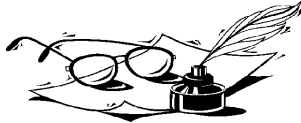




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



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 their souls with the word. Engaging their 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 pray all is well with each and every one of you. It seems as though time is shifting so fast. It feels like just yesterday that it was the first week of July. Now that we are entering the month of November it seems as though we are full steam ahead to the New Year. My heart is full of excitement and glee for the season that we are entering. From time changing so that we get that hour of sleep back that we lost to Thanksgiving. We are moving into a season of reflection and appreciation for how far the Lord has brought us in these past few months of COVID-19. Some of us have experienced losses and this is going to be the first year without a loved one. For some, we will not be able to visit and be close to some family and friends this holiday season. However, this gives us opportunities to be as creative as we have been during this time.

As we are anticipating the Advent season that is upon us, I am excited for the new series that will begin on November 29th and will finish on December 20th. This 4-part series will give each of us a chance to focus on how the arrival of Jesus Christ answers our deepest longings in life: our longing for Jesus to come and make us anew into our lives (Hope), His arrival in Bethlehem answering our longing for God to move about in our daily lives (Joy); our longing for a Savior (peace) and finally, the return of Jesus the Christ to make all things new (Love). During this 4-part series, we will discover that these longings are God's gift to us. We are going to celebrate the arrival of Jesus and coming return by meditating on the many ways he has fulfilled our deepest needs of hope, joy, love, and peace. I pray that all is well with each and every one of you. It seems as though time is shifting so fast.

In this season of being thankful, allow this to be a time of giving as well as receiving. Remember that we are all sons and daughters of Christ who loves us and cares for us. Our savior is one who loves all and is wanting to quench the thirst of those who have found themselves in the desert of Life. If you ever have a chance to give, do it willingly and humbly you just like the Lord extended his hand to you. I will leave you with this beautiful poem by Alberto Rios "When Giving Is All We Have".

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 11, November 2020

“One river gives its journey to the next. We give it because someone gave it to us. We give it because nobody gave it to us. We give because giving has changed us. We give because giving could have changed us. We have been better for it. We have been wounded by it. Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet, Big, though small, a diamond in wood-nails. Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too. But we read this book, anyway, over and again: Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand, Mine to yours, yours to mine. You gave me blue and I gave you yellow. Together we are simple green. You gave me What you did not have, and I gave you What I had to give - together, we made Something greater from the difference.” **Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds**

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: November 2 – **Jennifer Saunders’** Birthday; November 4 – **Andrew Jackson’s** Birthday; November 4 – **Keisha Johnson’s** Birthday; November 11 – **Victoria Jackson’s** Birthday; November 14 - **Jadon Isaiah Wilson’s** Birthday; and November 16 - **Michelle Torregano’s** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com) so we can honor you.

- **SCOUTS RAKE CHURCH’S LEAVES** - The Scouts of Troop 328 recently helped rake the leaves around our church. Please extend thanks to **Taylor B., Zan D., Katie D.,** and **Keira D.** They were assisted by their Scoutmaster, a parent, and two PSU students (**McClane** and **Braden**). Also, Troop 328 recently celebrated a Court of Honor during which the Scouts were recognized as collectively earning 34 merit badges! Several of our youth worshippers also advanced in rank: Taylor earned the First Class and Star ranks, Zan also earned the First Class and Star ranks, and Katie earned her First Class rank. Even in the midst of a pandemic, the Scouts have been busy cycling long-distance bike hikes, working on service projects, camping with social distance, and hiking challenging terrain. Congratulations on your accomplishments and thanks again for raking the leaves.

- **DEATH** – Please extend condolences to Jo and Don Ferrell on the death of Jo’s sister (Brenda May Baker Burgess) who died on October 29. Brenda was an Albright-Bethune worshipper until her health started to decline.

- **PECAN PIES** - Albright-Bethune is again selling a limited number of genuine Southern pecan pies that you can enjoy with your Thanksgiving dinner or eat for a special dessert. The price is still only \$20, but please also consider making a contribution to our church. Contact Blannie Bowen **by November 15** if you want to order a pie or have questions. The pies will be baked by B. Evans Kitchen (aka Blannie) and will be available for pick-up or delivery starting Sunday, November 22, until Saturday, November 28. You can reach Blannie at (814) 777-6550 or at blanniebowen@gmail.com .

- **THANKSGIVING** – On November 26, we will celebrate Thanksgiving with COVID-19 in our midst. Please use this time to live the purpose behind the day by helping a few friends, family members, students, and some worshippers. Several of our worshippers are from other states and countries and cannot return home for Thanksgiving. So, please follow CDC guidelines and recommendations and include them in your big meal. One possibility is to deliver or have your guests pick-up the meal. Also, invite your guests to take some of the leftovers so they do not clog your freezer until Thanksgiving 2021.

- **LAITY SUNDAY** - Our congregation celebrated Laity Sunday on October 18. Several members and worshippers helped to conduct our virtual worship service. **Michelle Torregano** was the speaker and delivered an excellent, inspirational message. Thanks to everyone who helped conduct the service. Laity Sunday is an invitation for the whole church to remember that all of the baptized, lay, and clergy together are the people of God. Our English word “laity” comes from the Greek word “laos” meaning, “people.”

- **C**HURCH CONFERENCE - The Albright-Bethune Annual Church Conference will be held November 29 at 3 pm. The district superintendent will conduct the conference via Zoom with the leaders of our congregation. See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have any questions about the conference or the business affairs of the church.
- **C**HURCH ZOOM MEETINGS – Do you miss seeing and hearing other Albright-Bethune members and worshippers? Well, our congregation holds weekly meetings on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. using Zoom. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, the meetings will continue. 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. Please see Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions.
- **C**CROSS & FLAME - A pastor's call to replace the Cross and Flame as the official insignia of The UMC has picked up the backing of the North Texas Conference. Rev. Edlen Cowley [wrote a column this summer](#) urging the denomination to move away from the Cross and Flame, saying the emblem conjures for him and other African Americans the terror of Ku Klux Klan cross burnings. The North Texas Conference voted 558-176 at its [annual meeting](#) to submit to the 2021 General Conference legislation Cowley drafted that would begin the process of changing the insignia. Cowley said a rebranding of The UMC is in order, given that the denomination [faces a possible split](#) and has begun an [anti-racism campaign](#). "This would be a monumental change in a monumental moment," Cowley said of replacing the Cross and Flame. He is pastor of Fellowship UMC in the Dallas suburb of Trophy Club (From UM News).
- **O**FFICE HOURS - Pastor McReynolds has office hours at Albright-Bethune on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11-2. You can also reach him by email at pmcreynolds@susumc.org or call the church office at (814) 237-4404 during office hours. At other times, you can reach Pastor McReynolds on his home phone at (814) 308-9099.
- **S**TRESS REDUCERS - With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approaching, now is a good time to reflect on an issue of A Christian Perspective newsletter that offered 7 ways to reduce stress and make your life more enjoyable. **(1)** Allow time everyday for privacy, quiet, and introspection. **(2)** When you face an unpleasant task, do it early in the day. **(3)** Delegate responsibility to capable individuals. **(4)** Take a lunch break to get away from your problems. **(5)** Count to 1,000 (not 10) before doing or saying something to make matters worse. **(6)** Have a forgiving view of events and people because we live in an imperfect world. **(7)** Have an optimistic outlook because most people do the best they can.
- **A**DVENT - How much do you know about Advent which celebrates Christ's birth 2,020 years ago? Advent is derived from the Latin word *Adventus* which means coming. It begins on Sunday, November 29, and ends at sunset on Christmas Eve. Advent always includes four Sundays. The 1st Sunday marks the start of the Christian year and the final victory. The 2nd and 3rd Sundays represent John the Baptist while the 4th represents events preceding Jesus' birth. Traditional colors include purple which means royalty and is linked to penitence and Mary, Jesus' mother. Blue represents hope and white and gold represent joy and festivity. Christmas Eve is not part of Advent, but is the beginning of Christmas.
- **C**HRISTMAS GIVING – You should now start thinking about making Christ a bigger part of your Christmas celebration. The *Christian Financial Concepts* newsletter recommends that we do some soul searching. This newsletter suggests that you decide the amount you plan to spend on gifts and then contribute 10% to Christ-like causes. For example, use the 10% to support food banks, orphans, and missions that spread the gospel in other nations.

- **G**ENERAL CONFERENCE 2021 - With COVID-19 still menacing the globe, organizers are exploring various options for holding what many expect to be a pivotal General Conference. Among the possibilities is for The UMC's top lawmaking assembly to convene online in late summer of 2021. The Commission on the General Conference [has named a technology study team](#) to look at ways to accommodate full participation of nearly 900 voting delegates and other church leaders who come from four continents and 13 time zones. The stakes are high for those planning the legislative session. General Conference delegates face multiple proposals to resolve longtime debate over homosexuality [by splitting the denomination along theological lines](#). The 14-member technology team includes commission members, General Conference staff and other denominational leaders. Some UMC leaders, including bishops, have [urged General Conference organizers to consider holding the meeting virtually](#), while others have raised concerns about accessibility for delegates who come from countries where internet service is often unreliable. Of the 862 delegates elected to the coming General Conference, 55.9% come from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The UMC. The logistics of the typical 10-day General Conference are complex and involve international visas, translators, and finding space to accommodate more than 1,000 (From UM News).

- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our October collections totaled **\$3,015**. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

Keeping track of income is useful for projecting yearly taxes and planning where to withdraw funds or to save money for retirement or other long-term goals. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities recently released a fillable [Income Calculation Worksheet](#). Although the worksheet was developed to help consumers estimate their income to buy health insurance on HealthCare.gov, it can be used by any worker or retiree to estimate yearly income. **Submitted by Cathy Bowen**

- **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	
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
January 1	New Year's Day – Welcome 2021
January 5	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
January 19	Penn State Classes Begin