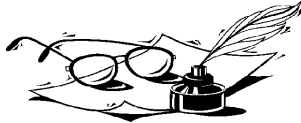




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 7, July 2020

From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Healer of the Soul, and our Everlasting Redeemer. I am so excited about what the Lord has in store for us at Albright-Bethune. We have an amazing opportunity to be a bridge in the community by mending souls with the word and engaging hearts in stewardship and prayer. All of this is done by a Beloved Community engaging in planting the seeds of Jesus Christ our Hope. Building Bridges of connections throughout the community. (Matthew 25:34-36, Luke 4:18-19)

I am so excited to be on the journey with you, Albright-Bethune. In September of 2016, as I was beginning my first semester of seminary at Gammon Theological Seminary, we had something called conference visits. The Susquehanna Conference was present - two gentlemen by the name of Charlie Salsbery and Tom Salsgiver. They talked to my colleagues and me about opportunities to serve in the conference. I was taken aback by their willingness to admit that there was a lack of black pastoral diversity in the conference. When I came to visit in December, I spent time in Hershey with Pastor Jason Mackey. On the night before we left Pennsylvania, we met with all of the District Superintendents in the conference. I was told about this congregation in State College named Albright-Bethune.

Immediately after the meeting, I looked at pictures of the church. I remember feeling at peace and trusting God for the future. Shifting to several months later at the annual conference, I met this charming young woman by the name of Mrs. Jackie who told me she was a member of Albright-Bethune - there was that name again. She had this big smile on her face and I was excited to see another black person. She gave me her contact and the Lord was reminding me of this community again. I'm laying this all out to say that this has been a journey in the making this entire time.

I am humbled to serve as your Pastor. I am double honored by the care and love that the community has poured into me already. Over the next hundred days, I want to spend some time with each of you to listen and learn your stories. I want us to learn each other's stories so we can start to build these bridges together. We want to create off and on-ramps throughout State College so people can find the resources they need from: The Word, a community/family, and Jesus the Christ.

I believe that each of us has the gifts and graces to bring the hope and healing of Jesus Christ to this area for the transformation of the World. I want to be in a relationship with each of you to understand your dreams and aspirations as well as your hurts. I know I was sent here to love you all and be with you during this time of COVID-19. As much as I'm praying for you, please be in prayer for me and with me during this transition. Be Blessed Fam!!!! - Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds

- **NEW PASTOR** – On July 1, **Rev. Paul McReynolds** became our new pastor. Albright-Bethune and Park Forest UMC will continue to be yoked so the congregations can share a fulltime pastor. Rev. McReynolds moved to State College at the end of June and will reside in the Park Forest parsonage. See the insert so you can learn more about him. Please welcome our new pastor with a call, text, or email (814-308-9099) or pmcreynolds@susumc.org).
- **CHURCH ZOOM MEETINGS** – Do you miss seeing and hearing other Albright-Bethune members and worshippers? Well, last month our congregation started having weekly meetings on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. using Zoom. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, the meetings will continue during July. This is an excellent opportunity to see and hear each other, socialize, and stay aware of church activities. An email is sent each week with the process for connecting. You can also participate by audio if video is not possible. Please see Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about the meetings.
- **CONDOLENCES** – Margie Payne, one of our former worshippers, died on June 3. Margie was born in Decatur, GA, and graduated from Spelman College in 1964. In 1965, she married Alan Payne. Margie is survived by Alan, her son (Christopher Marc-Alan), his wife, and two grandchildren. A service was held in Decatur and Margie was buried in Canton, GA. Also, JoDee Dyreson's uncle and AnneMarie Mingo's aunt died last month. Please give condolences to the Payne, Dyreson, and Mingo families.
- **NEW STAFF ASSISTANT** – **Jason Adams**, our Director of Music, will now contribute even more to our church. Last month, Jason became our church's staff assistant to replace **Kat Boynton** who did an excellent job while she held the position. Kat recently moved to Virginia to be closer to her family. Please take the time to welcome Jason to this new role.
- **HONORED FOR HER ART** - **Taylor Barron**, one of our worshippers, has created a piece of art that US Representative John Joyce has selected to hang in the US Capitol. Taylor's art (a bald eagle with the American flag in the background) was picked to represent PA's 13th congressional district in the national Congressional Art Competition. The winning piece from each participating district/state will be displayed in the Capitol for a year. Usually they hold an award conference for the winners in D.C. every year, but this year it is cancelled. Before she entered the National Competition, her art was hanging in Congressman Joyce's Altoona office. His offices have each school district send in art to hang in his offices. From there, she was invited to submit it for the larger competition. When the art is hanging in the Capitol, you can view it at <https://www.house.gov/educators-and-students/congressional-art-competition>. This fall Taylor will be a junior at Juniata Valley High School. Congratulations on this major accomplishment. We are proud of you and your many talents.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: July 3 – **Percephany Devier-Poindexter's** Birthday; July 4 – **Paul Amara, Jr.'s**, Birthday; July 5 – **Paris vonLockette's** Birthday; July 7 – **Azalea Stevenson's** Birthday; July 23 – **Tonya Black's** Birthday; July 24 – **Albert Stevenson's** Birthday; July 26 – **Katie Amara's** Birthday; July 29 – **Niki Dickerson vonLockette's** Birthday; July 30 – **India Warren's** Birthday; and July 31 – **Jacob Amara's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com).
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** – Our 2020 Susquehanna Annual Conference has been changed again. It was originally scheduled to be held in May at the Hershey Lodge. Because of the pandemic, it was then scheduled to be held October 3 in Williamsport. Bishop Jeremiah Park announced recently that it will still be held on October 3 but will now be only online.

- **JOINT ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE** – Pastor Amara conducted his last worship service for us on June 7. He was then on vacation before he began as the Williamsport District Superintendent on July 1. For the three Sundays before **Rev. Paul McReynolds** started as our new pastor on July 1, we had a joint worship service with Park Forest Village UMC that was live streamed. Thanks to **Michelle Torregano** for leading this joint service on June 14 and 28 and to **Tony Lentz** of Park Forest for leading the June 21 service.
- **OPRAH BOOK CLUB** - The new Oprah's Book Club pick is *Deacon King Kong* that was written by James McBride, the award winning author. His brother (David McBride) is one of our worshippers. The book is a bittersweet novel set in a Brooklyn housing project in the '60s. Oprah has high praise for the book: "This book is inspiring and funny — with a Shakespearean cast of characters. McBride uses humor to explore inequality and how we're all connected." The book is now available on Amazon, E-bay, and other sources.
- **GENERAL CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED** - The 2020 UMC General Conference will now occur August 29-September 7, 2021 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minnesota. COVID-19 led the Commission on General Conference (CGC) to change the dates of the event.
- **RETIREMENT POSTPONED** – Our Susquehanna Conference **Bishop Jeremiah Park** had requested an early retirement to occur September 1, 2020. However, given the disruptions that COVID-19 has caused across the UMC, Bishop Park's retirement and that of other bishops have been postponed until after the UMC Jurisdictional Conferences in November 10-12, 2021.
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our June collections totaled \$3,484.00. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.
- **BUYER BE AWARE – BE ALERT TO SCAMMERS** - Whenever there is a national disaster or national event in the US, you can be certain that scammers are scheming a new approach to separate you from your money. Scammers are persons who come up with fraudulent plans to get you to give them money for nothing of value in return. The coronavirus is presenting an opportunity for scammers to reach us because social distancing is keeping nearly everyone near a telephone. If you answer the phone and a scammer is on the other end, shift your brain into high gear and put up your guard!

Oftentimes, scammers play on emotions of generous or lonely folks who need someone to talk to. [AARP](#) has a list of 12 tricks scammers use. Two are worth mentioning:

1. Crooks often insist their targets keep silent about what they are being instructed to do.
2. Scammers excel at using flattery and charm to ingratiate themselves and gain your trust.

What can you do to avoid becoming the next victim of a clever scammer?

1. Hang up the phone. Don't talk to them.
2. Don't answer the phone if they call back immediately.
3. If you answer the phone and a scammer is on the end, tell them to hold on for a second and put the phone down before they answer. Then wait about 15 to 20 minutes and return to hang up the phone. They will hang up and go on to their next target. Repeat this process each time they call back and they will likely look for another target quickly. After all, when you waste their time, they are decreasing the chance of gaining a victim.

For a list of the most recent scams, visit the [Federal Trade Commission website](#). – Submitted by Cathy Bowen

- **G**RADUATE - If you are graduating from high school or college this summer, we want to honor you and celebrate your accomplishment. Please contact **Blannie Bowen** at 237-5131 or by email at blanniebowen@gmail.com with your information. Remember your congregation if you are moving away from the area. Be sure to worship with us when you return for a visit. If you are staying in the area, please continue to worship regularly with us.
- **H**ISTORICALLY BLACK UMC COLLEGES – There are 11 Historically Black Colleges that are affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Do you know a graduate of these institutions? Several are regular worshippers in our church. The list of institutions includes Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL; Bennett College in Greensboro, NC; Claflin College in Orangeburg, SC; Clark-Atlanta University in Atlanta; Dillard University in New Orleans; Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, TX; Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN; Paine College in Augusta, GA; Philander-Smith College in Little Rock, AR; Rust College in Holly Springs, MS; and Wiley College in Marshall, TX.
- **Y**OUR ITEMS – Send, email to blanniebowen@gmail.com or give your items to **Blannie** by the **20th** of the month. Send your birthday, awards, church presentations, writings, etc.

Calendar

July 4	Independence Day
July 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
July 8	Albright-Bethune Congregation Zoom Meeting, 7-8 p.m.
July 15	Albright-Bethune Congregation Zoom Meeting, 7-8 p.m.
July 22	Albright-Bethune Congregation Zoom Meeting, 7-8 p.m.
July 29	Albright-Bethune Congregation Zoom Meeting, 7-8 p.m.
August 4	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 15	Penn State Summer Commencement (Virtual)
August 24	Penn State Classes Begin
September 1	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
September 7	Labor Day
October 4	World Communion Sunday
October 6	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 18	Laity Sunday
November 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 3	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 8	Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
November 29	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov. 29-Dec. 24	The Season of Advent
December 1	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
December 11	Penn State Classes End
December 19	Penn State Fall Commencement
December 25	Celebrate the Birth of Jesus

Meet Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds
(Appointment Effective July 1, 2020)



ITC -Gammon Theological Seminary

Paul Ryan McReynolds was born in Santa Ana, CA, to John and Evangeline McReynolds. He was raised in the largest African American church, Second Baptist Church of Santa Ana, CA, where his father was the Pastor for nearly 30 years. He found his passion for music at an early age as a singer and musician. He served as lead drummer for SBC for over 19 years and singer in the youth and young adult choir. He preached his first sermon on the second Sunday in November 2011. From 2008-2013, he worked as a first responder in West Hollywood, CA, and as an EMT with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Paul left California and traveled to Marshall in East Texas to attend The Wiley College on a music scholarship. He was afforded the opportunity to sing with the world renowned A Cappella Choir of Wiley College under the direction of Maestro Dr. Stephen L Hayes. He was granted the chance to record with the Sounds of Blackness and recorded a cover of the *To Be Young Gifted and Black* with his sister, Melissa. He also sang at the White House and on singing tours around the country. In 2014, he was selected to sing in Japan in Tokyo and Hiroshima for the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU). He served as a campus minister from 2013-2016 under the direction of Rev. Tabitha Rankin. In 2015, he became a United Methodist and a member of Ebenezer UMC. On November 16, 2013, he was initiated in the greatest fraternity (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.) and the Alpha Sigma Chapter, the 39th House of Alpha. He was selected to participate in the Rho class of the Alpha Leadership Academy in 2014. He served the Texas Council of Alpha Chapters in 2013-14 as Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Director in 2015-2016. He also served on the Southwestern Regional Board in 2013-2016.

Paul graduated from Wiley College on May 7, 2016. He is now a student at The Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta which is part of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) which is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries. He is the grandson of Arthur McReynolds who also attended Gammon and became the first Black Elder in Chattanooga, TN. He is a Pastoral Intern and serves as Youth Pastor at Conyers First UMC. Since attending Gammon, he serves as the Student Fellowship President. Paul is a graduating senior and is pursuing his M-Div at the ITC where his concentration is Homiletics and Pastoral Care. Paul is striving for ordained ministry as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. He is an avid reader and loves music and spending time watching movies. His motto is Simplicity is the Ultimate Sophistication.