



NEWSLETTER

Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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2020 - The Year of Firsts!

First time BPC had no Thanksgiving Stewardship Dinner, first time we had no Christmas fair and tree lighting, first time with no Family Christmas service, first time we have no designated pastor to contribute to our December newsletter, and first time we have been afraid to physically connect with friends and family due to the pandemic! Now another first in our lifetimes – on the eve of December 21, 2020, the Christmas Star will appear. This astrological event has not occurred since 1623; previous events were in 1226 AD and 7 BC. Could this be the same bright light in the sky that guided the wise men to Bethlehem to worship baby Jesus?



The Christmas Star symbolizes the light and shining hope for humanity. The unique and spectacular light of the Christmas star actually appears as the planets of Saturn and Jupiter move and appear to overlap. In reality the planets are very far apart, but the alignment of these planets creates the very bright light of the Christmas Star. As evidenced by this newsletter, the BPC community has continued efforts to work together and survive the turmoil of 2020. We are united by our love of God and spirit of Advent as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. As with the Christmas Star, even though we may be separate in many ways, the lights generated by our faith and worship will continue to grow and align and shine even brighter as we move into 2021. Yes, I think this is the same star the wise men followed and it is a much-needed gift to us all!

Merry Christmas from Session,
Betsy Christie



From the Session, Anne Davies - Clerk

Congregational Meeting, December 20

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 20th, at 1 PM in the Vail parking lot. We have two items of business to transact. As you know, the Presbytery has appointed an Administrative Commission to work with us. We had expected them to join us at our December Session meeting, but they will not be able to come until January. They have asked that we not begin our Nominating Committee meetings until they can join us.

So the first thing we need to do is vote to extend the terms of the Session (Dee Smith and Anne Davies), Deacon (Marie Allnutt), and Trustee (Pam Holston) members whose terms are expiring, until the end of March. That gives us time to nominate, elect, train, and install new officers. This is a one-time thing. Again, if you have suggestions for Elder, Deacon, or Trustee, please forward the names to Brenda Jones (bsrjones31@aol.com).

The second item is to ask you again to allow virtual Congregational meetings. We are willing to help anyone in the congregation who needs to learn how to use virtual tools. Please realize that people can join virtual meetings on their phone; video is not necessary. This is similar to a conference call. Of course, we had hoped that indoor, in-person meetings would be possible by now, but it seems that that is still a long way off.

The proposed Bylaw change/addition is shown below. The addition is in **bold**.

The Congregation and Session may meet by electronic means if all members have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, and discern the will of God and vote on business items. Notice of any meeting where attendance by electronic means may occur must include an adequate description of how to participate. Participation by this method constitutes presence in person at a meeting. The quorum for such a meeting is the same as for a non-electronic meeting. Decisions made at electronic meetings will be ratified at the next in person called meeting, regular or special. All actions previously taken that are consistent with this rule are hereby ratified.

Other Church News

Session met in December and accepted the resignations of Barb Stunder as Treasurer and Cathy Reese, both as Assistant Treasurer and from the Board of Deacons. Both Barb and Cathy have served BPC well over the years, and we greatly appreciate all of their work. The Deacons met and elected Marie Allnutt as moderator.

We reinstated the membership of Jim and Jeanne Labash, who were dropped from our rolls through a misunderstanding several years ago. Jeanne has agreed to assume the role of Treasurer and we so appointed her. She, Barb, and Sharon are managing a smooth transition of the Treasurer's duties. Our thanks to all three of them.

We have been fortunate to have Rev. Norm Gordon and Rev. Leslianne Braunstein as guest pastors to lead services in our sanctuary. We have also been blessed to have been invited to join Gaithersburg Presbyterian one Sunday and Darnestown Presbyterian on another Sunday and St. Mark's United Methodist for Thanksgiving Eve. We welcome Sylvia Drake back as our organist and thank Jasper for assembling the pieces of our services and putting them on YouTube. Pastor Leslianne has agreed to lead our Sunday services through December, and we are working on a plan for Christmas Eve. We thank Brenda Jones, especially, and Betsy Christie for working with our guest pastors and organizing our services for us.

Our Trustees have been busy getting the HVAC system back up in the sanctuary, installing new lights in the Vail building, trouble shooting issues at the manse, resetting gravestones, and adding the church's web address to the sign at the sanctuary. The Harners have been a huge help with many of the tasks, and we thank them.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please contact the church office or any member of Session.

Next meeting: Monday, 1/4/21 at 7 PM through Zoom.

Ministry Teams



Mission Team

Mission – The Holiday Giving Program

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the Boyds' community our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a tremendous success! Working with WUMCO, we provided food baskets and gift certificates for a protein to four families with 12 children. In fact, this drive was so successful that we have a sufficient amount of the basic elements of a holiday meal to begin to create food baskets for Christmas.

So Moving to Christmas!

Once again we are coordinating with WUMCO and given the opportunity to support five families with 13 children. Our BPC Deacons are busy playing Santa for the children, and we are going to once again provide baskets of food for the holiday meal. We are also giving the families a Bible related gift as applicable (i.e., Bible, Bible story books, Heroes devotionals, coloring books/crayons, activity books).

We do need donations of fresh foods: potatoes, celery, carrots, apples, or oranges.

Other suggestions are peanut butter, pancake mix, tuna, apple juice, rice, etc. Any donations to make the holiday meal special would be greatly appreciated.

What we don't need

We do not need any canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, dressing mix, or gravy; plenty remains from Thanksgiving thanks to our generous givers.

You can drop your contributions off at the church on December 17th from 1-3 PM or contact Betsy Christie (elizchrist@aol.com – 301-651-9026) or Brenda Hoyt (hoytbb.aol.com – 240-793-8789) for questions or to make other arrangements.

Next meeting: tbd

Faith Formation, Dee Smith - Lead

The Faith Formation Team met on October 6th. We determined that at this time we would not pursue many of the planned future activities discussed in August and September as Session seems to have a different vision of how the church should move into the future. The young adult group will be disassociating from Boyds PC. The team will not move ahead with plans for the Advent Fair. Story time links will continue for the next few weeks and Carrie will put together a few more virtual Sunday School packets for the children. Those will conclude in early November. Carrie and Norma will not be going forward with plans for a group to learn about racial discrimination and racism.

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to all who donated to the Director of Next Generation Ministry position that was canceled by Session. We would like to thank you for your vision and support in wanting to strengthen and grow Boyds PC by bringing the word of God to our neighbors.

We would also like to thank all those who donated their time talent and treasure over the past few years to all the endeavors by the Sunday School team, Christian Education and finally the Faith Formation team. There have been so many events that could not have happened without the support that was offered by all the volunteers. Many youth and their families were enriched by the actions of others.

The Adult Bible Fellowship finished with the study of *The Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren and will be starting on *Reset*, by Nick Hall. After that, they plan to start *Imagining the Small Church, Celebrating a Simpler Path*, by Steve Willis.

The group met again on November 10th several members will not be remaining on the team. No plans were made for November or December as there is no pastor and so no clear direction. Links to Advent activities for families with young children will be made available online by email.

We agreed not to meet in Dec. and wait for the new Session and the AC to be convened. There will be a new chair of the team chosen.

God bless you all.

Admin Team, Hammet Hough - Lead

Congratulations to all who contributed time and money to continue the Christian mission of Boyds Presbyterian Church in 2020! You all have maintained your financial commitment to our church throughout all the uncertainty caused by the COVID regulations. We ask each of you to consider pledging for 2021 what you gave in 2020 to BPC.

We in Session are committed to considering all ideas for improving what our church does for our members and our neighbors.



Know that your donations are helping us to help the community and 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 our giving options:

<https://boydspc.org/give/>

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



- from Juanita Ernst and family

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and calls after Dick's passing. The sympathy shown to us during this tremendously difficult time is so greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank all those who helped Dick with Trustees and building and grounds maintenance over the years, especially John Burdette.



Pray for grieving:

Family and friends of those who have passed away during November and December:

- Family of Mark Cantwell
- Family of Katherine Bransford
- Family of Nancy Jarels Wentzel

Pray for healing:

Alicia & Jon, Ashley & Grayson, Benjamin Allnutt, Betty Allnutt, Karla Barron, Mary Beitzel, Tom Blackman, Nancy Bremble, Brittany, Rita Broadhurst, Jenny Larner Brown, Leroy Byrd family, Aaron & Bill Cantler, Julia Clayton, Marolyn Curry, Ben Daughtry, Dean, Averi Donat, Larry Dorsey, Juanita Ernst and family, Connie & Jack Feathers, Eileen Friedline, Ginger & Steve Gibson, Gregory Glaude, Greg, Meera Gupta, 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, Len Myers, 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.

Betty Allnutt is in rehab recovering from a fall. If you would like to send her a card, please send it to her home at 18115 Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville, MD 20837.

The poinsettias are in memory of all our loved ones



Merry Christmas from BPC



*Jesus is the Reason
for the Season.*