

LOVE NOTES

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
9701 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20903

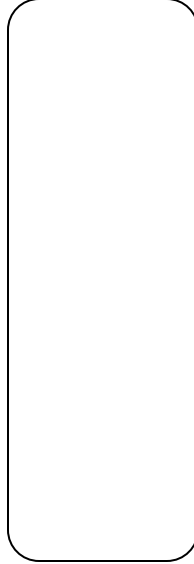
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PRAISE + EXPERIENCE + SERVE + SHARE

Love Notes

Praising God | Experiencing God | Serving God | Sharing God
Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas 2020



For the Journey of Good Tidings

- 4. "Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy"
- 10. "Advent Families Project"
- 12. "Advent Calendar for Kids"
- 20. "Outstanding Person of the Year"
- 22. "In A Time of Pandemic"
- 26. "The Unforgettable Year of 2020"

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD

LOVE NOTES is the newsletter published by Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland. It aims at faithful connection of the followers of Jesus Christ.



Cover image: The Holy and Ivy, Christmas Cantata featuring Angel Voices Choral Society on Sunday, December 15, 2019.

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Next Issue: Due December 27, 12 p.m.
Main Topic: "New Year and The Season after Epiphany"

SEVEN MINISTRY INITIATIVES

Sunday Morning

Good Shepherd celebrates Sunday morning as a Sabbath to the Lord and keeps it holy as a day of new beginnings. We would like to begin the first day of the week with the celebration of "Means of Grace" that shapes our future! From the faithful ordinance of Sunday morning, we shape the vital household of God.

Assimilation

We help one another to more like Jesus Christ. Assimilation is an ongoing effort to call, equip and make disciples of Jesus Christ for God's Kingdom. There are 8 assimilations tracks Good Shepherd develops for the joyous work of the Lord, making people blessed. It is a significant part of our Spiritual Journey.

Intergenerational

Blessed by the rich heritage of Good Shepherd for more than 60 years, we would like to continue to develop intergenerational relationship among the members and friends. Honoring each generation, Silent, GI, Boomers, X, Millennials, and post-Millennials we include all generations for their faithful discipleship and leadership to all the aspects of mission and ministry of worship, study, service and sharing.

Technology

Good Shepherd would like to take advantage of the cutting-edged technology to bring the Gospel of Christ for all, to enhance faithful connections of the members and friends of the church, and to bring forth God's Kingdom in our midst. This includes traditional methods of communication for the heavily dependants on papyrus, paper, audio and wired media.

Third Place

Good Shepherd is a third place, like "a city of refuge" (Numbers 35:6), built and consecrated by God for the people of God. It is a place like an oasis with living water. It is a house of prayer for all God's people. Modern sociology demands many of a desperate need of this space, which is missing from home, the first place and from work, the second place.

Glocal (Global & Local)

Outreach from Good Shepherd is not limited to a particular location in the community where it serves. Charity begins at home. At the same time we value the mission and ministry to "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Accommodation

Good Shepherd seeks out all people just as they are. Everyone is welcome in the name of Jesus Christ—"Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World." (John 1:29b). With radical hospitality we would like to be more like Christ, who healed the sick, ate with the sinners and sought out the lost. Good Shepherd is a household of God that Christ has opened to the children of God of all ages, classes, genders, nations, and races!

Daily Reading: November-December



November

Victory—By Dependence on God's Strength

- 1. [Matthew 4:1-13](#), **By the Right Use of the Bible**
- 2. [Mark 14:32-42](#), **By Having a Dominant Purpose**
- 3. [Mark 14:66-72](#), **Forfeited through Fear**
- 4. [Acts 4:5-22](#), **By Making Conscience the Dictator of Action**
- 5. [Acts 4:23-31](#), **By the Joy of Pleasing God**
- 6. [Acts 5:17-32](#), **By Obedience**
- 7. [Romans 7:15-25](#), **Lost by Being Led by Natural Desires**
- 8. [Romans 8:1-11](#), **By Being Led by the Spirit**
- 9. [Romans 8:31-39](#), **Through the Ever-Victorious**
- 10. [II Corinthians 2:7-10](#), **By Confidence in the Adequacy of God's Grace**
- 11. [Galatians 5:15-26](#), **By Crucifixion**
- 12. [Ephesians 6:10-18](#), **By Being Fully Equipped**
- 13. [Philippians 4:10-13](#), **Because of Adequate Resources**
- 14. [II Timothy 4:14-18](#), **By Being on God's Side**
- 15. [Genesis 45:1-15](#), **By Magnanimity**
- 16. [Romans 12:9-21](#), **By a Counteroffensive of Love**
- 17. [Hebrews 11:23-27](#), **By Faith (Seeing the Invisible)**
- 18. [Hebrews 11:32-12:3](#), **By Faith (Right Values, First Things First)**

Comforted (Strengthened) in Times of Hardship and Suffering

- 19. [Joshua 1:1-9](#), **Strengthened to Face New Responsibilities**
- 20. [Acts 12:1-12](#), **Prayer Changes Things**
- 21. [Matthew 11:25-30](#), **Strengthened by Sharing Our Yoke**
- 22. [Romans 9:18-30](#), **Strengthened by Right Comparison**
- 23. [II Corinthians 1:3-11](#), **Strengthened to Strengthen Others**
- 24. [II Corinthians 4:8-18](#), **Knocked Down But Never Knocked Out**
- 25. [II Corinthians 12:7-10](#), **Our Weakness is God's Opportunity**
- 26. [II Timothy 4:1-8](#), **Hard Times Coming: Strengthened by Hope**
- 27. [Hebrews 13:3-13](#), **Strengthened by the Unvarying Dependability of God**
- 28. [I Peter 1:3-9](#), **Strengthened by Regarding Temptation as Testing**
- 29. [I Peter 5:6-11](#), **Strengthened by a Humble Attitude**

The Fully Surrendered Life Is the Fully Victorious Life

- 30. [Psalm 16:1-11](#), **The Surrendered Life Is the Happy Life**

December

The Fellowship—The Church

- 1. [Matthew 16:13-20](#), **On this rock, I build my church**
- 2. [Acts 2:1-21](#), **Day of Pentecost: The Church's Endowment**
- 3. [Ephesians 1:15-23](#), **The Head of the Church**
- 4. [Ephesians 5:25-33](#), **Christ's Love for the Church**
- 5. [Ephesians 3:14-21](#), **Rooted in faith and love**
- 6. [Galatians 6:1-10](#), **The Attitudes of Fellowship**
- 7. [Ephesians 4:1-6](#), **The Outlook Necessary for Unity**
- 8. [I Corinthians 12:1-11](#), **The Outlook Necessary for Unity**
- 9. [I Corinthians 12:12-14](#), **The Outlook Necessary for Unity**
- 10. [I Corinthians 12:15-20](#), **The Outlook Necessary for Unity**
- 11. [I Corinthians 12:21-26](#), **The Outlook Necessary for Unity**
- 12. [I Corinthians 12:27-31](#), **The Outlook Necessary for Unity**
- 13. [Revelation 7:9-17](#), **The Church Triumphant**
- 14. [Psalm 34:1-22](#), **The Solid Life of Reverence (Fear)**
- 15. [Psalm 112:1-10](#), **The Solid Life of Righteousness**
- 16. [Psalm 125:1-5](#), **The Solid Life of Trust**

The Christmas Story

- 17. [Isaiah 9:1-7](#), **The Coming Prince**
- 18. [Isaiah 11:1-10](#), **The Coming King**
- 19. [Luke 1:26-38](#), **The Annunciation**
- 20. [Luke 1:39-56](#), **The Magnificat**
- 21. [Luke 1:57-66](#), **The Birth of John the Baptist**
- 22. [Luke 1:67-80](#), **The Benediction**
- 23. [Luke 2:1-7](#), **The Birth of Jesus (Luke's Account)**
- 24. [Luke 2:8-20](#), **The Shepherds**
- 25. [Matthew 1:18-25](#), **The Birth of Jesus (Matthew's Account)**
- 26. [Matthew 2:1-12](#), **The Wise Men**

The Close of the Year

- 27. [Psalm 37:1-11](#), **Trust the Lord and Do Good**
- 28. [Psalm 100:1-5](#), **Serve the Lord with Gladness**
- 29. [Psalm 96:1-13](#), **Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness**
- 30. [Psalm 103:1-22](#), **Bless the Lord for His Mercies**
- 31. [Psalm 146:1-10](#), **Praise the Lord for All His Goodness**

(Source: *The Disciplines of the Christian Life*, by Eric Liddell)

To Green Pastures and Quiet Waters ...

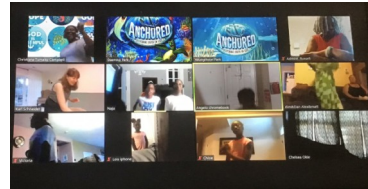
Photos by Rev. DaeHwa Park



Before the COVID-19 Pandemic

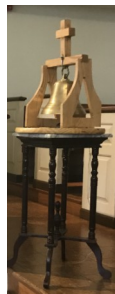


Online "Digital" Church
March 15-August 2



Inperson & "Digital" Church
Since August 9

The Unforgettable Year of 2020



Red flames signify the historic merge of The Methodist Church and The United Brethren in 1968, which gave birth to The United Methodist Church. As a part of UM connection, we would like to bring for the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Green shade of the flames indicates God's Kingdom like "green pastures" to be unfolded as we do ministry together. The blue shade of the cross is consisted of the first two Greek letters of Christ, Xp. Through Christ the living water (John 7:38) the gathering of the faithful disciples shall bear fruits that last. (John 15:16; Psalm 1:3; 23:2; Galatians 5:22-23; Revelation 22:1-3). This vision of God's Kingdom comes from Jesus Christ, the starting point of our faith journey. Shepherd crook symbolizes our commitment to Jesus Christ—Good Shepherd! (John 10:14) - Designed by Rev. DaeHwa Park

Spotlights in Ministries



Christiana Tumaku Campbell
Outstanding Person of the Year!



Festival of God's Creation



Confirmation - Oct. 11

Primary Theme of This Issue:
"The Unforgettable Year of 2020"

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WORSHIP & NEW STUDY
 Through online (zoom)
 11 a.m. Celebration and Worship
Into the Word Into the World on Mon. 7 p.m.
Jesus in the Gospels on Thurs at 9 a.m.
Becoming Disciples thru Bible Study
 on Mon. at 7:00 p.m.
 See details on pages 8-9

“Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy”

Friends:

Looking back last five decades of my life here in God’s good creation on earth, I just learn my years gone through the hope of good tidings.

The oldest memory brings me an image of Advent days of my father with strong and firm handgrip, hummed “Deck the halls with boughs of holly Far, la, la, la, la ...” is not so easily replaced in my heart with “Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!” or “O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree!” – the carols I think I would sing hundred times during the season of Advent before my teen.

“Silent Night, Holy Night” should be the carol we the children and youth were asked to sing in the church with slow movement in a pretty dark stage in front of the church.

Passing through the years of Junior and Senior High, we compete one another who lifted up nice voice to scream “O Holy Night,” especially on the part of “Fall on your knees ~.”

The twenties were gone so quickly by. I remember romantic days with “white Christmas,” I’m dreaming of a white Christmas...” Often I wonder if I had longed for snow or for Jesus.

Living in American since mid 1990s, each year Christmas was an opportunity to give a gift back to Jesus because Christmas is His birthday, not mine or children of mine. I liked and still do “the Christmas Carol” Nat King Cole sang, perhaps singing in his style.



Creations from the Pastor Greetings from the Pastor

This year, COVID-19 pandemic allows me to sing more and more “God Rest Ye Merry Gentle Men Let Nothing you dismay” particularly because its refrain, “O tidings of comfort and joy ...”

Well, I would say that the carol was a voice from God. Early this week, I woke up with these two words— Comfort and Joy, when I was stuck with a main theme of new sermon series. As I had such experience almost weekly, God would give me insight for the weekly message as I wake up with a few words in mind.

I believe that Immanuel (God-With-Us) would like us to come to a journey of Good Tidings.

How about this? Can you join me sing the carol while you read this?

*God rest ye merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r
When we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O - tidings of **comfort and joy.***

Friends,
My family and I would like you to have a wonderful, restful, relieving, good, and amazing Christmas this year.
Merry Christmas!

Rev. DaeHwa Park

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

“Around the Cluster”

By Rev. Fay Lundin
College Park United Methodist Church
9601 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park
Mowatt Memorial UMC
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Hi all,
Rev. DaeHwa Park, Amy Caruso, and I met today for the cluster meeting. We missed those of you who could not make it. I introduced Beryl Thorton-Proctor, who is College Park’s PMM Intern from Wesley. Mostly we caught up on how we and our congregations are doing.

Cristin, DaeHwa suggested that the churches could give gift cards for food for the students from University of Maryland for their use during prep for exams. If that is something they could use, he needs to know so he can request it at their council meeting. College Park and Mowatt would be interested in providing cards as well.

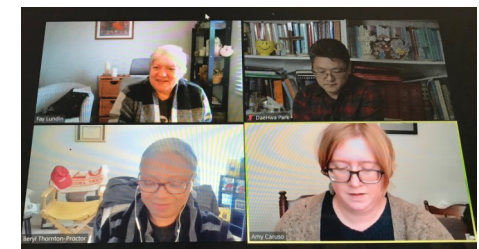
Good Shepherd reports that they have been meeting with a combination of in person and part on line. They have been celebrating Holy Communion monthly outside and were able to have two baptisms before the weather gets too cold. They are even considering replacing an old playground that is in disrepair with a concrete pad and canopy as a place for community gatherings and concerts. Congregational giving is holding at about 90% but the lack of rental income from use of the church is hurting them.

College Park and Mowatt were meeting together. We have been celebrating Communion in person on the first of the month, outside. But now with the colder weather and the new restrictions on gatherings in PG County, we are returning to all on-line services on Zoom and then posted on Facebook.

The remodeling is almost completed at College Park. The children's guild plans to open for 50 children age 3-5 in January. They hope to get licensed for 120 by next September. Their break even is 100 so if they don't get their permit, I don't know what they will do. But the new rooms are large and beautiful. The church can find uses for them if the Guild should leave.

Nueva Vida is mostly meeting outside, but the new requirement to wear masks and increased distancing outside will probably cause them to worship on line as well. The outdoor worship has led to two new families joining them on Sundays. They are collecting money to send to Honduras to help with the flooding from the hurricanes.

[Cont'd on Page 24]



Cluster meeting on zoom

Holy Conferencing

Trustees ... From page 17

Budget – Rev. Park complimented the trustees on their leadership during 2020 and thanked us for all our hard work cleaning and sprucing up the church..He suggested including capital improvement expenditures (such as new doors to replace ones that are in bad shape).

Playground – Trustees discussed the possibility of removing the playground equipment from the property. Rev. Park advised us of a grant program through the Baltimore-Washington Conference that would provide resources to improve the area. Two possibilities: install new play equipment or install a pavilion that could serve as a place for children and families to sit, as a place for musical concerts, etc. The goal would be to create a space that could be used by the church and surrounding community.

Action: Rev. Park will look into the details of the grant program.

Stoves –

- The industrial stove removed from the kitchen last year is still sitting on the lower patio outside of the Shepherd's Nook.

Action: Beresford will investigate getting a scrap metal dealer or someone to remove it.

- Two new stoves donated by Stuart's mother last year remain stored.

Action: Stuart's mother will remove them by October 21.

Memorial plaque for Timothy – Dunstan asked for details on how memorial garden plaques are ordered and paid for. He would like the trustees to cover the cost of one for Timothy.

Action: Pastor Park recommended Dunstan will follow up with Marcie.

[Cluster ... From page 25]

Holiday Activities:

Thanksgiving:

Nueva Vida and College Park and Mowatt will be providing Thanksgiving dinners Wednesday evenings. Amy contracted with a local restaurant, Pizza Roma to cook the meals. This way we are supporting a local business and providing meals for those in need.

Good Shepherd is holding a Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service in person and on Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Mowatt is participating in the Greenbelt Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Wed. Nov. 25 at 7:30. It will be virtual. I'm giving the message, but we will have participation from the Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Baha'i, Buddhist and Muslim faith communities.

Advent and Christmas:

On December 12, in lieu of our annual Christmas party, College Park will be giving coats to children of families identified as needing them by Youth and Family Service. Mowatt and College Park and St. John's Lutheran (near Cheverly) will participate in a Christmas concert on line concert on Dec. 19 at 8:30. It will also be broadcast on Greenbelt Access TV. Otherwise, Christmas services seem up in the air right now at all four churches, due to the increase in Covid precautions.

Next meeting is Dec. 17 from 11-12. Wish we could do it in person with Christmas cookies and hot cider.

Blessings, [LN]

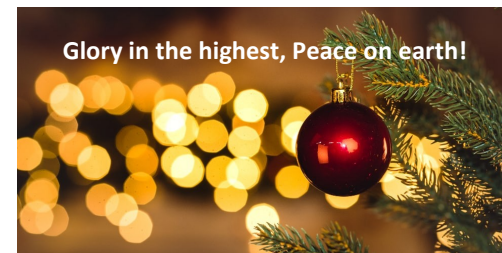
Together We'll Get Through This!

Rev. DaeHwa Park & Priscilla Michel

On behalf of the church, Priscilla and I give thanks to God for you, my dear friends and the members of the church. With COVID-19, from the beginning of Lenten season, we had to discontinue the primary works of the church.

You have shown enormous patience and passion for the gospel. You worked very hard to stay our church vital. You have been resilient to a series of challenges with the gift of presence and prayers. Without your courageous and sacrificial love of God and all His children, we would not offer the gospel of Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God and together **we are now passing through this global pandemic , social unrest, and economic hardship**. We give thanks to God for you—the faithful disciples, especially for **all the leaders and volunteers for re-entering well**. Also, we appreciate from the bottom of heart **Phillip Palmer, Sr.** who has led Leadership Team. We thank to Finance team, especially for **Victor Cole** for his faithful service as Treasurer. **Trustees**, you're awesome! Special thanks to **Chancel Choir** and **Praise Band** for your lead of the church. And thank you, **John Knox** for your gifts of acoustic excellence. And, you **staff**, you're amazing. To God be the glory. Merry Christmas!



Lay Leader

Those Were Baptized

Osazee Jason Ikechuku Agho on Jan. 26

Sheila Victoria Titilola Nyande

Parkinson on Nov. 29

Samuel Emmanuel Ekow Abban

on Oct. 11

Confirmands on October 11

Elizabeth Hannah Abena Abban

Vinice Simche Cole

Jada Arlinda King

Rianee Sannie-Ariyibi

Crystal Juliette Evelyn Taylor

Keanen Akil Thompson

Jelan Christian Olufemi Davies

Karina Olaniyi Nicol Wilson

Those Who Passed Away This Year (Named on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 1)

Lucille Kirkpatrick

Celestine Phillips

Abdul Magona

Daniel Christopher

Inatoma Daramy

Sade

Linda

Wayoma Bailey

George Percy Sawyerr

Horatio Ayodele Lewis

Tawio Charkson

Ian Davies

Nellie Thomas (Dog)

Deborah Victoria Elachi John

Clifford Kamara

Frederick Hazeley

Shorunkeh Hazeley

Michael Palmer

Musu Kemokai

Timothy Olusegun Afolabi



“For the Journey of Good Tidings”

Our pulpit during Advent and Christmas season will be filled with a message of hope. Rev. Park will lead all worshipers to a journey of Good Tidings. As they start a new liturgical year, the worshipers will leave all the issues and concerns from the Pandemic behind. The journey will bring you and your love ones to Comfort and Joy.

Leading a friend to the presence of God through worship is a great gift on this gift-giving season. Join our worship and sing carols. Encounter the coming Messiah in a manger. You can watch “the making of each Sunday worship” during “Coffee with the Pastor” on Mondays at 11 a.m.

“Giving” is an Act of Worship

By Committee on Finance

We give thanks to God for your generous giving for the mission and ministry of the church. COVID-19 does not allow us to gather in the sanctuary for Sunday worship. Many programs were postponed or offered in online.

As we never stop praising God, we will continue to serve the Lord in all that we do.

Giving includes your time, talents, and treasures. For the transformation of the lives of our church family and visitors, you have given your time for prayers and service. You have given your gift of music and kindness during COVID pandemic through your service as Re-Entering Well Task-forces. You led worship, study, and service. You gave grocery cards for the needy.

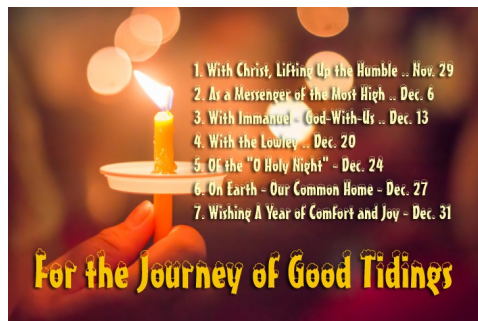
Celebration of Worship thru Zoom

On Sundays at 11 a.m.

Meeting ID: 566-965-650

Password: 900361

For facebook view, please **request** friends at Facebook.com/DaeHwa.Park



On top of your hand-on ministry, as of November 22, we/you have given \$209,813.56. We have a goal for the operational budget for this year with \$350,620. Rental income was significantly reduced with COVID. We hope we can meet the goal. Store your treasures in heaven! May God bless you, so that you may experience of God’s abundant blessing, while “the Lord Almighty opens flood gate of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” (Malachi 3:10b)

Thank you for your pledge for the year 2021. “Together We Get Through This.” Let us see the signs and wonders through the faithful giving. Do not hesitate to review financial report available in the Upper Room area. Praise the Lord! [LN]

picked up by a vortex of wind. On one corner I pass frequently was a bed of black-eyed-Susans that bloomed nearly all summer. I regularly walk through the little undeveloped wooded lot down our hill that connects our street with the one to the east. (where I usually saw the deer). One day I was stopped by an elaborate spider web (and its creator) across the path so I had to invent a detour. I wonder how the spider gets the first strands connected from one end to the other, sometimes more than a foot apart. Do they jump? Do they swing? I may ask Wikipedia.

It has been hard not to be anxious or deeply depressed by the Covid and its effects on families and businesses and the stress of the recent election. Reading stories of lives well lived I see in the Washington Post, the outpouring of care and concern so many offer in response to the pandemic. has helped. I try to find something to laugh at or celebrate every day. I am closer (via ZOOM) to my nieces and nephews and brother – we “see” each other Sunday evenings. We have plenty to eat, a steady retirement income, a house and access to books and picture puzzles and TV movies to amuse us. We have had need of medical help this year and are grateful for being able to access it and to the care and concern we received from those professionals. We lost a sister / sister-in-law and a few friends to eternal life but are grateful for their long lives and our place in them. And we are grateful for having church every Sunday.

I admit to wondering what God is up to with this virus and the animus the country is experiencing, et al, but I appreciate the

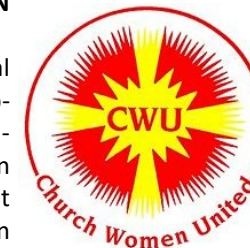
insights Pastor shares with us every week and I apologize to God for doubting Him.

The world turns in spite of us and the elegant cycle of life goes on. We will soon acknowledge the major holidays. May we find joy in them even though we won’t celebrate as usual.

Please stay well.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

This ecumenical organization supports its international organization with the “Least Coin” project in which women can give of the smallest coin in their currency – for us the penny – anonymously so no one is seen as superior to another.



The local organization collects items for Crossways Community in Kensington and Central Union Mission in DC.

If you would care to donate, they are seeking personal care items like soap, shampoo, tooth paste and brushes, and the like and kids’ books and soft toys. Also for winter, gloves, hats and scarves. Donations of moneys is also gratefully accepted.

Leilani McConnell (301-445-1241) would deliver items or checks (made out to Church Women United) to the local leader. Thanks! [LN]

IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Leilani McConnel

The Women’s Circles have not met for months and we all miss the close camaraderie just as we miss the weekly Fellowship Time after Sunday worship. We are grateful for technology that has enabled us to “attend” via internet streaming services, but we miss the face-to-face greetings, the hugs, the bustle of conversations and the food! We pray in the new year we may again enjoy them.

Several of us have gone back to church within the constraints imposed by the Covid pandemic and we thank Elizabeth Schneider for her efforts in resuming the Praise Band and Chancel Choir and those who are participating so far. We are also grateful to Pastor Park and the volunteers who facilitate the Sunday gatherings. The rest of us, me and Patrick in particular, will continue to participate remotely for the time being, hoping for the anticipated anti-vaccine’s availability.

Lots of good works have happened while the church was closed and later when partly re-opened. Lots of “stuff” was cleared out and lots of refurbishing accomplished. Dunstan Thomas, Marcie Burroughs, Carol Penne, Idowoo Boss-Cole, Pat McConnell and a few others did most of this. Marcie in particular spent days happily painting. The Food Pantry, closed for months, was cleaned out and usable food items were given to Broad Acres School who gratefully accepted it. Our traditional Mission projects, modified due to the pandemic, continued and as Advent approaches, we will support two Broad Acres families via gift cards rather than gifts.

While the women did not meet, I did attend two Church Women United events via streaming service, most recently on Nov. 06, “World Friendship Day”. Items will be collected for Central Union Mission in DC and the Crossways Community in Kensington. (See reference after this article.)

We we have been mostly staying at home since March except for grocery or pharmacy runs, and we have stayed in touch with family and friends by telephone and ZOOM, and emails and snail mail.

I walk the neighborhood most days and have met lots of folks and their dogs who live near by. We all are frustrated by being inside so much and many who work are doing so from home. The teenagers we hired to do mowing are schooling at home, too.

I have gotten to know the streets of my community much better and I enjoy the colorful mail boxes and landscaping. Lots of Black Lives Matter signs and political signs (for only one of the candidates) and recently some cleverly carved pumpkins. We finally got some color in the trees before they lost their leaves. In summer I saw our small herd of deer quite often and on occasion red foxes.

Some days it is so quiet, just the odd twittering birds. More often the beltway noise and lately leaf blowers remind me we live in an urban area. I enjoy pondering the wet spots left on the tarmac after rains – they are like a Rorschach tests and my imagination is challenged. I was fascinated the other morning by watching a Disney-like dance of fallen leaves that had been

The Act of Worship

“Praise Always”

By Elizabeth Dumas Schneider
Director of Music

We in the Good Shepherd Choir resumed our rehearsing on September 29th, with a hybrid of in-person and online participation. We are protecting one another and ourselves with masks and a careful choreography to assemble at assigned spots for rehearsal and presentation. Our return to offering special music in worship was October 25th, with a Gospel setting of Psalm 121. We are preparing to sing during November and December, with alternate weeks of either Praise Band, solo and instrumental offerings.

On December 20th we are preparing to present a special program excerpted from Handel’s Messiah, featuring our own choir assisted by soloists Sylvester Lewis, bass, Clara Schneider, soprano, Donna Simonton, alto and Robb Seffell, tenor. Karl Schneider will conduct with Elizabeth Schneider, organist. The edition of *Messiah* we are presenting has choruses reduced in length and difficulty, for all ages to find accessible, worshipful and beautiful. Please mark your calendars for this act of devotion and hope, and contact choir members if you wish to participate. All guest singers will be given a special singing mask and recordings of voice parts for study.

Thank you to the congregation for your prayers and encouragement, and to all singers and those supporting this vital aspect of worship. [LN]



Nov. 25 w. “Grocery Cards Drive”



“Service of Olwah” begins at 10:30 p.m.

“Digital Study Hour” That Makes Difference

Study is one of the defining dimensions of Christian discipleship. **Knowing God**, Bible Study and theological inquiry help us to grow in our faith, which enables us to claim the Gospel for ourselves and share it with others. COVID-19 Pandemic never stop Good Shepherd to offered study. Currently, Sunday School events are on hold with COVID-19. We are glad to see children and youth seen in our live streaming service at 11 a.m.

Please send us contact information of your children: their emails or your emails. You as parents can join “Children’s Hour” with your children. After VBS, children wanted to include “sing along.”

Elizabeth Schneider immediately responded to the request. Children with

Journey thru the Bible

To cope with biblical illiteracy, Good Shepherd offer an opportunity for you to encounter the word daily. JTB aims at the reading of the whole bible from Genesis thru Revelation at least weekly. If you are too busy to read the bible, plug yourself in this program while resting after work or while doing choirs at home after dinner. You can read it a chapter or a passage for others through Zoom. Now we read History: Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel.

Meeting ID: 947-5619-4251

Passcode: 024529

Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

One of ways you live out scriptural ways of life is to carry your own bible. Some of you have bible app on the mobile phone. I pre-

Storytelling is ready for an act of children worship in the near future.

Meeting ID: 964-1021-2427

Passcode: 541602

For those who would like to serve the children’s ministries, please do not hesitate to contact either Christiana Campbell at (301) 518-1953 or Rev. DaeHwa Park at (202) 277-8553.

FYI, there is **Youth Hang-Out** scheduled on Sunday evening **at 7 p.m.** Your teenage young disciples can join it simply with their mobile phone.

Meeting Id: 633-940-051

Passcode: 029061

fer bible in print. Begin a day with 15 minute reading of the scripture. Read a chapter from Proverbs each day. 31 chapters of Proverbs will suit you with reading each day with each chapter, for example reading chapter 15 on the 15th day of each month.

The best bible translation is NIV: New International Version, 1984. ESV, English Standard Version (2001), has been alternative by many when NIV distorted nearly 4,000 verses with bias on gender issues. NKJV (New King James Version) is a good choice. [LN]



Thanksgiving & Advent-Christmas 2020

The Act of Justice and Evangelism

The primary task of Evangelism is to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the children of God of all ages. We have a variety of media to reach out the seekers in our community. We send out a pastoral letter to new residents each season. Post card and Community Newspapers are also the other media. The survey shows that the word of mouth and the demonstration of our examples as the hands and feet of God

Inviting Others

In keeping with our commitment to invite others into a loving, prayerful relationship with God, Good Shepherd is becoming more intentional about reaching out others and receiving those who respond, relating them to God, nurturing them in faith, and sending them to serve.

Our Evangelism team leads ways in developing necessary tools and welcoming habits, and have undertaken bold new initiatives to increase the visibility of our church in the broader community and to develop a culture in which more of our members are actively reaching out and receiving others into the church. Reaching out others in the name of Christ is the responsibility of every Christian.

Invite others for worship, study and service opportunities. No greater evangelism than **the words of mouth**, which may be required your own ownership of the mission and ministries of the church.



is the best known strategy to bring the gospel. Here is another way that you can be an access to the gospel. We have a magnetic bumper sticker with a domain name of the website at www.goodshepchurch.org.

For any other question or comments on Evangelism activities, please contact, **Elizabeth Sawyerr or Rev. DaeHwa Park at (202) 277-8553.**

As a church, the faithful disciples, called out of many, pursue ownership of the mission and ministries of Good Shepherd UMC.

Begin with your children and spouse. You may or may not change them. God can change. Your job is to bring them to the presence of God!

Every 4th Sunday is “A Bring a Friend Sunday”

ALTERNATIVES TO HANDSHAKES, HUGS, HIGH FIVES AND HONGI





“Outstanding Person of the Year”

Priscilla U. Michell, Lay Leader
Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

At a recent meeting of the Committee on Nomination and Lay Leadership Development we talked about an Outstanding Person of the Year.” Everyone gathered this morning deserves the exemplary service to the Lord and His people. As we celebrate “Laity Sunday” (October 18) this morning. We would like to present one of us as the outstanding person of the year.

The Outstanding Person of the Year is
Christiana Chumaku CAMPBELL!

Here, I have received a few words from several members of the church about Christiana.

Christiana Campbell has been a Sunday School teacher and youth coordinator ever since I can remember (maybe 20 years or more). She faithfully organizes the Ocean City Rock festival each year and accompanies the group during their participation of this event. Her approach with children is gentle, loving, and caring, which is guidance that both youth as well as adults need. Her approach does not end with children. Christiana manages challenges associated with the business of the church employing the same kindness and finesse that she presents to the youth. Good Shepherd is highly blessed to have Christiana. Thank you Ms. Campbell for all you do. (Nathan Block, SPRC Chair)

She is quite personable and visibly as well as passionately family oriented. If she takes up or is assigned any job, she is willing to go beyond what is required to complete any task. (Elizabeth Sawyerr)

I endorse the choice of Christiana Campbell. Her commitment and faith were strongly revealed in her fearless pursuits in carrying the Lord's work during COVID. Without her all the lay successes we now boast of would have been just dreams. She lived her name "Christiana" a fitting name for a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. (Philip Sr.)

Christiana was the one of the person who greeted me when I came here Good Shepherd UMC. I am sure she did to everyone when you came to GS first time. She loves God, she loves Good Shepherd and she loves the children of God. She has a strong will to follow God, to teach children God's words and guide them to God's will. I am happy to have her in our church and to see her as an outstanding lay person of the year. (YoungHoon Park)

She upholds the United Methodist vow of giving her prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness on a daily basis, and she does so gladly while inspiring others to do the same. (Valerie Campbell)

It was hard to find words to describe Christiana Campbell. Of course there are the obvious attributes that are easily captured; kind, patient, soft-spoken, loving, just and fair, uplifting, determined and strong, and gentle, so very gentle, even as she corrects - but, these are merely attributes and could be ascribed as a small part of anyone, despite their overall nature.

(← Cont'd on page 16b)



Thru DISCIPLE Study launch Assimilation Tracks ...

Into the Word Into the World focuses Genesis and Exodus of the Old Testament as well as Luke and Acts of the New Testament, the participants learn the will of God for Jews and Gentiles. Through the study, the participants will explore the signs and wonders at work in their service as fishers of men. New course for Evangelism and Witnessing team!

Prerequisite: Becoming Disciples ...

Zoom Meeting ID: 943-9049-1404
Passcode: 209639
Mondays at 7 p.m.

Becoming Disciples thru Bible Study is designed to develop strong local churches through the in-depth study of Scripture. Through DISCIPLE, persons are strengthened in their faith and guided into service and ministry. Strong, biblically nourished leadership will help your church grow in vitality and Christian discipleship. Strongly recommended for all disciples. You can read the entire bible.

Zoom Meeting ID: 961-6016-5713
Passcode: 716470
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Jesus in the Gospels is a second generation of bible study with gospel comparisons. The participants zoom in theological insights of each gospel writer, Matthew, Mark and Luke—the eyewitness of Jesus Christ. During the first 20 weeks, the participants will learn how to read the scripture with the theological contexts of Jesus' days. With the synoptic understanding they will read the gospel of John, known as the fourth gospel. Great opportunity for Sunday School teachers.

Zoom Meeting ID: 912-9923-1991 | Passcode: 552624 | Thursdays at 9 a.m.

Coffee with Pastor - Mondays at 11 a.m.

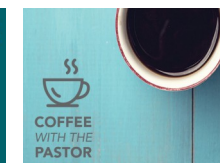
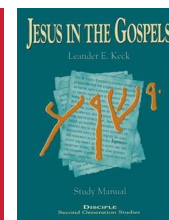
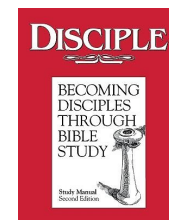
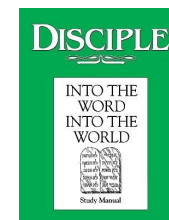
Take advantage of this time with a cup of coffee. Meet the pastor for your own prayer concerns, comments on church's mission and ministries. Those who come to the meeting get a coffee mug with our church logo and Rev. Park's name on it as souvenir.

Meeting ID: 631-887-165
Passcode: 375637

Meet the Pastor - Thursdays at 11 a.m.

weekly faith talk on Thursdays for Advocacy and Actions! Helps the participant explore the biblical, rational, traditional, and experiential positions of the people called Methodists. A good faith talk for mom's morning out.

Meeting ID: 953-5226-0028
Passcode: 014740





Advent Families 2020

By Carol Penne

Even a pandemic can't keep the Good Shepherd faithful from doing God's work. Good Shepherd's Missions team is launching our Advent Families Project for Broad Acres Elementary School on Sunday, November 22 and we need your help now more than ever.

This year the rules are a little different. There will not be an Advent Tree with mittens in the Upper Room. Instead, Missions is asking you to contribute money that will go to purchasing Visa or Mastercard gift cards for two families. We will also gladly accept grocery store gift cards.

The two families selected for us need help to keep them going during this difficult time. Family #1 consists of a mom and her son who escaped a violent, repressive regime to find safety in the U.S. Family #2 consists of mom, dad and an extended family of seven children and grandchildren (three sons, three girls and a baby on the way). The father of this family knows education is the key to his family's future so he works extremely long days so that his children will stay in school and have food on the table and a roof over their heads. If you would like to help this year's Advent Families, **please send a check to the church earmarked "Advent Families 2020" by Sunday, December 13.** We will then work with Broad Acres to see that everything is delivered before Christmas. Questions?
Call Carol Penne (301) 434-7415 or Janice Taggart (301) 434-2151.

On November 4, we received this message from Broad Acres:

Thank you for supporting us once again with all of the extra food from your food bank. If I am correct, I counted a total of 32 bags of food. All filled with various items! This will be a tremendous amount of help for our families. We will be distributing the bags this coming Friday. Our families will always be forever grateful for all of the help that Good Shepherd provides. We hope that as the given circumstances pass by, that we may continue working with each other and helping each other in any way possible.

Freddy Climaco ([klee-mah-koh](#))
 Community School Coordinator
 YMCA Youth & Family Services,
 Linkage to Learning Program

Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Esp. COVIND COMMUNITY FUND

Your generous extra giving makes possible to relieve life burdens for those who are in need. Rev. Park meets our neighbors in desperate situation, who especially are not eligible for government aids during COVID-19 Pandemic. According to recent report from the Committee on Finance, we are very low on the Discretionary Fund without having Holy Communions, where extra giving raised the fund. Make a check payable to Good Shepherd UMC and write a note: Pastor's Discretionary Fund. 100% goes to our neighbor at the spiritual discretion of the pastor. All the disbursement records have been kept in the office. Do good for the least! Praise the Lord.



Recurring Events

Sun.
 8-10 a.m. *The Comforter's Home Chapel* Rm 8

9-10 a.m. **Adult Bible Study** *Canceled*
 11:00 a.m. **In-Person/ digital Worship** *Sanctuary/zoom*
 TBA **No Fellowship** *Lewis Hall*
 7p.m. **Youth Hang-Out** *Zoom*
 8 p.m. **Children's Storytelling** *Zoom*

Mon. **Office Hours, 7 a.m. thru 2 p.m.**
 9:30 a.m. **Staff Meeting** *Zoom*
 11 a.m. **Coffee with the Pastor** *Zoom*
 7 p.m. **Jesus in the Gospels** *Zoom*

Tuesday, Rev. Park works at *Savage Campus*

Wednesday: **Church Office Hours 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
 12 p.m. **High Noon Prayer (Zoom)** *Sanctuary*
 7 p.m. **Disciple Study** *zoom*
 8 p.m. **Prayer Conference Call** *(515) 603-3157*
 (Access Code: 809996, #1)

Thursday
 11 a.m. **Faith Talk with the Pastor** *Zoom*
 7:30 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal & Fellowship** *Zoom*

Friday: **Church Office Hours 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
 TBD *Agape SDA Worship Set-up* *Sanctuary*

Saturday - **In-person Services are cancelled**
 TBD *Agape SDA Worship* *zoom*
 6-9 p.m. *Agape SDA Worship* *zoom*

**All Small Group Gatherings
 thru Zoom Meetings**

Sundays
Celebration of Worship at 11 a.m.
 Meeting ID: 566-965-650
 Passcode: 900361
Youth Hang-Out at 7 p.m.
 Meeting ID: 976-1877-7352
 Passcode: 914966
Children with Sing-Along & Storytelling
 Meeting ID: 964-1021-2427
 Passcode: 541602

Mondays
Coffee with the Pastor at 11 a.m.
 Meeting ID: 631-887-165
 Passcode: 375637
Into the Word Into the World at 7 p.m.
 Meeting ID: 912-9923-1991
 Passcode: 552624, beg. Sep. 21

Tuesdays
Journey thru the Bible at 7p.m.
 Meeting ID: 947-5619-4251
 Passcode: 024529

Wednesdays
High Noon Prayer at noon
 Meeting ID: 409-666-503
 Passcode: 581382
Becoming Disciple thru Bible Study at 7p
 Meeting ID: 961-6016-5713
 Passcode: 716470, beg. Sep. 23

Thursdays
Jesus in the Gospels at 9 a.m.
 Meeting ID: 912-9923-1991
 Passcode: 552624, beg. Sep. 24
Faith Talks at 11 a.m.
 Meeting ID: 953-5226-0028
 Passcode: 014740

(2nd & 4th) Saturdays
Confirmation Classes at 10:30 a.m.
 Meeting ID: 922-3881-6546
 Passcode: 007143



**Join the Wednesday Night
 Prayer Conference Call
 at 8-8:30 p.m.**

**Call 1-515-603-3157
 Access code 809996,
 option #1**

Advent-Christmas

Liturgical Highlights

**“Invitation to the Journey of Good Tidings”
Advent & Christmas 2020**

Nov. 29, First Sunday of Advent - Hope

11 a.m. First Advent Candle Lighting
“United Methodist Student Day”

Dec. 6, Second Sunday of Advent - Way

11 a.m. Holy Communion in Advent
Hanging of the Greens

Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

11 a.m. Carols with the Praise Band
Chrismon Tree

Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Peace

11 a.m. W. Chancel Choir featuring
“Selections of Handel’s Messiah”

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve on Thursday - Comfort

8:30 p.m. Festival of Holy Nativity & Candlelight
Service

Dec. 27 First Sunday after Christmas Day

11 a.m. (Digital) Nine Lessons and Carols

Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve

10:30 p.m. Watch Night Service
“Olwah Service of Covenant Renewal”

Jan. 1, 2021 New Year’s Day

0:00 a.m. Piñata

Jan. 3 Epiphany Sunday



Jan. 10 Baptism of the Lord

11 a.m. Renewal of Baptismal Vow



Come and sing “Happy Birthday to our District Superintendent **Rev. Dr. Gerard A. Green Jr.** During Thanksgiving Eve Service. On Wed., Nov. 25, 7 p.m. He will be 70 this Thanksgiving weekend. We thank his leadership.



Fri & Sat. Nov. 27 & 28
9 a.m. till done

“Cabinet Advent worship video now available”

As a gift to the pastors of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling and Cabinet are offering a video worship service that be used by local churches on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29. This is the first Sunday in Advent. The service can be used this Sunday, or on any Sunday during Advent. It will "premiere" on the BWC's YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/e75RddMkTOY>) at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29. and on Su. Dec. 27.

The Act of Compassion (Mission Outreach)



Christ invites us to a life of service by His example. Service is the Christian’s response to the love of God made known to us in Christ—as God has cared for us, we care for one another. Service is the way we live our faith. We serve God by sharing our time, talents, and treasures—financial resources with others in our congregation, community and world.

✠ Good Shepherd's outreach to our community continues ...

...even during a pandemic. In early October, Idowoo Boss-Cole and Paulette Brown discussed the church’s food bank (closed since March) and what could be done to make sure stored items would be shared with those in need before expiration dates kicked in. After consultation with the Missions Committee, it was decided we would empty the food bank so that food could be used by those who need it most.

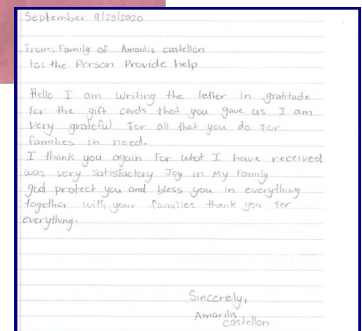
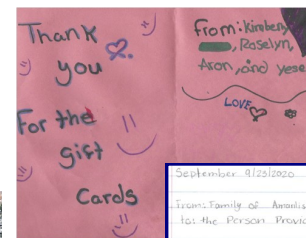
On October 28, staff from the Linkages to Learning program at Broad Acres Elementary School received 40 plus bags full of canned goods, grain products, cereals, and more which will now be distributed to school’s families. This is yet another reminder that a church is more than a building. It’s also an act of service to others. [LN]



✠ A Special “Thank You” from Broad Acres Elementary

This summer the Missions Committee kicked off a Christmas in July initiative that substituted for our annual school supplies drive for Broad Acres Elementary and two Indian reservation schools. Instead of supplies, we collected funds to help these schools meet specific “pandemic” needs. Broad Acres asked for gift cards so that families could buy clothing for their children (kids kept growing, parents were out of work, money was tight).

Good Shepherd responded generously and was able to provide \$400 of gift cards. Recently we received thank you notes and want to share two special messages. Enjoy! [LN]



Christmas with Children & Youth

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our children and youth have met on Sunday evenings. Children met with Sing-Along and Story-telling. Youth met with weekly talk on how to improve the learning skills as well as to find their future. During Advent 15-minute short movie night with reflections. Now, youth watch—The Gospel of John. On the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, the confirmation class is being offered. From **Committee on Discipleship**



(←) While your waiting for Jesus born to us on Christmas Day, you may color each day with a colored pencil.

(↓) Two children received Third Grade Bible on Children’s Sabbath Sunday, November 15. **Angelo Salcedo & Nayina Ngala** are the recipients this year. Congratulations!



Children w. Story telling
Sun. at 8 p.m.
ZoomID: 964-1021-2427
Passcode: 541602

Confirmation Class
2nd & 4th Sat. at 10:30p.m.
ZoomID: 933-3881-6546
Passcode: 007143

Youth Hang-Out
Sun. at 7 p.m.
ZoomID: 976-1877-7352
Passcode: 914966

Special thanks to Teachers:

Mrs. Christiana T. Campbell; Dr. Elizabeth Schneider; Rev. & Mrs. Park

Trustees' Corner

Excerpts from MINUTES (Oct. 18, 2020)

Attendees: Dunstan Thomas (chairperson), Estuardo (Stuart) Coxic Barrios, Beresford Dakin-Davis, Vernice Lee, Pat McConnell, Bintu Murphy (Guest Church Coordinator), Rev. DaeHwa Park, Carol Penne (Secretary).

With a moment of silence to honor our friend and fellow GS member Timothy Afolabi who passed away on October 11. Timothy served many roles at GS – trustee, member of United Methodist Men, usher, communion coordinator and more. Rev. Park closed the moment of silence with a prayer for Timothy and his family.

Affordable housing – Good Shepherd received information about an opportunity, endorsed by the district superintendent, to participate in an affordable housing initiative.

Action: Trustees discussed the idea and concluded that our cottage is well used at the moment and we are happy with the current arrangement that results in income for the church.

Maintenance contract with Ron Shaw – Action: Beresford will reach out to Ron to negotiate a less expensive service contract that still appreciates his working knowledge of our HVAC systems but is 1) more reflective of the work he does for us and 2) in better alignment with the church budget.

Parking and access to trash containers – during the pandemic has led many in the neighborhood to take advantage of our large parking areas. The trash company can’t reach the dumpsters because of

parked cars; the trash remains. Trustees discussed several possibilities for regaining control of this area.

Action:

Bintu will find out a towing company. Beresford will look into getting “no parking on specific and days and times” signs. Pat will come up with temporary no parking messages.

Carol will talk to the local police about what the church can and can’t do to control parking on our property.

Status of guest churches –

Comforter’s House Chapel continues to meet each Sunday; Without authorization they changed locks on the doors to their chapel without providing copies to us.

Action: Dunstan will contact Pastor Joseph to obtain copies of the new keys.

Messengers of God has not reached out about returning to the building.

Agape SDA Church notified Rev. Park that they plan to return to the building on Saturday, Nov. 1. Trustees are concerned because we have not received notification from them.

Action: Both Bintu and Dunstan will contact Pastor Manuel about their re-entry plans.

Security cameras – Dunstan asked about the status of this project.

Action: Stuart will install the final two cameras in early November.

Once that is accomplished Sunil will become a signatory to the church's bank account and Victor's name will be removed. Accessory signatory, Vernice Lee, will be retained.

The Council thanked Victor for his diligent work for the past ten years.

Andre Small is coordinating the audit.

Victor had zeroed-out several small monetary set-asides and reassigned those monies to the general fund. Priscilla, noting a line-item for a Tabitha Circle set-aside, authorized Victor to release those monies to the general fund as well.

Pastor reported that the Endowment Fund now has \$21,522 in it.

FUTURE OF IN-PERSON SERVICES – Pastor said as response to the recent significant rise in local Covid infections, the standards for occupancy will have changed. The current direction is 25% capacity for indoor events. If we count our Sanctuary's seating capacity of 400 that would be 100 attendees. Our normal attendance had been c. 130 on a Sunday and that would mean attendance of 30 to 40 if we continue to follow the CDC guidelines for spacing. (During the pandemic we have had ZOOM and Facebook streaming of services and many people "attend" in that way.)

The Chancel Choir and Praise Band have been performing in-person recently while wearing masks and all attendees also must wear masks and have their temperatures taken. Volunteers do clean-up and sanitizing after gatherings.

There is concern that our guest congregations also follow the current standards for attendance and post-gathering clean-up and they will be consulted.

There is a Baptism scheduled for Nov. 29 and the families will be notified about the attendance numbers. We have had family units seated together rather than each person's being six feet from his or her neighbor. As we often attract large numbers of family and friends for Baptisms, they could easily affect the total allowable capacity.

Philip Sr. was applauded for his tenure as Council Chair.

No other issues were forthcoming and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM. [LN]

[Campbell: Outstanding Person of the Year] (Cont'd from page 20)

To speak to her wholeness becomes more difficult because all the words that come close are nearly blasphemy to ascribe to a mere mortal. Then, as I prayed on it, I realized her parents had given her those words in the meaning of her name; Christiana - flower of Christ. What a beautiful image; when the seed of Christ is planned in us, Christiana is the flower that blooms. She is in all her ways, all her attitudes and her perspective a representation of Christ. A pastor used to say, live like you may be the only face of God those you encounter see today. All who encounter her are lifted, comforted, consoled, inspired and BLESSED and surely see the beauty that is being a child of God. (Stacey Matthews) [LN]

Children's Ministries amid COVID-19 Pandemic



During children's time on Sunday, November 15, at 8 p.m., children adopted a child to support. Children reviewed the list of children from Compassion International. All agreed to adopt a child who has been in the longest waiting list. This is a mission project during Vacation Bible School this year in July.

On that same evening, the children made decision to send a goat and ducks to a needy family through Heifer Project.

Furthermore, during children's hour on Sundays Children gave tithe and offering. As of Nov. 15, they gave \$98 less than last year (total \$332.68) due to no Children's Hour during the Pandemic. Thank God for their giving.



ROCK 2021: FEB 5-7 IS POSTPONED

From www.bwcm.org/rock/

ROCK, the Baltimore-Washington Conference retreat which brings thousands of United Methodist youth and their leaders to Ocean City each year, **has been postponed.**

In response to the coronavirus pandemic and out of an abundance of caution to safeguard the health and well-being of the youth, BWC leaders have made the difficult decision to postpone ROCK from its currently scheduled dates of Feb 5-7, 2021.

We plan on offering innovative and creative ways to engage youth with their faith, one another and the world. These exciting virtual opportunities will be announced in early fall 2020. Arrangements are already underway for ROCK 2022 to be back in Ocean City.

Mr. Tom Price Rest in Peace!

From Becky's Facebook—April 23

Beloved, At 9:25AM Tom peacefully slipped into the arms of God. He now rests where there is no pain, no cancer, no struggle. A celebration of his life will be held after the world opens back up. Please no flowers or calls. If you wish, please make a donation to Compassion International to honor his life, a life dedicated to sharing the love of God especially with young people. Thank you all for your continued love, prayers and support. God is so good!



A tribute video gift from our dear friends at Good News TV (GNTV). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGstdiyr4o&feature=youtu.be>

We watched it at one of Youth Hang-out session.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

By Leilanni McConnel

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Via ZOOM as the Covid pandemic persists

The meeting convened at 1PM with Chair Philip Palmer Sr. leading his last meeting before his successor Christiana Tumaku-Campbell takes the chair.

ATTENDING: Pastor Park, Trustee Chair Dunstan Thomas, SPRC Chair Nathan Block, Finance Chair Andre Small, Finance Secretary Idowoo Boss-Cole, Trustees Carol Penne and Pat McConnell, Missions Chair Janice Taggart, Frances Tagoe, Sandra Craig, Suzanne Matthews-Williams, Philip Palmer Jr., Sandra Craig, Lay Leader Priscilla Michell, and Secretary Leilani McConnell.

We opened with scripture from Peter 2:14 -19 and a prayer. Reports and discussion followed.

FINANCE – the church Budget for 2021 is still pending while seeking input from mission and work areas. Andre said if none are forth-coming, the monetary requests would remain the same as for 2020. (The Pastor’s compensation package had been approved at Church Conference in October.)

STEWARDSHIP – Pledge Sunday was Nov. 01 but the current Covid pandemic which limits in-person attendance has also limited the incoming pledges. The Office may have some mail-in pledges not yet counted. It was suggested a letter might be sent to those who have not been attending the church or via ZOOM who have not yet pledged.

TRUSTEES – Dunstan reported that he had hired a towing service who are to install warning signs this coming week. A problem has been the number of vehicles parked in Pastor’s space, handicap spaces and in front of the access to the dumpster bin in spite of thier being signage to reserve them. Several cars park overnight or for several days at a time. He said towing would occur from 10 PM to 6 AM but this may be reconsidered.

We have three commercial trucks who pay us to park in the lot and the Agape congregation parks a van there. Those who are authorized will have their license tag numbers given to the towing company so they will be left alone. Pat McConnell is to create signage to indicate spaces along the north perimeter for these vehicles.

A concern is how much the church can impose regulations along Mt Pisgah Road. Montgomery County owns space 11 ft. on either side of the center of the public road and that extends into the graveled spaces on the church’s east side. This includes the space in front of the dumpster. Carol Penne consulted with a Sgt. Moore from Mo. Co’s 3rd District about this and he referred her to the County proper. We do not wish to face liability for illegally having vehicles towed.

It was suggested we notify our own and guest congregations of the situation. We will direct members who wish to park overnight or for extended periods to request a temporary permit from the Office which would then be posted on their vehicle to avoid towing. Dunstan added that some exit doors (entry into Jackson Building for one) need new locks.

Marcie Burroughs, Dunstan, Pat McConnell and others have been busy during the past months at sorting and disposing of accumulated items no longer useful. Some things were donated to the resale shop in Hillandale.

MISSIONS – Janice reported that the two Indian schools we have long supported were sent checks and drop-shipped school items this summer in lieu of the annual Shoe Box Project in which we collected, packed and shipped supplies ourselves.

Our partner Broad Acres School has not held in-person classes so we did not gift them with back packs this year. We did participate in Christmas in July, a Conference initiative, and gift cards for Target were donated to Broad Acres School parents so they could purchase clothing for their kids. The winter coat drive was cancelled. The Advent Family project will still happen but modified to the giving of gift cards rather than items. We will be helping two families: one with 9 members and one with 2. The Mitten Tree project to assist the Indian clinic in Wisconsin and another Indian School is pending. The Broad Acres Holiday Shop is cancelled for this year.

Christmas In April which we had joined for decades, was cancelled during the pandemic. It is uncertain whether it will be held in 2021. Moneys were set aside for the 2020 event and Janice and Treasurer Victor will determine what to do with it. As Janice said, we “are continuing God’s work as best we can.”

PRAYER CHAIN – continues on Wednesday evenings.

FOOD PANTRY – has been closed during the pandemic. As a result, some food items went out-of-date or were not usable. Carol and Idowoo last week cleaned out the Pantry with Coordinator Paulette Brown’s permission. 30+ bags of food items were offered to Broad Acres School who grateful accepted them. The shelves were cleaned and disinfected.

Folks are still bringing food items and we may suggest they refrain from doing so for the duration of the Pantry’s closure. However, Idowoo said there are several grocery gift cards available and people could donate to those instead of actual food items.

TREASURER – Victor presented Balance and Profit-and-Loss sheets comparing 2020 year-to-date with the same period of 2019. We are down some in all areas as donations have declined. He has not been able to pay the Conference apportionments for several months but hopes to begin to catch up in January. (December is often a high-giving month.) Salaries and utilities and mortgage payments are up-to-date. We had some expensive maintenance issues in 2020.

This is Victor’s last year as Treasurer. He is being succeeded by Sunil Christopher whose appointment was authorized by the Leader Council and at Charge Conference in October. Victor affirmed he wants to have a completed audit before he hands over the books to Sunil. Meanwhile he and Sunil will need a transition time to make sure the latter is fully prepared to assume the Treasurer’s role.