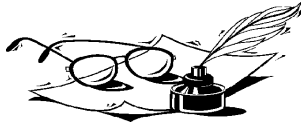




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



*From Pastor Paul's Desk.....*

***The hardest thing for us is saying Goodbye.....***

Moving to Happy Valley turned into excitement for our family after sad feelings leaving the Wyoming Valley where we lived for the period of ten years. We can proudly say that Plains, PA is home to us because it was during our time living in Plains that our boys grew up to be young men. It was during our time living in Plains that both of our boys, Charles and Paul Jr., graduated from high school. It was during our time living in Plains that our oldest son, Charles, cemented his relationship with his high school sweetheart who later became his wife. It was during our time living in Plains that Kadie and I became grandparents for the first time. It was during our time living in Plains that I lost my dad and Kadie lost her mom.

These are just some of the attachments that we have when it comes to our time in Wyoming Valley. The people at the churches where I served in Wyoming Valley became to us more than just parishioners. Those people became brothers and sisters to us. Our connection with them is for life!

Our family is unique in one aspect. We are who you see. We are down to earth people when it comes to human relationship. We love people. My wife, Kadie, is a hope giver. If one is feeling down, one can be quite assured that when you cross paths with her, you will find yourself in a better place. She is gifted in her interactions with people especially with senior citizens. Anyone who has spent time with Kadie can attest to that fact. She is the sustainer of the strength in my ministry. She and I are in ministry together.

I raise these instances to emphasize a point. The point is the sacrifice we made to depart from a place we call home to some unknown destination. For us, State College was an unknown destination. We were never familiar with the Happy Valley and never would have thought of living here.

On my appointment as pastor to the Albright-Bethune and Park Forest Village churches, we struggled with how we were going to be in new relationships after creating a very strong bond in Wyoming Valley. We prayed over the appointment and trusted God's vision for us. We are avid travelers and adventurers, so the move wasn't a shocker for us.

After finally coming into terms with the move, we started mental and physical preparations for the way forward. We were ready and prepared. After the move on July 2 of last year, we became happy residents of Park Forest Village.

# A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

**Rev., Dr. Paul C. Amara, Pastor**

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 6, June 2020

On beginning to live here, so many things caught our eye: the forestry, the foliage, the sidewalks, the state and local parks are just a few to mention. We gradually started to settle in. We started to feel being in another place where we will start calling home.

It was only six months after living in Happy Valley that we received the news about our next move. In December, I was graciously and prayerfully tapped and appointed by Bishop Jeremiah Park to become the District Superintendent of the Williamsport District of the Susquehanna Annual Conference. With that appointment, a move will have to happen. Since that appointment and announcement, our family has been preparing for the new phase in our lives.

It has not been easy for us to start bidding farewell to people we have come to love and cherish. We have come into contact with so many kindhearted and good people at the Albright-Bethune and Park Forest Village churches. There have been people who have invited us into their homes, people who have taken us out to spend quality time with them, people who have stood firm with us in times of challenges, people who have offered their precious time to assist us in ministry, people who have prayed with us and people who have just graciously opened their hearts to us.

In my last message to you in this newsletter, the words 'Thank You' is an understatement. Our family cannot thank you enough for your love and friendship. You are always going to be part of our lives. We will continue to pray with you and pray for you. As years go by, our family will look back fondly on our short time spent together. While we are leaving you, there is one who remains constant with you: Jesus Christ. He was with you before we got here and he will continue to be with you even after we leave.

In life, there are always going to be trials and uncertainties. When those times arise, always trust in the Lord. As I end my pastoral leadership with you, my prayers are that you find ways to stay focused under the leadership of your incoming spiritual leader who happens to be Pastor Paul McReynolds. Pastor Paul is coming to you with so much excitement and readiness. I implore you to open your hearts to him and allow him to manifest his gifts and graces in ministry with you. May God continue to bless you and may the love of Christ shine on you always. Shalom! **Pastor Paul**

- **JOINT ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE** – Pastor Amara will conduct his last worship service for us on June 7. He will then be on vacation before he begins as the Williamsport District Superintendent on July 1. For the three Sundays before **Rev. Paul McReynolds** starts as our new pastor on July 1, we will have a joint worship service with Park Forest Village UMC **at 10 am that will be live streamed**. **Michelle Torregano** will lead this joint service on June 14 and 28 and **Tony Lentz** of Park Forest will lead the June 21 service. Please logon and let others know about the joint service and **the 10 am starting time**. You can logon from our Facebook site at: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/albrightbethuneumc/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/albrightbethuneumc/videos/?ref=page_internal). From the video link on this page, you can join the live stream and also watch our prior services.

- **DEATH** - Albert Shilling, 80, one of our members, died May 11 at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville after a heart attack. In 2015, Albert received our Service Award during our Men's Day and Men Who Cook program. He loved to bake desserts for this fund raiser. In 1976, he married Barbara Seyler, who survives. Albert is also survived by four sons and three daughters including Courtney of Bellefonte. He had 16 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren. Albert liked fishing, hunting, and especially hunting rattle snakes. He enjoyed rides to Benezette to see the elk and was an avid reader. His favorite pastime was being with his family, especially his grandchildren. A private service was held for Albert. His family requests that memorial contributions be made to Albright-Bethune.

- **MASKS** - Several individuals in our congregation have recently sewed masks to keep their family, friends, and colleagues safe: **Jo Ferrell** – 55 masks; **Cathy Bowen** – 33 masks; **Jackie Peagler** – 20 masks; and **JoDee Dyreson** – 10 masks. Thanks for your efforts.

- **N**EW PASTOR – On July 1, **Rev. Paul McReynolds** becomes our new pastor. Albright-Bethune and Park Forest UMC will continue to be yoked so the two congregations can share a fulltime pastor. Rev. McReynolds will move to State College later this month.
- **B**IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: June 4 – **Aliyah Saunders**' Birthday; June 4 - **Cheraine Stanford's** Birthday; June 5 - **Lydia D. Stewart's** Birthday; June 12 – **Ariele Baggett's** Birthday; June 18 – **Cathy & Blannie Bowen's** Wedding Anniversary; June 28 – **Pierce Vincent Devier-Poindexter's** Birthday; June 30 - **Huey & Ireen Jones'** Wedding Anniversary; and June 30 – **Jackie & Maurice Peagler's** Wedding Anniversary. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) ).
- **S**couting ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Several of our youth are Scouts in B.S.A. Troop 328 of Boalsburg. They have been keeping very busy even during this pandemic environment. The Scouts have worked on several merit badges, including Communications, Cooking, and Citizenship in the Nation as well as rank advancement. **Katie Dyreson** has recently completed the rank of Second *Class*. **Taylor Barron** and **Zan Dyreson** have just attained Star rank, which is impressive given that they have been Scouts for less than a year. It generally takes several years for Scouts to progress through ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class then Star. These two young ladies only have the Life Scout rank before tackling becoming an Eagle Scout. The Troop will hold a Court of Honor in the near future to award these achievements. Keep up all the good work and service to others!
- **F**ATHER'S DAY – We will celebrate Father's Day on June 21. In 1909, Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, WA, proposed the idea of the "*Father's Day*" to honor her father, William Smart. Mr. Smart, a Civil War veteran, raised his six children by himself on a farm after his wife died in childbirth with their 6<sup>th</sup> child. The idea came when she heard a sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honor one's mother. It gave her the idea to petition for a day to honor fathers and, in particular, her own father. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off. On June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day, but it was not until 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation declaring the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of June as Father's Day. This day has become a time to not only honor your father, but all men who act as father figures. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and adult male friends are all honored on Father's Day. (Source - From article prepared by Patreese Ingram for *Around the State in 4-H Newsletter*, Penn State, June 2002).
- **A**NNUAL CONFERENCE – Our 2020 Susquehanna Annual Conference will now be held on October 3 in Williamsport. When the State extended its prohibition of large gatherings, the Hershey Lodge and the Conference agreed that the original May dates would not work. See Pastor Amara or Jackie Peagler if you have any questions.
- **R**ETIREMENT 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.
- **G**ENERAL 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.

- **S**TAFF ASSISTANT VACANCY - **Kat Boynton**, our church's staff assistant, provides excellent service to our church but she must leave the part-time position. For information about the position or to apply, please contact Jackie Peagler, the chair of our Administrative Council. You can reach Jackie by email at [jypeagler@gmail.com](mailto:jypeagler@gmail.com) or by phone at [814-237-8225](tel:814-237-8225).
- **N**EW POSITION - One of Albright-Bethune's former members (**Keisha Johnson**) has been named associate director of the University of Pennsylvania's College Achievement Program (PENNCAP). Keisha will coordinate the Pre-Freshman Program (PFP), a free, invitation-only and academically rigorous pre-orientation program for first-generation and/or highly aided students. One hundred-eighty new undergraduates participate in PFP onboarding (From UPenn Almanac). While Keisha was at Penn State, she served as assistant director of Science Diversity Initiatives in the College of Science and was also very active in our congregation.
- **W**ESLEY'S BIRTHDAY - As John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, grew older, on his birthday he often commented how he was still in good health because God had blessed him. His birthday reflections give us a glimpse into how he viewed his life, health, and ministry. United Methodists around the globe celebrate Wesley's birthday on June 28.
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our May collections totaled \$5,471. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.
- **C**HARITABLE DONATIONS DEDUCTIONS FOR 2020 TAX YEAR - Hidden among the more publicized features of the CARES Act (Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, 2020) is \$300 of tax relief for individuals who are inclined to donate to charities and who do not itemize deductions. In short, if you take the standard deduction, you can deduct up to \$300 from your 2020 income before determining how much federal tax you owe (**Source:**[www.Kiplinger.com](http://www.Kiplinger.com)) – Submitted by **Cathy Bowen**.
- **Y**OUR ITEMS – Send, email to [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) or give your items to **Blannie** by the **20th** of the month. Send your birthday, awards, church presentations, writings, etc.

### Calendar

June 2	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 7	Peace With Justice Sunday
June 21	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 4	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 15	Penn State Summer Commencement
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