

Contact

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

Epiphany and Lent 2023
Volume 52 Issue 1

A Season for Everything Under Heaven

Welcoming New Members



New Members with their sponsors during Lessons and Carols December 18, 2022 (p. 6)

Honoring



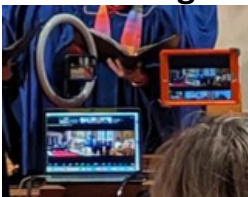
Christine Lee (p. 5)

Feeding the Hungry



Rise Against Hunger (p. 10)
Irving and Elvira Williams

Live-streaming!



Taking Care of Our Property



Ken Ow, Jim Short and Diane Walsh-Barberesi repair a parking lot light on a winter afternoon.

Worship and Contemplation



Light for a blue Christmas on the longest night of the year, December 20th.

Saying Farewell and Remembering



Fred Stetson
November 8, 2022
(p. 13)



Jesse Shelton
November 18, 2022
(p. 12)



Marlene Leazier
December 11, 2022
(p. 13)

**North Bethesda
United Methodist Church**

10100 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda MD 20814

Phone: (301) 530-4342

E-mail: office at northbethesdaumc.com

Website: www.NorthBethesdaumc.org

Office Manager: Gwendolyn Daniels

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday, 9:00AM- 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



Name Tags!

We once again have name tags on the rack in the Narthex! Please find yours and wear it when you meet and greet your church family. If you need a name tag, please contact the Church Office.



**SERVING THE INTERFAITH WORKS
WOMEN'S SHELTER**

Dear Shelter Friends,

We send you all warmest thanks for providing delicious dinners to the 38 ladies of the Interfaith Works Homeless Shelter during the week of October 23rd to 29th, 2022.

Your compassion and commitment to serving the needy members of our community are greatly appreciated. As one of the shelter staff said, "Thank you again for your on-going support. You guys are amazing!!!"

We hope that we can continue providing meals to the shelter for two weeks in 2023, and hopefully, we will be able to return to serving the dinners in person. - Blessings, Gordon and Jacqui Cragg



Thank You Note from David Duane

Editor's Note: In December, Rev. Kara received a letter from David (and Nancy) Duane, former members now living in North Carolina. Their NBUMC ties are multigenerational. They raised their daughters at NBUMC. Your editors even remember Nancy's mother, Hester Tink (Soprano 2). They have a new address, which members can obtain by contacting the Church Office. Here is an excerpt of David's letter.

Dear Rev. Scroggins:

During the 27 years since we left Bethesda and the congregation of NBUMC, we have enjoyed receiving the CONTACT. It has enabled us to remain in contact with the Church and congregants. Through those years, the numbers of friends and acquaintances we saw in photos or read about has declined greatly. But through the time span we have come to recognize names of new congregants and learn of activities and service to and by the membership. ... please continue mailing us...

Blessings and grace to you, /s/David

News of Jenny Bartholomot

Dear Friends of Jenny:

Thank you for keeping in touch with her last year. She does enjoy your cards. She is still in assisted living at Bartholomew House in Bethesda, receiving nice care and doing well. She will turn 97 on February 2nd. We hope you are doing well.

Love and best wishes, Jenny & Family

Editor's Note: Jenny's address is in the Church Directory, or you may contact the Church Office to obtain it.

Photo Credits: Ardoth Hassler, Peggy Lamoreaux, Chris Lee, Jenna Love, Natalie McManus, Steve McSpadden, Ken Ow, Rev. Kara, Tsitsi Sithole (with apologies to anyone we missed!)

Deadline for Next Issue: March 10, 2022

A NOTE FROM REV. KARA

In worship on January 22nd, we sang the old favorite hymn,

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life.

Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.

Words of life and duty, teach me faith and beauty,

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

While the words of the Bible have sometimes been used to bring death and destruction, I believe that God's intention is to bring us abundant, fulfilling, love-centered life. For the next twelve weeks in worship and Bible study, we are going to be sojourning through the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, through the lens of a guidebook called *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*. We will read both familiar and perhaps overlooked scriptures, and will explore how they tie in to the overarching story of God's determination to feed and forgive us, and God's invitation that we do the same for each other. We have six small group Bible studies that have formed and will be meeting on different days of the week throughout this journey. Email Gwendolyn in the office if you would like details about how to join one of these.

From February 6-May 15, I will be away on sabbatical, thanks to a generous grant our congregation received from the National Clergy Renewal Program, funded by the Lilly Endowment. A more complete explanation of what you will be doing and what I will be doing as part of this renewal period can be found in the Narthex, or email [office at northbethesdaumc.org](mailto:office@northbethesdaumc.org) for a digital copy. Rev. Bonnie Hawk will be covering much of my time away and will lead you through your Manna & Mercy journey. - Rev. Kara

Worship Themes/Scriptures: *Manna and Mercy*

January 29	Genesis 1	Creation! God creates and calls Creation good.
February 5	Exodus 6:2-16	God births a people and promises to deliver them.
February 12	Exodus 16:4-5, 31-35	Wilderness School: Learning the ways of God.
February 19	The Ten Commandments	The Ten Freedoms show us how to live with God & others.
February 26	1st Samuel 8:1-22	We want a king! The people want to be like other nations.
March 5	Jonah	The prophets call for mercy and justice.
March 12	Psalm 137	The Israelites experience life in exile.
March 19	Luke 1:46-55	God's surprise announcement!
March 26	Mark 6:30-44	Manna and mercy for all. Jesus says to us: "You feed them."
April 2	Matthew 4:1-11	Wilderness temptations and how they return in crucifixion.
April 9	John 20:11-22	Easter! What does the Resurrection make possible?
April 16	Revelation 21:1-5	God's unfolding promises and new Creation.
April 23	Journey through the Psalms	The choir leads us in a Psalm-based music Sunday.

Church News

Church Board Begins Planning for 2023 at First Annual Retreat

With the guidance and blessing from our Pastor, staff, church leaders and Church Conference, NBUMC began 2023 with a new unified church board model of governance. The former Church Council, Trustees, Finance and SPRC functions are now performed by a single board to be known as the "NBUMC Board," the "Church Board" or simply, "the Board."

On Saturday, January 7th, the Board met for our first annual retreat at our neighbor church, St. Luke's. We began with prayer to ask for God's guidance in our discussion and planning for NBUMC's future. We engaged in a Bible study exercise around John 15:1-17 to identify how we, as individuals and as a church, stay connected to God (our vines), how we reach out to others (our branches), and the results of these efforts (the fruit).

The Board also discussed possible goals to accomplish in 2023 and considered visioning statements to focus our efforts. As we work on fleshing out these goals and possibilities, we will turn to our congregation for input and support.

On January 10th, at our first meeting, the Board took action to approve a budget for 2023, reviewed our "vital signs" of participation and giving, considered a potential candidate to interview for Office Manager, and began planning for Rev. Kara's sabbatical leave. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 5th after worship in Benedict Parlor. All meetings are open until the Board closes the meeting to discuss SPRC matters in confidence. We hope you will actively participate in your church and join us!

As Board Chair, I am humbled to serve NBUMC to the best of my ability and look forward to working closely with Rev. Kara, Vice Chair Bob Dean, and all of our Board members (see box) to further God's work in our lives. Thank you for being a part of this loving community. - Janet Replogle, Church Board Chair

Meet the Board

Mark Aehele
Dennis Boiter
Nathaniel Clarke
Gordon Cragg
Bob Dean, Vice Chair
Pat Hilling
Jesse Jennings
Christena Johnston-Pulliam
Pamela Major
Steve McSpadden
Janet Replogle, Chair
Hilda Smith
Elvira Williams

Welcome to Our Interim Office Manager

We welcomed Gwendolyn Daniels on January 23rd as our interim Office Manager to replace our retiring Christine Lee. Gwendolyn is a graduate student at American University studying Public Policy who relocated from Arkansas to Washington, DC. She received her BA in Public Administration/Spanish from the University of Central Arkansas last May. In addition to being fluent in Spanish and familiar with various office software systems, Gwendolyn brings a variety of skills in communications, systems management, logistics coordination and more. As the daughter of a United Methodist pastor, she is also very familiar with church life. Gwendolyn will be with us at least through the spring when Rev. Kara returns from her sabbatical.

Finance Update

NBUMC finished its "Gap Budget", July 2022 - December 2022, on December 31st with a surplus of \$7,270. Revenue for that time period was \$203,037 and expenditures were \$195,767. We paid 100% of our Mission Shares (Apportionments) to the BWC Conference.

NBUMC's planned Financial budget for 2023 is \$419,043. We will operate on a January through December fiscal year going forward. - Jesse Jennings, Assistant Treasurer

Our People

Thank you to Christine Lee

Our long-time Office Manager, **Christine Lee**, has made the decision to retire. Her last day will be January 31, 2023. While this is a sad change for us, it will allow Chris to spend more time with family and pursue other interests.

Chris started as the Office Manager in 2014, and for the past nine years has served us faithfully, keeping us updated and informed about all the events and highlights of our church, maintaining our records, serving as Financial Secretary, supporting the church committees, and patiently answering our questions and calls, and ensuring our paperwork is completed and on time.

We thank Chris for all her hard work over these years and keeping our office running and organized. We wish her and her family much joy and good health moving forward, knowing that she is always part of the NBUMC family!

A celebration for Chris was held Sunday, January 29th after worship.

- Christena Johnston-Pulliam, Chair SPRC 2022



Christine Lee (L), with Janet Replogle and Rev. Kara

A personal note of thanks to Chris from your *Contact* editors for all your support with this and other publications during your tenure. - Ed.

Special Church Conference Approves New Endowment Policies

A Special Church Conference held on January 22, 2023, voted unanimously to approve the updated set of policies prepared by the Investment Committee to ensure compliance with current Federal and State law and the UMC Book of Discipline, and to improve policy and administrative documentation. District Superintendent Rev. Gerry Green presided over the meeting.

The Investment Committee effort to update Endowment policies began in Spring 2021, following an earlier suggestion from the UMC MidAtlantic Foundation (UMAF). The UMAF provided a guide that became the backbone of the NBUMC Endowment policy set. The incremental policy development process included participation of many church members and consultation with committees. The final product was approved by the Church Council in December 2022 and the new Board in January 2023. The January 22nd Church Conference vote gave the go-ahead to implement the policies.

Policy implementation coincides with activation of a contract with Investment Advisor company Creative Planning (CP) as Marv Burt, the Investment Advisor since 1996, steps down from that position. Creative Planning is a multi-billion-dollar Investment Advisor specializing in nonprofit organization foundations and church endowments. Its legal and advisory experts are knowledgeable about religious institution requirements for meeting socially responsible investment objectives. CP's existing relationship with Schwab Corporation will facilitate transition of the NBUMC Endowment's funds from its current Schwab One custodial account to CP management.

The Church Conference applauded Marv Burt in appreciation of his 25 years of pro bono investment management for NBUMC's Endowment and commended the Investment Committee for its extended policy development effort, with a special nod to Carol Malmi and Rich McManus, who spearheaded the project.

Our People



Pamela Major (left) receives the sacrament of baptism, October 9, 2022



JENNA LOVE

December 4, 2022

Thank you everyone for making this the best day of my life! From where I was that tearful day when I came out to everyone on Zoom to today is just night and day. I never thought I would receive this kind of love from anyone, much less an entire congregation! It just blows my mind how much love I received today!

I am so happy to become a part of this church and so grateful to be among all of you. I am looking forward to doing everything I possibly can to become an active member! Thank you so much!

Put me to work! Love, Jenna



The Revs. Kara Scroggins and Joye Jones remember our Saints, with assistance from Janet Replogle, on **All Saints Day**.



December 18th, we welcomed new members: (L-R) Sue Ernst, Victor Garcia, (Rev. Kara), Jenna Love, Guadalupe Mejia, Diana Garcia-Mejia

NEW MEMBERS

Our Active Church

Blessing of the Pets

NBUMC held a Blessing of the Pets led by Rev. Angela Wells on October 23, 2022. The service, which was planned for outside near the white cross, had to be moved into Johnson Hall due to the plethora of gnats attacking the humans! Four dogs, and two cats in a picture, received a blessing. Other pets were remembered.

Janet Replogle led the singing and the 11 humans attending appreciated the service. Thanks to the Arts Committee for sponsoring this event.



Joye Jones and Dixie (L)
Rev Angela with Mike Replogle and Caddy (R)

Family Movie Night



The first post-pandemic family movie night was held October 23, 2022, in Johnson Hall at 7 p.m. In all, 14 people attended. We watched Pixar's **Monsters, Inc.** on a wide screen while enjoying popcorn and juice. Many thanks to the Arts Committee, Chaired by Natalie McManus, and members Mark Aehle, Flora Milans, Janet Replogle, and Ed Swanson, for their work to make the event a success, with special thanks to Ed and Lilly Swanson for setting up the screen.

RUMMAGE SALE RETURNS!

NBUMC's November 5, 2022, Rummage Sale netted just under \$5,000, which, while less than prior years, exceeded our post-pandemic expectations. The proceeds all go to help the needy members of our local, national, and global communities.

Over 40 NBUMC members and several loyal community members pitched in to help with donation drop-offs, sorting and pricing, welcoming and assisting buyers on the BIG day, and cleaning up. We were able to accept e-payments, thanks to Janet Replogle organizing this process.

Leftover items--clothing, furniture, housewares, toys--were picked up by Pastor Franklin Morales and helpers from La Sagrada Familia, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in Langley Park that cares for Central American refugees and migrants; or they were donated to A Wider Circle in Silver Spring whose mission is to end poverty. Unsold books were taken to Wonder Book in Gaithersburg.

A thousand THANK YOUs to all who contributed.

NBUMC's Service and Community Outreach Team (SOC)

Sara Barakat, Chair



Opening Prayer



Ready for the crowds! Natalie McManus and Alyson Popkin



Ready! Jacqui Cragg, Penny Clarke, Rose Aehle



Shopper! Jack Enders



Cashiers Pat McSpadden and Bob Dean



Done! Rich McManus, Gordon and Jacqui Cragg

Advent

Hanging the Greens, Worship and Fellowship

December 4, 2022



Worship, with music by Isabelle Nogues



A Holiday Concert a la Française!



Simon Charette, NBUMC's Director of Music, conducted The Choir of the Embassy of France and The French Choir of Washington in concert on December 5, 2022. It was the first choral concert in our Sanctuary since the beginning of the pandemic, and it was well attended.

Lessons and Carols



NBUMC 's Choir leading a ceremony of Lessons and Carol on December 18th with readers (L-R) Vera Jennings, John Welton and Joye Jones

Supporting the Greentree Shelter

NBUMC once again came through, donating a wagon full of clothes (women's and children's), diapers, toiletries, toys, and children's books for the Greentree Women's Shelter at the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF). The Arts Committee sponsored the drive. Head Elf, Natalie McManus (right) and her Helper Elf, Christine Lee, delivered the items before Christmas. Thank you to all who contributed.



Christmas

5pm Service with Leadership of Children & Youth



9pm Service with Leadership of Choir & Guest Musicians



Our augmented choir



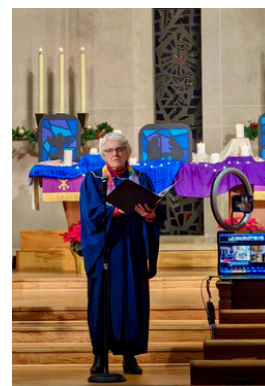
And a brass quartet!



Rev. Kara



Bass-Baritone Kevin Short



Ardoth Hassler-Short "had to follow" a Metropolitan Opera soloist and sing *O Holy Night!*

Both our 5pm and 9pm services were well-attended this year (for the first time since Covid!), with guests and neighbors joining with our regular church family to welcome the light of Christ into the world. We had wonderful guest musicians for the 9pm service and excellent volunteer participation in both services. Thank you to all who helped to bring tidings of comfort and joy to our community on Christmas Eve!

Our Active Church



We partnered with St. Mark's and Darnestown Presbyterian Churches for an MLK Day of Service, held at St. Mark's on Old Georgetown Road on Monday, January 16th. More than 50 volunteers from NBUMC joined about 100 volunteers from the other two churches to pack meal kits consisting of soy protein, dehydrated vegetables, vitamins and minerals, and rice. The fellowship hall was filled with volunteers of all ages, from toddlers to seniors, and everyone in between. Set up started around 8:30am, and by 1:30pm we had packed more than 25,000 meals and cleaned up. We will be told the country to which our pallets of meals were sent once they are shipped.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this worthwhile project, and to those who donated money to help us surpass our \$4,000 goal!

Start!



to Finish!



Photos clockwise from left: Kim Santoro, Penny and Nathaniel Clark, Brandon Kessely; the Akpebu youths; Sue Ernst and Jenna Love; Jacqui and Gordon Cragg, Gwendolyn Daniels (to Gordon's right), the Williams





Upcoming Events

The **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show** are back! Tuesday, February 21st, 6pm; talent show at 7pm. Read a poem, tell some jokes, dance, do cartwheels, sing, play an instrument, or perform a short skit - whatever your talent may be, whatever your age! Interested? Sign up in February during coffee hour for a four-minute or less time slot. Don't want to perform? Bring your crafts, quilts, paintings, or other artistic talents for display. If you'd like to volunteer to help out in the kitchen, please contact Natalie McManus or Mark Aehele.



Sponsored by the Arts Committee, Natalie McManus, Chair

Save the Dates!

Free Family Movie Nite returns! Join us to see Steven Spielberg's **E.T.**

Popcorn and juice boxes served. Children *must be accompanied by a parent.* Invite your friends!

Sponsored by the Arts Committee



KINA MAMA BREAKFAST

FEBRUARY 25TH - 9am -10:30am

Johnson Hall

Kina Mama is Swahili for "strong women." At NBUMC, this is an informal group for women, who, pre-Covid, met for breakfast and fellowship. It is time to bring this back!

All women of all ages are invited to enjoy this fellowship time in Johnson hall and share breakfast with one other. Please let Rose Aehele know if you're interested in attending. She will be available Sundays after worship for people to sign up—both to attend and bring food! Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor!

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22nd

6 - 7pm

Drop in for Ashes and Prayer



Palm Sunday

April 1st

Good Friday

April 7th

EASTER

April 9th

WEEKLY: Coffee Hour

Do we enjoy fellowship, coffee and goodies after church? YES! Sue Ernst has stepped into the role of coordinating coffee hour! However, she needs YOU to bring a goodie to share. If you would like to bring a goodie (sweet or savory), please SIGN UP on the [Worship Participation Sheet](#). Simplicity is the key to hosting coffee hour. Bringing your item "ready to serve" is most always helpful. We're happy to put dedications in the bulletin. For more information, contact Sue Ernst.



Remember to "Spring Forward!"

Remembering: Jesse Shelton



Jesse West Shelton was born on Friday the 13th, November 1925. He always said that made him lucky! Jesse grew up during the Great Depression. His mother was a good cook, and had a big garden. At mealtime, each kid got a postage-stamp-sized piece of meat and all the vegetables one could eat! At 18, Jesse served in the Navy, stationed in California during WWII. helping design and test radar jamming systems. At war's end, Jesse enrolled at Louisiana State University (LSU) where he met Fannie on a blind date. They fell in love and married on March 25, 1948.



After graduation, Jesse started his career at IBM as a salesman. The first computer he sold back in the day took up most of the space of a large conference room! Through the years, Jesse had many successful sales and promotions. Most of the family's large household purchases aligned with major computer sales windfalls. Jesse was promoted to IBM Product Scheduling in White Plains New York in 1967 and the family moved up north to Wilton, Connecticut. In 1973, IBM moved its headquarters to the "Rusty Bucket" in Bethesda Maryland and the Shelton family moved to Potomac.



Jesse and Fannie joined NBUMC that summer and were faithful members for close to 50 years. Jesse taught Kindergarten Sunday School classes for many years with his then-teenaged kids as his assistants. He later taught adult Sunday school class and led a Monday night bible study group at their home and a weekly bible service at Fernwood Nursing home. He served as Church Treasurer for many years and helped establish the Investment committee. Jesse and Fannie could often be found in the church kitchen running the snack bar at the rummage sale or boiling Louisiana-style crabs and shrimp at the annual church picnic.



Retiring from IBM after 39 years, the couple started traveling to see the world. They also spent lots of quality time with each of their thirteen grandchildren. Pop and Granfan hosted an annual Shelton Family Beach Week for 40 years that kept the family close and enabled the cousins to build lifelong friendships with each other.



Fannie and Jesse were married for 73 years. Fannie joked that she beat Queen Elizabeth! They raised six children and adored their thirteen grandkids and nine great-grands. Temporarily separated when Fannie passed away on 1 May 2021, they are now reunited forever. Jesse made his transition to heaven in the early morning on Friday, November 18th, 2022, just five days after his 97th birthday.



Jesse taught by example— demonstrating the meaning of unconditional love and teaching us all that kindness is free and the more you give the more you get back. He emphasized our responsibility to help others and to lend a hand to those less fortunate. He showed us firsthand how to be Christian, how to be respectful and how to stay loyal to God, family, and community. He attended as many birthday parties, school plays, Christmas pageants and sporting events as possible He invested in college tuitions and attended graduations. His children and

(continue page 13)

Remembering: Fred Thomas Stetson, Jr.

Fred Thomas Stetson, Jr. passed away in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on November 8, 2022, after a sudden illness. He was born in Brockton, Massachusetts on September 22, 1940, the third of six children of Fred T. Stetson, Sr. and Emily Grace (Perkins) Stetson.

A 1958 graduate of Brockton High School, Fred attended the University of Massachusetts earning a bachelor of science in chemical engineering in 1962, and a master's degree in chemical engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1964. During his career, he worked for General Electric Company, and later, as a specialist in nuclear power plant licensing and safety. Fred worked at the Atomic Industrial Forum, NUS Corporation, Science Applications International Corporation, and Parallax before retiring in 2005, relocating to the DC-area in 1975.

Fred married Caitilin (Sturmfels Gordon) in November 2000. His first marriage to Kathleen McGinis (1967) ended in divorce; they had three children.

A proud tenth-generation son of Massachusetts, Fred was a lifelong supporter of the Stetson Kindred of America, which traces the family's lineage to the colonial era. His childhood in New England fostered an enduring love of the outdoors; he was an avid trout fisherman and a longtime leader in Boy Scout Troop 447 in Rockville, Maryland. Together Fred and Caitilin shared many years of ballroom dancing at the Arthur Murray studio in Gaithersburg and courses at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Fred will be remembered for the scientific discipline in his thinking, for his singular wit, and for the steadfast pursuit of interests that ranged widely – from politics to the arts to the books of John McPhee. His abiding curiosity enriched the lives of his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Caitilin; his three children, Cate (John Faust) of Bethesda, MD, Dave of New York, NY, and Dan (Elizabeth Prescott) of Seattle, WA; three grandchildren; three brothers, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. His sisters Lois and Ruth and brother Jack predeceased him. A family remembrance will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Sierra Club.

When Fred introduced himself, he'd say, "Stetson, like the hat."

Marlene Leazier

Former member, Marlene 'Butch' Leazier passed away peacefully, on December 11th, 2022, at 88. She, and her daughter Sherrie DaVault, were NBUMC members before moving to Nashville, Tennessee. Born October 21, 1934, Marlene was a twin sister, mother of three, step-mother of two, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She built many close friendships throughout the years, including at NBUMC. Her determination for life was instilled in all the lives she touched. Her final wishes were to travel home to her birth state, Michigan. (Marlene, with daughter Sherrie DaVault, pictured right.)



Jesse Shelton

(continued from page 12)

grandchildren looked to him for guidance and reassurance. He was always interested to hear what was happening in your life and help you celebrate your successes. He noticed the little things, acknowledged your efforts, and built up your confidence to meet life's challenges. He encouraged you to make the best decision possible in any situation and move forward confidently without regrets.

Jesse was the epitome of a strong husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend, to so many. He was always available to lend a hand or a shoulder and encourage us to see the positive in every situation. Pop was proud of his family. We will all continue to do our best to keep making him proud.

- Peggy Lamoreaux

Jesse & Fannie ended all their notes and emails with this famous tagline: "GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE!"

LOOKING BACK

Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian

Incumbent and Future Bishops Preside at Sanctuary Consecration

Our sanctuary and 11 new classrooms were consecrated Sunday afternoon December 19, 1965, with the incumbent Bishop and a future bishop presiding—the Rev. Dr. John Wesley Lord was Bishop of the Methodist Church’s newly formed Baltimore-Washington Conference, and the Rev. Dr. Edward Gonzalez Carroll, Superintendent of Washington’s Northwest District, who later become a Bishop. Dr. Carroll had preached at the first worship service in our sanctuary on December 12, 1965. Two years after the 1963 March on Washington, these clergy helped to set our church on a path toward becoming a beloved community.

Dr. Lord, who preached at the consecration service, was fresh from marching with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the road from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He pushed for the racial integration of the Methodist Church, met with President Kennedy, and traveled as far as Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, to serve the cause of freedom. According to his obituary in the New York Times, Lord would go on to “...oppose American involvement in Vietnam, the bombing of Hanoi, and nuclear weapons tests... and pressed for reform of the penal system.”

Like our own Rev. Kara, Dr. Carroll was a graduate of the Yale School of Divinity. He was a chaplain with the U.S. Army serving on the Allied Front in Normandy, France, during World War II. He then became a Methodist pastor serving in Harlem and the Bronx, before moving to Baltimore as pastor of Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church. There, he appeared before the City Council to oppose jailing minors who lied about their age to obtain liquor. He maintained it would convert them to hardened criminals. Telling the Baltimore Sun in 1958, “Denizens of the underworld—from the numbers racket to the most serious criminals—are our shady neighbors. ... The problem is making (their) children feel wanted.” In 1962 he led a demonstration on the steps of the State Capitol in Annapolis in support of public accommodations legislation.

Rev. Carroll's sermon in our church was curiously entitled “Backgrounds and Foregrounds.” After his election as a Bishop in 1972, he moved to Boston where he served in the general administration of the United Methodist Church. Upon his retirement in 1980, he became interim director of Black Methodists for Church Renewal.



(Back, L-R) Pastor Harry Miles, Bishop Lord and wife, Margaret, and DS Edward Carroll.

In a long and arduous career, I was sustained by the thought that the work was not mine to finish, nor was I free to take no part in it.

- Bishop Lord

“Stitches and Stones” Project The Samburu Community School, Kenya

NBUMC has long been supporting the efforts and vision of Dr. Janet Jalloul, founder of The Samburu Community School in Kenya. It provides primary education, meals, clothing, and medical support to more than 200 children and adults. (See [2022 Pentecost and Summer Contact](#), p.6) The **Stitches and Stones Project** is moving the school into an area of practical education by adding vocational skills to the curriculum, teaching the children how to sew, and how to build walls with cement and local stones. As Janet says, “Not only will the children learn useful skills to help their own families, they might also be able to make a little money on weekends and during holidays.” She also reports that cement has never been used in the area before, and this project is gaining a lot of excitement!

You can help by funding the sewing kits or building materials by giving any amount and being assured every penny is used. Specifically:

- \$21 pays for an individual sewing kit: tape measure, large & small pieces of fabric, 2 pairs of scissors, needles, thread (10 spools), ribbon, elastic strips & a strong bag to carry it all
- \$15 contributes to the construction project, helping to purchase bags of cement, trowels, metal stirring sticks, shovels, and a wheelbarrow for the school



You may donate online via the [NBUMC website](#) (select "Miscellaneous"), or by check made payable to NBUMC. Please put “Samburu School (STITCHES) or (STONES)” in the memo field of either donation.

Thank you for your kind generosity! For more information about Samburu School or the Project, contact [Jacqui Cragg](#). - Supported by the SOC (Service and Outreach Committee)

NOTE: Every Sewing Kit donation made before February 28th will be MATCHED by an anonymous angel! (Up to 25 kits)

Miscellany



Flora and Tark Milans celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary January 6th, 2023.



Lukas Chandler, PhD

Congratulations to Lukas Chandler, who completed his PhD in Healthcare Ethics at Duquesne University (Pittsburgh) in November 2022. He wrote thanking his adopted NBUMC family for "...endless support and encouragement."



Christmas Eve, Jim Short, Ardoth Hassler-Short and Simon Charette welcomed their brother, Kevin Short. Kevin said it was the first time he's been on a program with another Short!



Oliver, Carol Malmi's cat, sampling her rosemary Christmas tree.

Asbury's Frequent Flyer

On Saturday, October 15th, 2022, the FAA awarded Bob Gawler (right) **The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award**. This prestigious award is given in recognition of 50 years of exemplary aviation flight experience, distinguished professionalism and steadfast commitment to aviation safety.

Since obtaining his Private Pilot Check Ride in 1972 and authorized to be a Designated Pilot Examiner in 1991, Bob has 10,900 hours in the air which includes 7800 hours in his logbook and 3100 hours examining applicants.

His adventures have included flying checks at night; corporate flights including international flights; managing two flight training schools; flying traffic control for Montgomery County and aerial photography.

Over the years, Bob has owned 10 airplanes and a helicopter in addition to flying 70 other make and model planes. Currently a member of a flying club at the Montgomery County Airpark and the Civil Air Patrol he is still teaching and having fun in the air.

Congratulations, Bob! - Patty King



Bob Gawler (left), and his wife, Lois, are long-time members of NBUMC.



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North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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Epiphany and Lent 2023

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