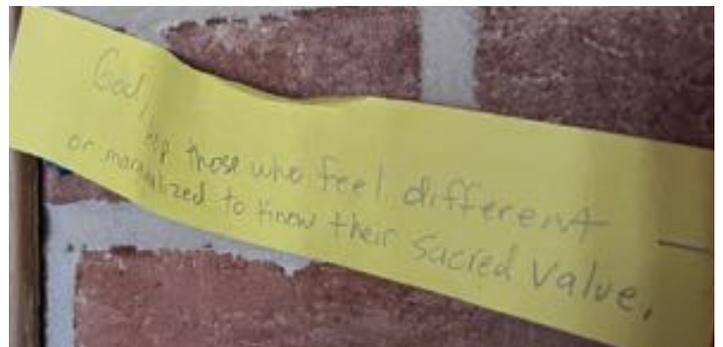
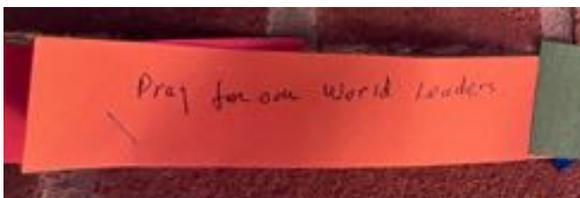
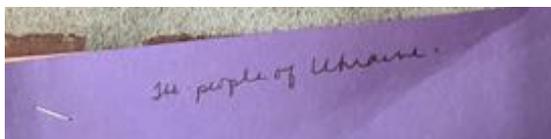
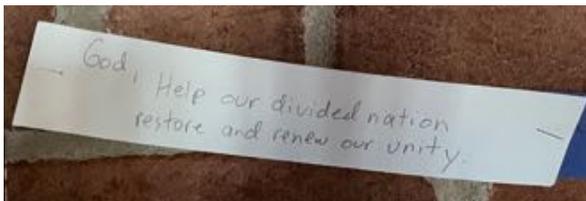
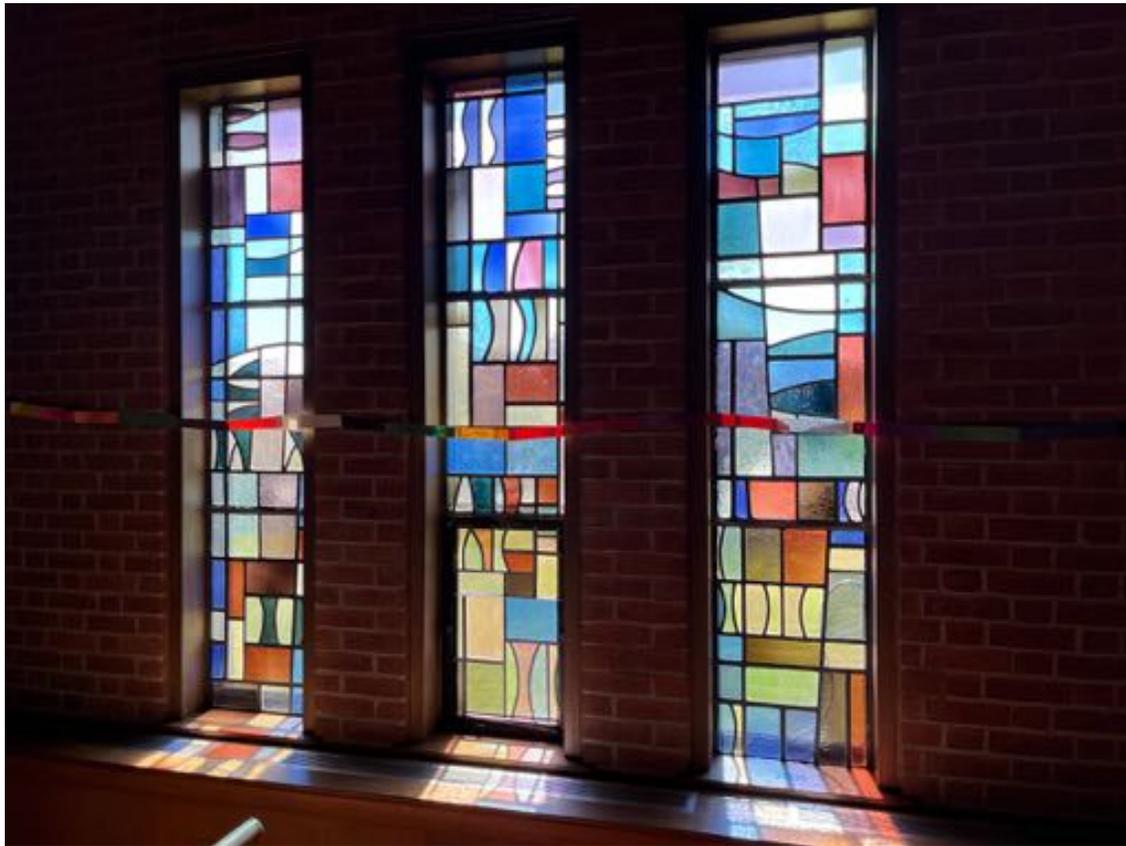


# Contact

Winter 2022  
Volume 51 Issue 4

## Prayers for Our World



Celebrating World Communion Sunday

# Front Cover



NBUMC celebrated World Communion Sunday October 3rd. Rev. Kara asked congregants to write their prayers and then placed them around the sanctuary. Prayers were offered for family and friends, those traveling in unsafe conditions, those struggling with addiction, our world leaders, the people of Ukraine, the people affected by Hurricane Ian, our grandchildren and children, hurricane victims in Puerto Rico and Cuba, those suffering with COVID, people undergoing cancer treatments or coping with serious illness...

## 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](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: Simon Charette

Coordinator of Education: Renee Newman

Contact Newsletter Editors: Ardoth Hassler-Short,  
Carol Malmi

Contact Newsletter Publisher: Chris Lee

## GIFTS OF CARING - A HOLIDAY ALTERNATIVE

NBUMC is a qualified charitable organization (a 501(c)3). Through the church, members are able to make charitable contributions to local, national and global organization via additional donations. Don't want to get on another mailing list, but want to donate? Designate the organization and give through NBUMC. NBUMC then aggregates the donations and sends them out. Gift cards, and organization descriptions, are available. Watch the *Weekly Email* for further information.

### We support 5 Local organizations:

[Bethesda Cares](#): works to prevent homelessness through programs supporting people in danger of eviction/utility shut-off in Montgomery County, and having other needs.

[Bethesda Help](#): supplies food to needy families in Montgomery County. Their pantry is housed at NBUMC.

[Capital Area Food Bank](#): supplies food to needy families in the Washington region.

[Cornerstone Montgomery](#): empowers people living with mental health and substance use disorders.

[Primary Care for Kids](#): affordable healthcare children of low-income families in Montgomery County.

### We support 3 National organizations:

[Bread for the World](#): lobbies Congress for support of programs to feed the hungry in the US and globally.

[Henderson Settlement, Kentucky](#): supports poor and abused families in Appalachia.

[Intermountain Children's Home, Montana](#): cares for abused children and families from the US.

### We support 5 Global organizations:

[AHEAD Inc.](#) (Adventures in Health, Education, and Agricultural Development): Founded by NBUMC members Irving and Elvira Williams; supports education and health programs in rural Tanzania and Gambia.

[French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children, Afghanistan](#): Founded by the French and Afghan Governments, the Aga Khan University, and the French NGO, La Chaîne de l'Espoir; provides world-class healthcare to Afghan families at a hospital in Kabul. The governing board is chaired by NBUMC member, Lee Hilling.

[Institute of Grace, Haiti](#): provides education, healthcare and meals for poor families in Haiti.

[Samata Sarana, Clarendon Foundation, California](#): supports the homeless and hungry in Sri Lanka.

[Samburu School, Kenya](#): support for the education and meals for poor rural children in the Samburu region. (Dr. Janet Jalloul; contact Jacqui Cragg)

[I AM ZIMBABWE](#): our very own Tsitsi Sithole is on the leadership team of this wonderful organization in Zimbabwe that works to nurture, educate and empower a community of safe and healthy children, youth and older adults.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity. - Sara Barakat, Chair, SOC

# ADVENT MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR LAUNDRY, BERRIES, AND PERSISTENT JOY

Do you ever feel like you're being asked to hold too many things? Maybe it's a to-do list that never seems to diminish, or health issues plaguing you or a loved one. Maybe you feel weighed down by struggles in your family, or by the heartbreaking news of our country and the world. My sense, meeting with members of our community and praying with you Sunday after Sunday, is that we are, each of us, carrying heavy loads.



Add to that the demands of the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Years race, and it can seem like there's no room. There are parties to attend, presents to buy, dishes to wash, decorations to find and put up, and traditions to uphold. We simply don't have enough arms to hold it all; not enough days in the month or room in our hearts for all that this season brings.

I'm reminded of the December when I was living in South Africa and periodically walked with my overstuffed laundry bag to the laundromat downtown. It was a long enough walk that I only wanted to make one efficient trip, and my arms ached from stretching around the giant bundle. One day, on my way back up the hill with my clean clothes, I decided to stop and buy this sack of beautiful, ripe berries that someone was selling from a roadside stand. But when I tried to wrap my arms around my new load, it was impossible to hold both the laundry and the fruit together without squishing the berries.

I feel that way this time of year—asked to hold both Christmas cheer and deep grief at the world's sadness; to hold together both family and work obligations; to balance fun traditions with some sort of spiritually-significant ritual. We try to hold it all together, but it seems like something is always getting squished or dropped. And so this year, I am trying a new approach, one that doesn't feel so much like a balancing act. This Advent in worship, we are focusing on joy: joy in chaos; joy in repentance; joy in patience; joy in the unexpected. But the joy of Christ isn't just one more thing we're asked to hold or make room for. We don't have to figure out a way to wrap our arms around our complicated holiday emotions and somehow hold them together with God's inexplicable joy. Rather, the joy of Christ holds us. It's the kind of joy that walks, unafraid, right alongside pain and suffering; the kind of joy that can persist as it sits with us in the pouring rain. The joy of Christ wraps its arms around us. We aren't asked to haul it around or create it ourselves, but are instead invited to simply rest in it.

That day with my laundry and the berries? There wasn't a way I could get everything up the hill intact without ruining both my clean clothes and the ripe fruit. Since I had already made the purchase, I had no choice but to stop what I was doing, set down my load, and eat the berries. Straight out of the bag, all at once. So much sweetness; purple juice running down my chin. Joy. Sometimes we just have to stop and let it cover us. May God's beauty compel you to set down your load and rest at some point this season, and may joy burst in on the scene—messy, sweet, and delightful.

- Peace, Rev. Kara

## Worship Themes/Scriptures

### November/December Worship Plan

**November 6: All Saints' Sunday Job 19:23-27a**

**November 13: Isaiah 65:17-25**

**November 20: Christ the King Sunday Luke 1:68-79 and Luke 23:33-43**

**November 27: Advent 1: Finding Joy in Chaos Matthew 24:36-44**

**December 4: Advent 2: Finding Joy in Repentance Matthew 3:1-12**

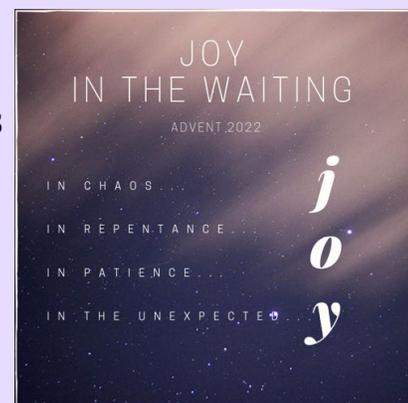
**December 11: Advent 3: Finding Joy in Patience Matthew 11:2-11**

**December 18: Advent 4: Finding Joy in the Unexpected**

**Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55**

**December 25: Zoom Worship Only - Stories and Songs**

**January 1: Zoom Worship Only: Matthew 2:1-12**



# Our People

## Welcome to Our New Director of Music



We are excited to welcome Simon Charette as our new Director of Music. Simon is a conductor, collaborative pianist, and vocal coach based in Washington, DC. He has worked with internationally acclaimed artists from the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera. He was recently appointed Associate Artistic Director of the Washington Opera Society. He also serves as assistant conductor of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra in Annapolis. Simon is the artistic director of the Choir of the Embassy of France in Washington and the French Choir of Washington, DC. He holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the Université de Montréal. His first Sunday with us will be October 23rd.

- Christena Johnston-Pulliam, Chair, SPRC

### Youth Receive New Bibles



Anela receives her new bible



**Pamela Major receives the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, October 9**



**Thank you, Lukas Chandler, for providing music during worship this fall.**

# Our People

# Wishing Tony Ashur a Fond Farewell



I can't thank you enough for the wonderful send-off on my last day at NBUMC. The kind words spoken by members of the choir will be forever etched in my memory and on my wall with the framed commentaries. The beautiful wooden piano plaque already has a place of honor near my piano at home. The music quilt Ardoth made is used every day and a wonderful reminder of my years at NBUMC. I have read through the cards several times and very much appreciate all the sentiments, kind words and memories. I also want to thank you for the generous monetary gift.

The choir singing *The Old Irish Blessing* was the best gift of all. We had sung it so many times for departing church members and now I got to hear it sung for me! What a gift! Most of all, thank you for your friendship. That is a gift that will keep on giving for many many years. So to honor the many people, memories, and cultural backgrounds of the church just let me say, merci beaucoup, molto grazie, vielen dank, muchas gracias, and thank you very very much!

THANK YOU! - Tony

Tony and  
Vera Jennings



Tony and  
Mary Lou  
Griffin

# Backpacks!



Sunday, August 28th, saw the blessing of our students and teachers, as well as their backpacks!



14 filled backpacks, plus extra supplies and gift cards for new shoes, for middle schoolers whose families are served by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.

# We Are an Active Church!

## FREE Family Movie Nite Saturday, Oct. 22 at 7pm.

We will be showing Disney/Pixar's *Monsters, Inc.* for children ages 5 and up, accompanied by an adult. Bring a blanket and pillow, or bean bag chair to sit on.

Folding chairs will also be available. Popcorn and juice boxes will be offered. The movie run time is 93 minutes. Invite your friends and neighbors!



## Pledge Sunday

Our Stewardship Season wraps up with a celebratory worship service on Sunday, October 23rd. (Please note the *recent date change!*) Pledge cards were mailed out and are also available in the Narthex each Sunday in October. We encourage you to prayerfully consider what you can commit to share with the church in 2023. Our Finance Committee will use the projected income information to draft a ministry budget for the year. Thank you for your generous participation in the mission of our church!

## Serving the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter October 23 -29

NBUMC will be providing meals to the Women's Homeless Shelter at 2 Taft Court, Rockville, MD, during the week of October 23 through 29. As always, volunteer teams will be preparing dinners for 35 shelter ladies and a few staff. Staff will serve the meals we deliver. Please contact **Gordon** and/or **Jacqui** Cragg to volunteer.



## Calling ALL Liturgists & others who aren't sure!

Training after worship  
Sunday, October 23  
(details page 7)

## BLESSINGS OF PETS



## The Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 23 at 4 pm, outside by the white cross. Bring your pet (on leash or in a carrier) for a blessing. Children without pets who would like to have a stuffed pet animal blessed are also welcome.

## Church Conference November 2nd (via Zoom)

Our annual Church Conference (you may know it as Charge conference) is scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday, November 2nd (via zoom.) All are welcome to attend, and all church members are eligible to vote on the matters brought forward. One important vote that will take place is whether to move forward with shifting our leadership structure to a One Board model, as proposed by our Lay Leadership Committee, effective January 1, 2023. If you missed the congregational Zoom meeting in August and would like more information, talk to Rev. Kara, or our Lay Leader Gordon Cragg, or any other member of the Lay Leadership Committee: Ardoth Hassler-Short, Vera Jennings, Steve McSpadden, Kim Santoro, Linda Thompson, or Jane Ward.



## The Annual RUMMAGE SALE is Back!

Saturday,  
November 5th  
8 am to 2 pm

Details: Page 8 and at  
[northbethesdaumc.org](http://northbethesdaumc.org)



NOVEMBER  
8th

# We Are an Active Church!



## All Saints' Day November 6th

We'll be celebrating All Saints' Sunday on November 6th. If you have lost someone important to you since last November and would like us to remember them aloud in worship (both virtual and in-person) that morning, please send their name and a photo (optional) to [office@northbethesdaumc.org](mailto:office@northbethesdaumc.org) by Wednesday, November 2nd.



## Advent

The season of Advent begins November 27th. As this is the Sunday after Thanksgiving, we will have a **Zoom-only worship service at 10 am**, and then you're invited to come in-person to **help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent at 4 pm**. We'll have a short **outdoor service at 5 pm**, and **chili for dinner!** Friends and guests of all ages are welcome! Advent begins a new liturgical year. 2022-2023 will be Year A in [The Revised Common Lectionary](#).

## Longest Night Service

There is a lot of pressure this time of year to be constantly "merry and bright," but if you're not always feeling that way, you are not alone. The long nights and bitter cold of winter can be hard on our spirits, and Christmastime can be especially difficult for those of us struggling with grief, worry, loneliness, or a sense of overwhelm. So, no matter what you're feeling or just not feeling this season, we invite you in for a time of respite. Come as you are--in your comfiest clothes in your own home--to a contemplative worship service via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday, December 20th. Here, we will hold space for each other and take time to wait for the Spirit who intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Nothing will be asked of you, and all of who you are and what you carry will be welcomed with grace.

## Christmas Eve

Our plan for Christmas Eve this year is to have two services in the Sanctuary: one at 5pm and the other at 9pm. The 5:00 pm service will include special music from (hopefully!) our younger members and friends, a children's message, a sermon, and carols by candlelight. The 9:00 pm service will include special music from our choir or a small group of singers, Communion, a (different!) sermon, and carols by candlelight as we welcome the dawning of Christmas Day. Come to one or both, and invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

---

## Calling ALL Liturgists & others who aren't sure:

**Those who've done it a lot (or occasionally) as well as you who are thinking, "Yes, I'd like to try it, BUT ..."**



Liturgy comes from a Greek word meaning "work of the people." Liturgy encompasses all the rituals we use in worship, from greeting to benediction (but not the sermon!).

I (Joye Jones) am offering training for liturgists, especially for those who haven't done it much, or maybe even never, but want to try! And those who just want a brush up are also very welcome. Any age is welcome as long as you can read aloud clearly

Each person will be assigned a scripture passage and other liturgy in advance, so you will have time to practice it before the session. You will then lead a call to worship and read the assigned scripture passage. Other trainees and I will provide constructive feedback so that you will be well prepared to lead God's people in the offering of worship.



The first session will be Sunday, October 23 in the sanctuary following the worship service. Please let me know if you'd like to come that day. If you're interested but cannot come then, let me know, and I will gladly add more sessions.

**Questions? More Info? Talk with [Joye Jones](#)**

# ALL HANDS ON DECK: RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE



Reverend Kara has asked us what kind of boat metaphor we would use for our church – are we like a fishing boat, a ferry, a submarine? We don't know the answer, but this rummage sale voyage requires a crew, which means we need as many members and friends of NBUMC as possible volunteering to help.

In the week prior to the event, as attics and basements are cleared of clutter, we receive, organize, and price the goods. This is a great time to get to know your church family, and you can scope out the best bargains! Volunteers will have a chance to make pre-sale purchases on Friday afternoon.

On the day of the sale, November 5th, we provide affordable goods to those in our community who need a hand, while also achieving our goal of raising money for local, national and global outreach groups supported by our Service and Outreach Committee (SOC). (See page 2.)

Please plan to come as often as you can to help during the set-up period from October 29th through Friday November 4th. Volunteer for a three-hour shift during the sale on November 5th. We need crews for Clothing, Books, Jewelry, Housewares and Furniture, Toys, Art, and holiday decorations. We also need a clear-up crew to help box and remove the leftovers immediately after the sale as well as Cashiers, and help with the Snack Bar.

Mark your calendars and let Jacqui or Gordon Cragg know about your availability on Sale Day, November 5th. Look at the schedule below to find times when you could come in to help – no need to sign up. THANKS!

## DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN JOHNSON HALL

- Saturday October 29, 10 am to 4 pm
- Sunday October 30, after church to 4 pm
- Monday October 31, 10 am to 4 pm
- Tuesday November 1, 10 am to 8 pm
- Wednesday November 2, 10 am to 1 pm

**NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER  
1 PM WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Setup

- During donation hours (left)

### Organizing and Pricing

- Wednesday November 2, 2 pm until 8 pm
- Thursday November 3, 10 am to 8 pm
- Friday November 4, 10 am to 6 pm

### Volunteer Pre-Sale Purchases:

- Friday November 4, 4 pm to 6 pm

### THE RUMMAGE SALE: November 5 8 am - 2 pm

- First shift from 7:30 am to 11:00 am
- Second shift from 10:45 am to 2:15 pm
- Clean-up crews from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm

**NO**

**Full-size sofas, beds  
Headboards, Bookcases  
Large cabinets or curtain rods**

**NO**

**TVs, Computers, Monitors, Printers,  
Cell Phones or Electronic Devices**

**NO**

**Encyclopedias, textbooks  
professional or technical books  
foreign language books, gift books  
non-current "how to" or test-prep  
books, coffee table books  
LPs, tapes, CDs, or DVDs**

**NO**

**Carseats or cribs**

## DO Donate

Clothes, furniture, housewares, home goods, books, collectibles, jewelry, toys and items for the bake sale!

### BEFORE YOU DONATE:

Ask yourself if the item would meet your own criteria for purchase. Is it clean? In working order? Does it have all the parts and pieces? Batteries?

If not, DON'T DONATE IT!

# At A Crossroads

In her sermon on resetting our values (September 25), Rev. Kara related an encounter with a stranger who had stopped by NBUMC for prayer and baptism. It brought to mind one of my most memorable experiences as a pastor.



The church I served in Silver Spring was easily visible from the beltway, so we often had folks walking in looking for help. One morning as I entered the church office, our secretary told me a man was waiting to see me. “I gave him some coffee; he’s in the library.” “What does he want?” I asked, assuming he was looking for food or money. “He just said he wanted to talk with the pastor.”

After putting my stuff away, I walked across the hall to see a man sitting at a table, reading a Bible. I introduced myself and asked how I could help. The man – I’ll call him Sam, not his real name – said he was hitchhiking up from the Carolinas, and was dropped off just in front of the church. He decided to come in because it was a Methodist church, and he wanted to talk to somebody.

Sam’s story was sad. He was from Montgomery County but, for the last several years, he had been going up and down the East Coast, doing odd jobs, fighting his personal demons. He had planned to go to New England where he’d heard he might find a job. But, Sam said, while he was at a very low point, he went into a shopping mall called Crossroads in a town in North Carolina. Some people were handing out Bibles and Sam took one. He sat down in the food court and began to read. He realized he was at a crossroads in his life, and he had to sort things out. He was divorced, and there was an active warrant out for Sam’s arrest in Maryland for failure to pay child support. He knew he had to do something. We talked and prayed, and after some time, I asked, “Sam, what do you want to do?” He sat still for a few moments, then said, “I’d like to turn myself in.” “Are you sure?” “Yes, it’s what I have to do.”

I called the Montgomery County Police who confirmed there was a warrant for Sam. Accompanied by a church member, I drove Sam to the County Detention Center on Seven Locks Road, stopping along the way to get him some breakfast since he had not eaten in a long time. We arrived at the center; the police were waiting. Sam talked with them for a while, gave them his backpack, emptied his pockets and handed them everything else he had. Sam came over to where I was sitting while they processed paperwork. He asked for prayer. We prayed. Sam said he had once been a member of a nearby Free Methodist Church, and asked me to call the church and let them know. Yes, of course.

As he was being taken back towards the cells, Sam asked if he could have his Bible back. The guard looked through it, and handed it to Sam. Just before he walked through the door, he turned to me and said, “Thank you.”

I did call the pastor of the church; he didn’t know Sam but he said the church would add him to their prayer and visitation list.

I was intensely moved and humbled by this interaction with a man who entered my life for just a few hours. To sit with him as he made this momentous decision, to pray with him as he faced an uncertain future. I have often thought about Sam and wondered about the rest of his story after he chose to go in this direction at this crossroad.

- Joye Jones

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA UPDATE

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



**Deadline for Next Issue: January 10, 2023**

# LOOKING BACK

Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian

## Hopes Raised at Groundbreaking for Our Sanctuary

After raising \$100,000 in two years toward a down payment, our church was ready in 1964 to break ground for a sanctuary complex expected to cost \$300,000. At the time, two services of morning worship and two sessions of church school were being held on Sunday in the multipurpose building completed in 1958.

The groundbreaking occurred during a special service after early worship on August 23, 1964. Instructions called for the congregation and church school to “move out of Church and assemble in a semicircle on the grass along Old Georgetown Road and Lone Oak Drive, facing the present building.”

Lay Leader Marshall Baker, who was also the Building Committee chairman, then led the congregation in a responsive reading with the participation of Trustees Board Chairman John Brindel, Official Board Chairman Col. Bruce Witwer and the Building Committee. Hopes were raised for a place to proclaim the gospel, nurture the children in God’s love, and inspire youth to serve the Lord. And the Building Committee asked for the “rising of a church that shall have the prophets scorn of tyranny and a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy-laden and down-trodden.”

Concluding the service, dignitaries took turns with the shovel. In a flash, the formalities were over, but at least one or two members couldn’t resist shoveling the holy ground for themselves.



(L) Members gather as Building Committee Chair and Lay Leader Marshall Baker concludes a groundbreaking ceremony and prepares to turn the first shovel. Behind him, left, are Building Committee Members Robert Drews and Kalwey Johnson; Trustees Chair John Brindel, Official Board Chair Col. Bruce Witwer, the Rev. Harry B. Miles, and American University Chaplain Rev. Leroy Graham. Photo by George Holt. (Right) Opal O'Dell Swasey breaks some holy ground for a Methodist sanctuary in North Bethesda. To her left, Kal Johnson looks on.

## Finance Committee Update

NBUMC finished the first half of its GAP BUDGET (July - December) on September 30th with a surplus of \$9,187. Revenue for the July - September time period was \$108,739. Expenditures for this period \$99,551. We've paid 100% of our Apportionments to the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

NBUMC's Financial budget, with the approval of Church Council, will be on a calendar year budget starting January 1, 2023.

- Jesse Jennings, Assistant Treasurer

# Miscellany



Dylan (left) and Matthew both earned blue ribbons for their Lego creations and jointly took the Grand Prize for their toilet seat diorama (Grandpa earned 2nd).

**The meals we packaged for Rise Against Hunger in May were shipped to Timor L'Este to Salesian Missions as part of hunger relief efforts. We send our love and our prayers for peace and strength to the people of this nation.**

# Winners! Montgomery County Fair

Ardoth Hassler's scrappy quilt of a dachshund (right) earned a blue ribbon. The quilt is being donated to Quilts for Kids, and will be given to a child who is seriously ill.



# Top summer reader



Angelina, Kim Santoro's youngest (3rd from left), was recognized by her school as a top summer reader!

# In the "Small World" Department



Joanna Voight gave this photo to Rev. Kara. A "few" years ago, her mother was a member of Eldbrooke United Methodist Church in DC where Rev. Kara's parents were members. The woman in the choir loft holding the baby is Kara's mom, Paula Chipman, and the baby is Kara! Kara's dad, Sterling Scroggins, is in the back row 3rd from left. The male pastor's name was Hil Langrall. He gave Rev. Kara his robes and stoles when he retired. She did his funeral in 2019.

# North Bethesda United Methodist Church

10100 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

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Winter 2022 Issue

## RUMMAGE SALE Saturday, November 5th

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

Visit us at  
[northbethesdaumc.org](http://northbethesdaumc.org)

DONATE: October 29 through November 2  
Details: [northbethesdaumc.org](http://northbethesdaumc.org)

We need VOLUNTEERS  
October 29 through November 5  
See inside: Page 8