

# NEWSLETTER

## Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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### BPC Mission Statement

*Connecting all to God's love and grace.*

*Engage. Nurture. Serve.*

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# 5

### *From Pastor Carrie*

Dear Church Family and Friends,

What a summer and early Fall this has been! As we go into the seventh month of this pandemic, many things have changed. Our worship went online for the very first time, our outreach and service efforts became contactless to stay safe, Zoom became our friend as we learned to gather for meetings in this way instead of in person, and picking up the phone to actually talk with people became fashionable again! We now stand in a grocery line six feet apart with masks on and hand sanitizers waiting in the car, shop more than ever on line, and have become principals in our own homes as school became a virtual reality for our kids. The amazing thing about all of this is that we did it! We are all probably a little weary right now as this new normal seems to be the way it will be for the foreseeable future, but kudos to us all for pivoting when a change was needed because of this pandemic!

As you now know, another change is about to happen. I will be leaving BPC in a couple of months, and just as we have found the capacity to weather the pandemic storm, my prayer is that you will find the strength and patience to weather this transition too. The Session has declared they want to return to being a small, rural, traditional church. I hope in this time of transition you remember God is good all the time, all the time God is good. In the deepest part of my being, I know God works all things together for good for those who love God and are called according to God's purposes (Romans 8:28). It is with this promise that we can all move forward.

Even as we remain in a pandemic environment, I hope to safely (and more than likely tearfully!) say my farewells to you in the coming months. With all of my heart, I want to thank you for the love and kindness you showed me during my surgery, chemo and recovery from my cancer this summer. I felt your prayers in the marrow of my bones and for this, I will forever be grateful.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you for the past 4 years. I will miss you!

I pray God's blessings be upon BPC!

Carrie

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### **From the Session, Anne Davies - Clerk**

On Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, Session voted not to renew Pastor Carrie Yearick's contract for 2021. At our Session meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Carrie told us she wanted to invoke the 60-day notice option in her contract. Her last official day as Pastor of Boyds will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>. She will be taking the remaining 3 weeks of vacation just before that, meaning her effective last day will be November 12<sup>th</sup>. Session agreed to this proposal.

We recognize that, for almost four years, Pastor Carrie has worked to grow our church through many new initiatives, has contributed to the community, and continued her active role in Presbytery. She has maintained our access to worship every Sunday throughout her recent illness and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We appreciate her efforts.

However, our church has not grown; we have lost a number of once faithful members, and the members who remain are divided about the direction the church has taken. We believe it is in the best interest of our congregation and the future of BPC that we seek a new approach, a new vision, and new Pastoral leadership.

Through much prayer and discernment, we have arrived at this crossroads. Pastor Carrie has received this decision with grace and good will. Session will work with Pastor Carrie and Presbytery to provide as smooth a transition as possible under the circumstances. We recognize the process will be a challenge and appreciate the prayers and support of everyone in the congregation.

Please feel free to reach out to any Session member personally or collectively to share your thoughts.

**Next meeting:** Monday, 11/2 at 7 PM through Zoom.

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### **From the Trustees / Buildings & Grounds Team, John Burdette - Chair**

The Board of Trustees met on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was held in the Church parking lot. A new monument was approved for Remus and Carol Hungerford. There have been three burials since our last meeting in February: Gladys Dolly Larman on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Patricia Williams on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and Remus Hungerford on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The renovation of the Manse is complete, and it has now been rented. The final cost for the renovation was \$58,052.19, only \$144.47 over the original estimate. The repairs that were needed have been taken care of, and a number of improvements have been made. Some improvements include the following: the old heating system was removed; new ductwork was installed; and, in addition to a new heating system, an air conditioning system was installed. New fixtures have been installed in the bathroom. The basement was reconfigured and new walls and shelving installed. After deducting the reimbursement from our tenant and the donations received from congregation members, the final cost paid out of the building fund was \$31,772.

On-going monitoring of Camp Sunshine has resulted in the police citing trespassers, and cars in that area being towed. An agreement was reached with the Elf School for them to maintain the playground year round.

**Next meeting:** To be determined.

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## From the Nominating Committee, Brenda Jones - Lead

We are in the process of putting together a slate of nominees for 2021 for presentation to and election by the Congregation. We have open positions for Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. Your input is eagerly sought by the Committee. You may recommend names to the Committee by one of the following:

- Email Brenda Jones, Committee Chair, at [bsrjones31@aol.com](mailto:bsrjones31@aol.com). Please put "BPC Nominations" in subject.
- Mail a note to the Church: Nominating Committee, PO Box 320, Boyds, MD 20841.

Please include nominee's name and for which board you are recommending. Also, please confirm with any nominee that they are willing to serve. The Committee will collect recommendations through Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for your input!

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## Upcoming Congregational Forums

We are planning two Congregational Forums on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, one in-person, something like the meeting we had in the parking lot in August, and the other by Zoom. The purpose is for us to meet with the Rev. John Molina-Moore, the General Presbyter of National Capitol Presbytery, to talk about the future of Boyds Presbyterian.

Session met with John on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and we agreed to schedule meetings with our members. The in-person meeting will be at 12:00 NOON on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, place to be determined, but we hope we can do it in our parking lot. The Zoom meeting will be at 4:00 PM the same day. In case of rain, we will follow this schedule on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Members are invited to attend either or both meetings. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent later.

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## Ministry Teams



### Outreach, Kim Grimes - Lead

The Outreach Team decided to continue hanging prayer flags in the breezeway until the end of November. At that time, all the flags will be removed.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm via Zoom.

If you would like to join the Outreach meeting, please contact Kim at [kgrimes96@gmail.com](mailto:kgrimes96@gmail.com).

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## **Faith Formation, Dee Smith - Lead**

The Faith formation team met on September 8<sup>th</sup>. There were many plans made for the coming months including the following:

- “What’s Up Wednesday” starting in Oct. The meeting could be day or night to possibly preview or review scripture lessons.
- Norma Russell and Carrie will lead a 4-6 week learning about racial awareness/racial bias and dismantling racism.
- Children’s bags Virtual Sunday school materials—Celebrate Wonder bible storybook, digital activity sheets, celebration chart, streaming of video session & music, may include an art project.
- Mark and Dee will reconnect with youth and get schedules. Plan to begin the Love thy neighbor program.
- Story time link will be sent out in email either Sunday Service or separate link on website and mentioned in announcement portions of Sunday Service.
- Young Adults are continuing to meet using God sightings. Weather permitting they will meet outside in person.
- Advent Fair- Drive through Santa and Live Nativity. Carrie will ask Harner’s about animals. There will be a gift/ activity bag for each family.

With the Session’s vote not to renew Carrie’s contract, the Faith Formation team will be reassessing the above activities at our next meeting. The young adults may be disassociating from BPC after hearing about Session’s decision. We expect to have less congregants involved in continuing these initiatives. If you are interested in helping out please reach out to the church office.

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## **Admin Team, Hammet Hough - Lead**

During two separate Session meetings in September, Session voted to not move forward with hiring a Director of Next Generation Ministry (DNGM) and we voted not to renew our pastor’s contract for 2021. The decision not to hire a DNGM avoids spending \$50,000/year on this method of Out Reach which would require that these funds be withdrawn from reserves ( if available!) starting with the 2021 year budget. The decision to not renew our pastor’s contract removes a yearly contractual obligation of approximately \$105,000 from our 2021 budget.

These actions, which are part of Session’s stewardship obligation, are taken in order to give our beloved church and our Congregation the time to re-build our presence in our larger community.

We welcome old and new friends to help us deliver our Christian message of service.

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Know that your donations are going a long way this summer. God is on the move and anything you give will help us to partner with God in doing good works and living into our mission to connect all with God's love and grace.

You may mail in your donations, drop them in the mail slot at the Credit Union door in P-W Hall, or use our new, online giving feature. If you have the ability, this is a contactless way to give! You can click the link below for the online giving option:

<https://boydspc.breezechms.com/give/online>

You can also text "give" to 301-709-2799.

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### **Pray for grieving:**

Family and friends of those who have passed away over the last few months:

- Family of Dick Ernst
- Family of Doris Carter (Grace Turner's sister-in-law)
- Family of Ron Magaha

### **Pray for healing:**

Alicia & Jon, Ashley & Grayson, Benjamin Allnutt, Betty Allnutt, Karla Barron, Mary Beitzel, Tom Blackman, Brittany, Rita Broadhurst, Jenny Larner Brown, Leroy Byrd family, Aaron & Bill Cantler, Mark Cantwell, Julia Clayton, Marolyn Curry, Larry (Butch) Curtis, Ben Daughtry, Dean, Averil Donat, Larry Dorsey, Juanita Ernst and family, Eileen Friedline, Ginger & Steve Gibson, Gregory Glaude, Greg, Ken Heins, Charlotte, Gene & Rex Hoilman, Audrey Hopkins, Ruth Hoyt, Billy Huff, Jason Johnson, Peggy Johnson, Joe Katran, Keegan, Kreg Kephart, Larry King, Eddie Kiser, Irene Kiser, Paul Kiser, Renie Kiser, Nancy Knott, Ellen Landriau, Sterling Large, Betty Lohr, Charles McIntosh, Jane Mote, Tina Norris, Susan Olling, Abbie Pack, Tony Pirrone, Tracey Plummer, Fred Pollack, Reza Raoofi, Tom Rhodes, Justin Rosner, Robbie Schmidt, Bobbie Lou Shipman and family, Mike & Carol Slingluff, Angie Slingluff, Katie Slingluff Smith, George Smith, Karen Springer, Laura Tatton, Bill Tull, Marj Turbyfill, Barbara and Roger Walker, Kareem Wright, Arthur & Mary Virts, Carrie Yearick, Matt Yearick, those who have recently lost loved ones, active members of armed services & their families, our church family, those affected by natural disasters and tragedies, and our entire world.

**Mission & Merriment has prayer shawls to give to anyone, church member or friend.**

**To request a prayer shawl, please contact Sharon at 301-540-2544 or [boydspc@comcast.net](mailto:boydspc@comcast.net).**

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# *Dick Ernst*

1948 – 2020

Richard “Dick” Denton Ernst, 71, passed away Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Boyds Presbyterian Church. Dick was a native of Maryland and a resident of Germantown, MD. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Juanita May Ernst; children Tanya Christensen and husband Jon, Lynnel Ernst, Tammy Ernst; sister Kathy Swedland, and brothers Butch Ernst and Roger Ernst; grandchildren Calvin, Larissa, Jon, Jenna, Jacob and great-grandchildren Michael, Violet and Jaxton. Dick is preceded in death by his father George, mother Erma and step-father Pete; brothers Chuckie, Dot, Jack, and Tommy.

Dick worked in the construction industry as a foreman, punch-out and general handy-man. He was skilled at carpentry, drywall and plumbing. He could fix just about anything. His efforts to restore the various properties of Boyds Presbyterian Church kept him busy in his retirement years.

Dick had many hobbies including visiting and researching lighthouses across America, bible study, crossword puzzles, flea market sales, NASCAR and reading. He was happy to root for and watch the Washington Nationals win the baseball world series. For 21 years he led the team that prepared and ran an annual charity Halloween Haunted House at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in West Virginia. All proceeds were donated to Santa’s Workshop as well as other local services. He worked for months prior to the event scheming-up and constructing the next big scary thing.

Dick was a member of Boyds Presbyterian Church for 47 years and served on the board of trustees for many of them. He was instrumental in the efforts to repair the stained-glass windows and the installation of air conditioning. His recent accomplishment was renovation of the church Manse.

A celebration of Dick’s life will be presented by his family and the church at a date yet to be determined. Details will be published on the Boyds Presbyterian Church website or Facebook page.

The family wishes to thank all of those who have reached out to pass along their thoughts, prayers and stories of Dick. He was a character and a well-liked and very loved man.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Dick’s name to Boyds Presbyterian Church with specific direction that they be designated for building maintenance and repairs.

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BPC is working with **Western Upper Montgomery County (WUMCO) Help** to donate Thanksgiving Baskets for local families. We are thinking a basket of staples and a grocery gift card to purchase a turkey or other protein of the family's choice. Of course, this would be done through contactless delivery or pick up.

Please think of the traditional Thanksgiving foods and what you would like to contribute. Additional details will be announced soon.



Set clocks back 1 hour at bedtime, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

Standard time begins at 2 AM Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

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