

# *Bethel Presbyterian Review*

## **The Pastor's Corner**

A professor in a philosophy class drove home a point on with the following illustration: he lifted a one-gallon, wide-mouthed Mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. He then placed, one at a time, 12 fist-sized rocks into the jar. When no more rocks would fit, he asked the audience if they believed the jar to be full. They said that they did, and he then reached under the table and produced a bucket of gravel. He scooped it into the jar and then shook it, thus causing the gravel to fill the spots between the rocks. He asked the same question again and this time, there were mixed replies. He took another box out from under that table and it was filled with sand. Dumping it in, it filled the gaps between the gravel and rocks. He asked the same question for a third time, and no one said anything. He then pulled out from under the table a pitcher of water and began pouring it in until the jar was filled to the brim. He then stated that the point of this illustration: "If you don't put the big rocks in first, you will never get them in at all. Do you know what the 'big rocks' in your life are?"

What are our priorities? It is the question being asked by this professor to these students, and it is a wonderful question for us to ask ourselves as often as we can. There are so many things that demand our attention in this rushed and busy life that if we make the wrong decisions on our priorities, then that which is truly important begins to lose focus in our lives.

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As I ponder the upcoming Lenten season, I have asked myself, “Where do my faith priorities lie?” The whole Lenten journey points to the cross and the ultimate victory of Jesus over death. In that victory, we receive life, salvation, and the reality of the Holy Spirit dwelling within. If we focus on that, we are able to then tap into a sense of peace, strength, and inner joy that helps us to prioritize the things in our life that truly matter: faith, family, our community of faith, and how these things then influence every other area of our lives.

The miracles, the teachings, and the truths that Jesus laid before his followers throughout his ministry were defined, and he was asking them to commit to him as Messiah. The reality was that for most of them, this teaching was too hard. Whether it was risking religious standing for the Sadducees, social status for the Pharisees, or economic security and sure banishment for anyone committing heresy, people then and now often deem a number of other things as more important than God, while seeking temporal security in their lives.

The reality, however, is that our commitment to faith needs to be the number one “big” rock in our jar. When it is, our lives take on a depth and a meaning that all the other priorities in our lives just can’t provide. In fact, our other priorities become easier to manage when we lay everything at the foot of the cross. It is the promise of a God who loves us.

Food For Thought...  
Pastor Todd



If you would like to dig in to God's Word more deeply in 2021, you may visit this website that offers a variety of plans for how to read through the Bible in one year.  
<https://readthebibleinayear.com/bible-reading-plans/>

F E B R U A R Y



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

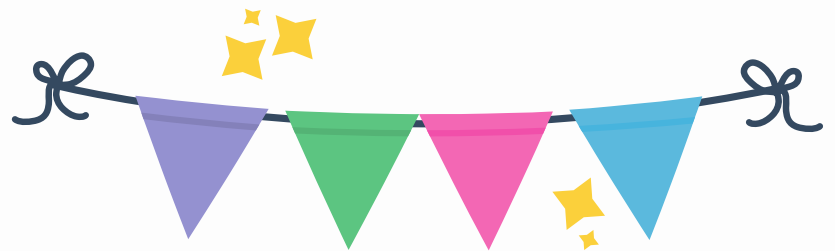
2/2 Jacob Holt  
2/5 Jordan Comer  
2/5 Susan Wyatt  
2/6 Sarah Wiley  
2/7 Wendy Benson  
2/7 Daniel McRee  
2/10 Travis Galliher  
2/11 George Cowman  
2/12 Ben DiBastiani  
216 Gail Thomas  
2/16 Gregory Thomas  
2/17 Shirlee Nystrom  
2/20 Shelby Jones  
2/22 Jessica Messenger  
2/22 Lindsay Saneman  
2/23 Gary Lowe  
2/23 Kelley Saneman  
2/24 Sarah Fielder  
2/24 Ruth Walker  
2/26 Jack Mory



## Welcome, little one!



**Congratulations** to  
Angela & Jason Troyer.  
who welcomed a  
beautiful new baby  
boy in December!



## Happy Anniversary!

2/14 Keith and Kristen Comer  
2/16 David and Sue Hinkley  
2/27 Eric and Wendy Benson







## Deacon's Update

We uphold the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers and pray God's healing upon them:

- Family of Kim Rutledge
- Family of Charles "Mike" Swift and Pauline S. Brannan
- Shirlee Nystrom
- Brendan Lins, grandson of Ron & Andi Holmes
- Family of Dorothy Goldstein
- Family of Jimmy Turner
- Bruce Mattheis
- Liz Brooks, sister of Polly Winskowski
- Family of Danny Garey (John & Sandy Louderback)
- Henry Kraft, grandson of Gail & David Thomas
- Blair Mattheis
- Janet Henderson
- Sam Fielder, Jr., Father of Sam Fielder III & Father-in-law of Margie Fielder
- Frank Clement, friend of Sam & Marsha Brooks
- John Dorn, friend of John and Rita Cairnes
- Beverly Schmidt
- Joe Bradford
- George Cowman
- Betty Rogers
- Nancy Thompson (friend of the Swifts)
- Lenny Downs (niece of the Swifts)
- Jean Mattheiss (sister of Bruce)



## Member Notes:

George and Mary Ellen Reeves and family would like to sincerely thank the congregation for the tremendous outpouring of kindness shown to them after the recent passing of Jane and Jimmy Turner.

They are very grateful for the calls, cards, and many acts of kindness they received during this difficult time. They also wanted to express their gratitude to the Schooner Club for the wonderful gesture of donating the new Advent candles in Jane's memory.

The family deeply appreciates your continued prayers, and they are comforted by knowing that Jane and Jimmy are both now at peace.



Special thanks to Debbie Calary, her family and committee members for the Christmas decoration of the sanctuary. Debbie has been heading up this task for years. This season's decoration was especially appreciated by our congregants who view the services from home.



Focusing on the serene nativity figures, made and donated by Carolyn Matthias, was a perfect way to bring us the blessings of the season. The new Advent candles donated by the Schooner Club in memory of Jane Turner added to the beauty of the sanctuary.



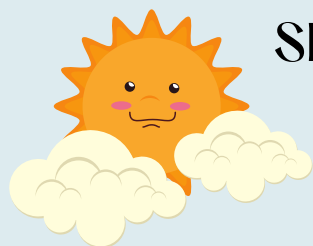
**Thank you** to all my Bethel friends for the get well cards, notes, and calls while I was hospitalized and am home recovering. I have really enjoyed them. Thanks to Todd for his calls and a special one singing a couple verses of "Oh Holy Night" to me over the phone. (Think he might have been warming up for the church service.) Sounded right on pitch. So nice!



Thank you all for your thoughtfulness,

Janet Henderson

Our deepest sympathies to the Swift family with the loss of Tom's 2 siblings: His sister, Pauline S. Brannan and his brother, Charles "Mike" Swift, father of Wendy Benson, Debbie Huster, and Hazel Adair, members of Bethel.

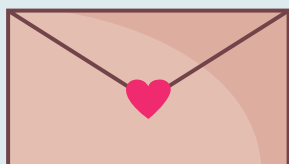


Our featured Bethel Member for February is:

**Bruce Mattheiss**  
**2755 Greene Lane**  
**Baldwin, MD 21013**

## Shower of Cards

Send a little Sunshine! Each month we select a member (or members) to shower with cards or notes of love, support, encouragement and good cheer!



## A Humorous Look Back at 2020!

Submitted by Marti Nichols

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored, I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone.
3. 2019: Stay away from negative people.  
2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down: old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days, try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing myself from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & ask for money.

# Christmas Spirit in Action!

Thank you all for your generous donations to the Mason Dixon Food Pantry! And thanks to the team below, who helped deliver the donations: Lynda McRee, Tom and MaryLee Swift, Carol Morrow, Lexi St. Clair, and Makenna Brooks.



We received a very nice thank you card from Jane Skryzypiec, Highland Center Director at Mason-Dixon Community Services. She said "Thank you so very much for your donations! The food and personal care items help us continue to feed those in need and those affected by the pandemic!"



This pup was the cutest helper!



On behalf of the Mission Committee, we thank all of our Members for your participation in giving your time and gifts in 2020. Your kindness granted economically challenged families the gift of receiving food and personal items. In addition, the Mission budget made it possible to contribute to the following organizations:

Presbytery of Baltimore Shared Ministry  
Thanksgiving Giving Boxes  
Massanetta Springs Camp  
Anna's House  
St. Jude's Research Hospital  
Perrypoint Medical Center  
Presbytery of Baltimore Disaster Relief Fund  
Presbytery of Baltimore Coronavirus Research



Mason Dixon Community Services  
Presbyterian Mission Agency  
Habitat for Humanity  
Harford Fuel Fund  
Harford Family House  
Young Life Harford County  
10 Sewing Machines to another Nation

Due to the Coronavirus, we were unable to do several hands-on projects this year, but are hopeful that we will be able to resume these activities in the future.

Nancy Mory  
Chairperson, Mission Committee

**BLESSED**  
*and Grateful*

# Member Highlight

## Heather Yeung and Family



Each month, Bethel Deacons have been honoring a member of the church to help us get to know one another better. This month, we recognize Heather Kirkwood Yeung. Heather is part of a long lineage of Kirkwood members of Bethel. Her ancestors helped to build the original church, call its first pastor, and are memorialized in the graveyard and on some of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Heather was lucky to grow up on the historic family farm off of Harford Creamery and Bradenbaugh Roads. Some of her earliest memories are of singing in the Bethel children's choir and Sunday School picnics enjoying those little tubs of ice cream that came with a scratchy wooden spoon. As she grew, Heather participated in the bell choir, Sunday School (she still has all of her Sunday School pins!), youth group, confirmation class, and would play the piano at Sunday services from time to time.

After graduating from North Harford High School, Heather attended Western Maryland College. There, she had the opportunity to spend a semester abroad in Havana, Cuba, and graduated cum laude with two majors (Political Science and Music) and two minors (Spanish and Cross-Cultural Studies). After college, Heather moved to Austin, Texas for graduate school. During her time at the University of Texas, she had the opportunity to spend a semester abroad in San Jose, Costa Rica. After two years, she graduated with a Masters degree in Latin American Studies. She promptly purchased a one-way ticket to Buenos Aires, Argentina where she remained for nine months. In Argentina, Heather improved her Spanish, took Portuguese lessons, and learned to dance the tango. One of the highlights of her time there was a one-week visit from Norma Kirkwood and Leonora Rose. Of course, a proper presentation about the trip was made to the Schooner Club upon Heather's return.

Upon returning to the United States, Heather began law school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. There, she focused on international law and had the opportunity to spend a semester in Zacatecas, Mexico. Upon graduation, Heather moved back to Harford County and worked for one year as a law clerk to Judge Carr and Judge Baldwin (a Bethel member!) at the Circuit Court of Harford County. After her one-year position ended, she moved to Washington, D.C. to be closer to her law school boyfriend Dillon Yeung and took a job at a Montgomery County law firm. At that firm she assisted Spanish-speaking immigrants with personal injury claims.

Heather married Dillon in 2013 on Labor Day weekend at a ceremony in Manhattan, New York attended by over 500 people. Very soon after, they welcomed their first child - a son named Robert Henry Yeung. Robbie is named after the first Kirkwood to immigrate to the New World - Robert Kirkwood, and the first Yeung to immigrate to the United States - Dillon's father Ki Tai (Henry) Yeung. Two years later, they welcomed their second son Jack Kirkwood Yeung. Jack is named after Heather's grandfather and husband of Norma Kirkwood.

The family lives in Columbia, Maryland but visits the home farm as frequently as possible. Dillon is employed as an Assistant State's Attorney for Howard County and Dillon is an excellent cook and spoils the family with extravagant meals on a regular basis. Heather works as a business law attorney at a firm in Annapolis. She enjoys interior decorating, gardening, and volunteering in her community. Robbie is six and Jack is four and the two are best friends. They love visiting the farm, swimming, soccer, reading books, Pokemon, super heros, legos, and riding bikes.



# Bethel Family Life



**Sue Hinkley shares a little Joy!!**

**MaryLee Swift finds hope in these brave daffodils poking their heads up in January!**



**Just for fun...Ruth Walker dropped off this sweet little stuffed "happy pill" to the church office. It giggles when you squeeze its belly. It reminds me of when my kids were little...I used to say I wish I could bottle the sound of them belly-laughing! Well, this brings back memories and makes me smile. It's the little things...**



**Tom Swift rings the dinner bell in memory of his two siblings, Mike Swift and Pauline Brannan, who passed away within weeks of each other due to Covid-related illnesses. Tom and MaryLee, along with many others, joined in a special virtual memorial service on January 19th for those affected by Covid in the past year.**



**Amber Nichols' best friend on these cold days is a 1954 Princeton Tiger from Marty's brother, Carroll James. The cross stitch pillow is from Marty's mother. Treasured family memories are so important during challenging times.**



**Snowy day at Bethel -- finding stillness and beauty in God's creation**



# Pause for Poetry

## Starlings in Winter

by Mary Oliver

Chunky and noisy,  
but with stars in their black feathers,  
they spring from the telephone wire  
and instantly

they are acrobats  
in the freezing wind.  
And now, in the theater of air,  
they swing over buildings,

dipping and rising;  
they float like one stippled star  
that opens,  
becomes for a moment fragmented,

then closes again;  
and you watch  
and you try  
but you simply can't imagine

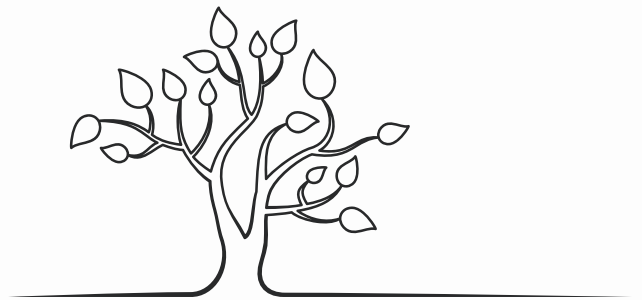
how they do it  
with no articulated instruction, no pause,  
only the silent confirmation  
that they are this notable thing,

this wheel of many parts, that can rise and spin  
over and over again,  
full of gorgeous life.

Ah, world, what lessons you prepare for us,  
even in the leafless winter,  
even in the ashy city.  
I am thinking now  
of grief, and of getting past it;

I feel my boots  
trying to leave the ground,  
I feel my heart  
pumping hard. I want

to think again of dangerous and noble things.  
I want to be light and frolicsome.  
I want to be improbably beautiful and afraid of  
nothing, as though I had wings.



Quote by Mother Theresa, submitted by Nancy Mory



## Bob & Millie's Discount Signs

Real Estate ~ Banners ~ End of the Lane Farm  
Signs ~ Parking ~ Construction ~ Decals ~  
Sidewalk A-frame Signs ~ Magnetics ~ Yard Signs  
~ Safety

Bobthesignman@yahoo.com

Sign Shop: 410-708-1341



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