMC. He chaired the Missions Commission (now the Social Action and Outreach Committee) and headed up the Rummage Sale of those days. He also served on the West District Council for several years.

Mel's health has been in decline for a long time. Regular church service attendees remember occasions in recent years when the Rescue Squad arrived quietly and gently whisked Mel away to Suburban Hospital. Each time, doctors were stumped by Mel's dangerously low blood pressure, and batteries of tests could not find a cause. During those years, Mel's memory was slowly dimming, and he was less and less steady on his feet. Linda and their children, Dawn and Dean, moved heaven and earth to keep him at home, but finally it was no longer safe. At Bright View, Mel's room is on the Memory Care floor. Mel has much to remember with pride, and if his memory is weak, we can remember for him, honor him for what he has done, and make sure that he feels the love we send him.



CORONAVIRUS VACCINE IS COMING!



Alyson Popkin, RN, received her Coronavirus vaccine. Thank you, Alyson, for your service during the pandemic.



TRIVIA: Robert Sherman was inspired to write the song "A Spoonful of Sugar" for "Mary Poppins" after his son was given the oral polio vaccine on a sugar cube.



GET VACCINATED!

As your editor, I try not to get on my soap box very often. However, vaccination is going to be critically important to managing the spread of the virus, which will then have a positive impact on our returning to "normal" activities. I am passionate about urging vaccination. Why so? My graduate work was in Biostatistics at the University of Oklahoma School of Public Health. And, I grew up in a home with a dad who was an MD MPH, and directed the Oklahoma State Health Department Laboratories for 43 years. Growing up in the 1950s, polio was rampant.

When the vaccine became available, I

remember my dad lining up my cousins and me, and inoculating every one of us. I'm sure he used this photo of me (right) for "marketing", urging the public to vaccinate their children by vaccinating his own child. Polio is controlled with vaccination. Coronavirus can be too. As the Coronavirus vaccine becomes more readily available, I urge you to get vaccinated against it as soon as you become eligible.

- Ardoth Hassler, Contact Editor



Miscellany

UPDATE: A MARATHON FOR AHEAD

Ikaia's 2nd Project: Purchase Computers for Secondary Students in Maruku Village, Tanzania

Congratulations to Chengetayi Sitole who ran 26.2 miles on December 23rd in support of a fundraiser started by his son, Ikaia. In 2018, Ikaia raised funds to build toilets at a school in Tanzania. He is now raising funds to buy computers for the school.



The Marathon is over, but Ikaia has not reached his goal of \$15,000 to purchase computers for students at Maruku Secondary School (840) and Bukara Secondary School (565).

PLEASE HELP IKAIJA REACH HIS GOAL!!!!

To donate:

Option 1 – Go to AHEAD's website www.aheadinc.org. Click on the donate tab and in the comment section, indicate **donations towards computers**
Option 2 – Make check out to AHEAD, Inc. In memo, write "**towards student computers**," mailing address is P.O. BOX 2172, ROCKVILLE, MD 20847-2172.

ASANTE SANA (THANKS VERY MUCH)

One of Our Own...



Kim Milans Stonehouse, daughter of Flora and Calvin ("Tark") Milans, who grew up at NBUMC has been named to **Automotive News'** ["100 Leading Women in the North American Auto Industry."](#) Kim, her husband and two children live in Michigan. Flora and Tark can't wait for the end of the pandemic to visit again!



Mark and Rose Aehle
celebrate a Covid Christmas!



We love our children. However, for reasons of security and privacy, we do not identify them by name in our publications or online.

JANUARY

2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | |  | |
| 3 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee | 4 10:00 am Fit for Eternity | 5 Nat'l Bird Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity | 6 Epiphany of the Lord 7:00 pm AWE | 7 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Affairs Class | 8 Bubble Bath Day  | 9 11:00 am Prime Time |
| 10 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee | 11 7:00 pm Trustees | 12 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Finance | 13 7:00 pm AWE | 14 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 Choir (Zoom) | 15 Nat'l Bagel Day | 16 2:45 pm Bethesda Help Food Drive |
| 17 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee | 18  | 19 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm SPRC (Zoom) | 20 7:00 pm AWE | 21 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Affairs Class | 22 | 23 Nat'l Pie Day 11:00 am Prime Time |
| 24 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee | 25 | 26 10:00 am Fit for Eternity | 27 Nat'l Puzzle Day  7:00 pm AWE | 28 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Choir (Zoom) | 29 | 30 |
| 31 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee | | | | | | |

February

2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 1 10:00 am Fit for Eternity | 2 Ground Hog Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity | 3 7:00 pm AWE | 4 World Cancer Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Events Class (Zoom) | 5 Nat'l Weatherperson's Day  | 6 |
| 7 Super Bowl Day  10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout | 8 7:00 Trustees | 9 Nat'l Pizza Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 Finance | 10 7:00 pm AWE | 11 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Choir (Zoom) | 12 | 13 11:00 Prime Time (Zoom) |
| 14 Valentine's Day  | 15 Presidents Day  | 16 Shrove Tuesday 10:00 am Fit for Eternity Shrove Tuesday Talent Show (Zoom) | 17 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm AWE | 18 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Events Class (Zoom) | 19 | 20 World Day of Social Justice |
| 21 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee | 22 | 23 10:00 am Fit for Eternity | 24 7:00 pm AWE | 25 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Choir (Zoom) | 26 | 27 11:00 Prime Time (Zoom) |
| 28 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee | | | | | | |

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

10100 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

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JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

This is the schedule for worship participants for the months of January and February. 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 |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| January 3 | Wesley Covenant Service |
| January 10 | Natalie McManus |
| January 17 | Carol Malmi |
| January 24 | Gordon Cragg |
| January 31 | Mary Lou Griffin |
| February 7 | Penny Clarke |
| February 14 | Hold |
| February 21 | Carol Malmi |
| February 28 | Children & Youth |

Sunday Worship 10:00am

Alternative Worship experience:

Wednesday 7:00pm

Contact the Church Office to be added to the mailing list for weekly updates.