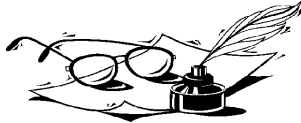




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev., Dr. Paul C. Amara, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 2, February 2020

From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is hard to believe that we have already started to think about transition in the very short time that we have spent in Happy Valley. We have come to love and cherish State College for so many reasons. One of the beautiful things about State College is that it is a city of healthy living. The sidewalks and state parks are just gorgeous.

Kadie and I love physical activities and we love nature too. We spend most of our time outside of our home, so State College is the perfect place where that meets the requirement. With such busyness in our jobs and the time we take to be involved in the lives of our grandchildren, we find pleasure in living in State College.

All of what we have come to love will be short lived as we transition on our journey and move on to another city. The comforting thing is that our lives have been full of transitions. We have moved and lived in so many places that any move to a new environment becomes an exploration. We are already getting ourselves ready to explore yet another place we will call home.

With my appointment as District Superintendent of the Williamsport District, we are looking forward to a move and settlement in the Williamsport City beginning July 1 of this year. Living in State College automatically makes one a Penn Stater. As we prepare to start living in Williamsport, we are already looking forward to becoming Little Leaguers.

We have come to love the churches we serve in State College. We have just started to become one big family engaged in ministry for the Lord. We reach out to neighbors in the name of love. Kadie being who she is has found connection that is so dear to her heart. The connection with senior citizens. She is a blessing to me in my ministry. Her vibrancy and excitement are unstoppable.

In spite of all the excitements, the connections, the comfort, the joys, and the embedment in Happy Valley, a move to Williamsport is easy for us because we know that God is in control. As we move out of the State College churches, another servant of the Lord will be stepping in as a servant leader to serve the Park Forest Village and Albright-Bethune churches.

Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds who hails from Santa Ana, CA, will step into this pastoral role with great energy, loving heart, hopeful dreams, and joyful noise with his great musical talent that embodies the congregations that he will be serving. Pastor McReynolds, a graduate of Wiley College in Marshall, TX, and current student at the Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, will

bring his gifts and graces for ministry to this charge. Please join me in welcoming Pastor McReynolds to Park Forest Village UMC and Albright-Bethune UMC. Pastor Paul is a spiritual firebrand. His mission with the churches will be uplifting and contagious.

As we start the transition into new leadership, let us all continue to pray for one another. Change is something humans tend to fear and become anxious about. This is because humans do not feel being in control of life. The good news is that God always has a plan for our lives. If we trust in God and allow the change to grow us to become more like Jesus Christ in how we respond and act, then we are promised that all things will work together for the good of those who love him and keep his commandments!

As scripture according to the prophet Jeremiah reminds us: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11. Always stay focused and hopeful and allow the Lord to take charge of your life and your dreams.

With God, all things are possible! Be Firm! Hold Fast! Think Big! Stay in Love with Christ!

- **P****ASTORAL CHANGE** - On January 12, Bishop Jeremiah Park announced that Pastor Paul Amara has been named the new Superintendent for the Williamsport District of our Susquehanna UMC Conference. As the District Superintendent, he will provide administrative leadership for over 130 churches and over 90 pastors. Congratulations, Pastor Amara, on this major appointment that becomes effective on July 1. Thanks for your excellent service to our congregation and Park Forest Village. Meanwhile, on January 26, Pastor Paul McReynolds was announced as our new pastor. A profile of Pastor McReynolds is an insert in this issue.

- **S****OUPEL BOWL SUNDAY** - If you watch football's Super Bowl on February 2, think about sharing your snacks. In 1993, a single prayer led a senior high youth group in Columbia, SC, to create a simple, yet powerful idea to fight hunger and poverty in their city. The Souper Bowl of Caring calls youth to action. And individuals, civic organizations, and schools are making a difference through this movement. Various religious groups, including the UMC, promote the concept of souper bowls to share food with the hungry. On this day, give to the Food Bank, share with individuals who are less fortunate, or make a special gift.

- **S****ERVICE WITH MENNONITE CHURCH** – On February 16, our church will again worship with and share a meal with the University Mennonite Church during our 20th annual joint service. This year the service will be held at the Mennonite Church on Norma Street near the Ramada Inn. Pastor Paul Amara will preach. This annual service was started in 2000 and is held during Black History Month to promote cross-cultural understanding of two religious traditions. Please plan to attend this worship service and lunch that will feature excellent foods.

- **R****ACIAL JUSTICE ALLIES** – On February 12 at 7 pm the Racial Justice Allies group will meet here at Albright-Bethune in our fellowship hall. The 1619 Project will be the focus of this meeting. This project is a major initiative of the *New York Times* to correct the record, reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the center of the national narrative. The group will discuss Podcasts 1-3 of the project that focus on (1) the Fight for a True Democracy, (2) the Economy That Slavery Built, and (3) the Birth of American Music. Please Google 1619 Podcast to listen to the 3 podcasts before the meeting.

- **F****OOD BANK DONATIONS** - For the month of February, we are asking individuals to donate canned or dried fruit to the State College Food Bank. Please place your donations in our Peanut Butter Express Wagon and check to be sure the “best by” date has not expired.

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: February 7 – **AnneMarie Mingo's** Birthday; February 10 – **Amariah Holliday's** Birthday; February 11 – **Wally Richardson's** Birthday; February 16 – **Courtney Shilling's** Birthday; February 17 - **Aamen Shilling's** Birthday; February 22 – **Matthew McQuilla's** Birthday; February 23 - **D'Andre Wilson's** Birthday; February 24 – **Charles Amara's** Birthday; February 24 – **Terri Schleiden's** Birthday; February 25 – **Kate Eburn Dyreson's** Birthday; and February 27 - **Huey Jones'** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates so we can honor you (call 237-5131 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com).

- **MEN WHO COOK** – On April 5, we will again have a special day for the men and boys of Albright-Bethune. After our Men's Day worship service, we will have an annual luncheon entitled *Men Who Cook*. **Blannie Bowen, Mark Dyreson, and Wally Richardson** are again co-chairing the planning committee. Please contact them if you will prepare a dish or have questions about Men Who Cook or Men's Day.

- **HOMECOMING 2020** – On June 13-14, Albright-Bethune will have a weekend program for our former members and worshippers. We plan to have a picnic on Saturday afternoon (June 13) that will be followed by worship on Sunday (June 14) and then a farewell lunch. See **Blannie Bowen** if you would like to help plan and conduct this event or need more information. Also, share this information and invite individuals that you know.

- **ONLINE GIVING** - Consider setting up a monthly or weekly online contribution. It is easy to set up and helps you meet your yearly giving goal without having to take action each week or month. When the plate is passed during collection, simply insert the card found in the back of the pews that says, "I give online." The amount you designate for giving will be deducted from your checking account according to your preference. For example, if you decide to give \$400 each month, you can deduct \$400 once a month or \$100 each week. When the amount given is consistent throughout the year, you can easily check the accuracy of your yearly statement acknowledging your giving! Adopt "the set it and forget it" technique for your annual giving to the church. Once a year you decide, i.e. set your budget for giving to the church, and you are done. Now you have more time to spend on other matters instead of writing checks each week or month. The button to set up your online giving is on the church website, upper right corner (<https://www.albrightbethuneumc.org/>). If you need help setting up your online giving, please see Cathy Bowen at (814) 574-8346 or by email at cbowen2015@gmail.com.

- **MLK BANQUET** - The 45th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., banquet was held on January 15 at the Bryce Jordan Center and our church again purchased two tables. Thanks to **Michelle Torregano** for coordinating the purchase of the tables. Pastor Amara gave the invocation and blessed the food for the almost 1,000 who attended. This banquet is conducted by the Forum on Black Affairs (FOBA) faculty and staff organization.

- **FINANCE CORNER** - Going forward, each month the amount collected for offerings will be posted in this section of the newsletter. January collections totaled \$ 4,892.00. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

- **LITURGIST & TEACHERS NEEDED** - Please consider playing a more active role in our congregation. Volunteers are sought to be Sunday School teachers and our liturgist during worship. Contact **Carla Roser-Jones** if you are interested in these opportunities. You can reach Carla at (814) 880-9302 if you do not catch her at our worship service.

- **UMC RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS** - What form The United Methodist Church takes next will remain unclear until the 2020 General Conference meets May 5-15 in Minneapolis. Various proposals will be discussed by the 862 delegates. A summary has been prepared that compares the proposals from various groups, in alphabetical order, about the structure of the UMC. The summary does not include proposals from individuals. Further details are in the documents and legislation. All proposals will be open for amendments at General Conference and may be subject to Judicial Council review. You can review the summary at <https://cdnsc.umc.org/-/media/umc-media/2020/01/09/19/07/General-Conference-UMC-Plans-Chart-V6> (From UM News Service).
- **UMC SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS** - United Methodist Church high school seniors and those enrolled in college who are also active in their church and/or in the conference may apply for a Fall 2020 scholarship offered through the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students must apply online between January 3 - March 5 at <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships>. Student loans are also available at low interest rates (with a credit worthy co-signer). Funds for these scholarships come from offerings taken on United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday. Please share this information with students who qualify for this support.
- **YOUR 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

February 4	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
February 12	Racial Justice Allies Meet, 7 p.m., Albright-Bethune
February 16	Joint Service With University Mennonite Church, Norma Street
February 26	Ash Wednesday
March 3	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
March 7	World Day of Prayer
March 8-14	Penn State Spring Break
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 22	UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday)
April 5	Men Who Cook & Men's Day
April 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
April 10	Good Friday
April 12	Easter Sunday
May 1	Penn State Classes End
May 5	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
May 8-10	Penn State Commencement Exercises
June 2	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 7	Peace With Justice Sunday
June 13-14	Homecoming 2020

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.