

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

DECEMBER, 2021

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

“Sharing the love and blessing of God with all.”



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Somehow the Christmas season seems to have snuck up even more quickly than usual this year. It feels like it was just 80 degrees, and now we're watching TV specials filled with swirling snow while the last leaves drop from the trees outside. I was surprised the other week—still well before Thanksgiving—to be scanning through the stations on the radio and having Christmas music pop up on several of them.



While I usually make myself wait until after Thanksgiving to start listening to Christmas music (constantly!), I let it ride for a while this year. It's been a challenging couple of years, and some Christmas-y tunes felt like good comfort food for the soul. Many of the seasonal radio songs are secular ones, of course, highlighting snowmen and reindeer and grinchies and wintry scenes, but a surprising number of sacred ones are woven in, too. And I love them both.

For many people, I think, the music of Advent and Christmas might be one of the most anticipated things as the calendar moves toward December. There's something about those tunes, those words, those rhythms that bring back wonderful memories of the past while also drawing us anew into the miracle of the present.

It's hard for me to think of a Christmas Eve service without hearing "Silent Night," or of going through Christmas week without the peals of "Joy to the World" or the soulful strains of "O Holy Night." As French author/poet Alphonse de Lamartine once said, "Music is the literature of the heart; it commences where speech ends."

They also provide a cadence to the season, moving us from the early stirrings of hope in Advent toward the crescendo of Christmas. One of my former pastors always made a point of not actually singing Christmas songs in worship until Christmas Eve as a reminder that Advent is a season of building up and expectation. I often cheat on that, as I love too many Christmas hymns to wait for them all, but I do like to work them in slowly. Anticipation is good for the soul!

In the three sermons I'll be sharing during December, I'm going to draw on a few of those favorite Christmas songs—both secular and sacred—as jumping-off points to help us more deeply explore this time of the church calendar that's so central to who we are as Christians. We'll sing the songs, but we'll also ponder (to use a good Advent word) what they and others mean for us as people of faith. Where do we find wonder? What do we do about it? Who is it that we really seek to follow?

I invite you to think about your favorite Advent/Christmas songs and why they're meaningful to you, too. If you'd like, write down a paragraph about one of yours and send it to me or the church office, and I'll try to share some of those during the coming month. And as you sing the songs of the season in the weeks ahead I encourage you to think intentionally about the words and what they say to you.

"There's a song in the air!" as one carol says. May those melodies warm your ears and your souls as we journey toward Christmas once again.

—Pastor Walt



Sermon and Scriptures for December

Dec. 5: Second Sunday of Advent
"The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"
Luke 1:68-79, Phil. 1:3-11, Ps. 65:1-8

Dec. 12: Third Sunday of Advent
Guest speaker Cameron Edsall

Dec. 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Guest speaker Jennifer Summy

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m.
"Come, All Ye Faithful"
Luke 2:1-20, Isa. 60:1-7, Ps. 95:1-7

Dec. 26: Christmas Sunday
"What Child Is This?"
Isa. 9:6-7, Luke 2:25-35, 41-52

JANUARY 2022

Jan. 2: New Year's Sunday
"10-9-8-7 ..."
Isaiah 6:1-8, Jer. 29:10-14, Rev. 1:4b-8

Music for December

Dec. 5 Darlena Roesti-Butler
Dec. 12 Peachblossom Bells
Dec. 19 Peachblossom Bells
Dec. 26 Carolyn Lane



THANK YOU

To my Easton COB "Family": Many, many thanks for the farewell luncheon last week; for the generous gift; and for all the ways you have made this a good place to be and to minister over the past four years. In the spirit of this Thanksgiving season, I'll be forever grateful for my time here—and I look forward to sharing a bit more with you yet in the weeks ahead. Best wishes, Pastor Walt.

DECEMBER Birthdays

- 1 Gene Hagenberger
- 2 Tony Fluharty
- 4 Rica Denlinger
- 7 Jim Foreman
- 8 Karter May Mullikin
- 12 Ashley Ward
- 14 Jennifer Carrion
- 15 Camryn Phillips, Ed Wildasin, Jimmy Fike, Genna Ulrich
- 16 Margie Ridenour
- 17 Sue Ann Brockson, Todd Lyons
- 18 Bradley Hughes
- 19 Christa Crannell, Ruth Ann Smith
- 20 Karen Tarr, Ronnie Miller, John Banghart
- 21 Billy Schnaitman, Jr.
- 22 Kenny Ball, Michael Schwaninger, Nora Quidas, Luke Carrion
- 23 Charles Wooters
- 24 Mabel Kinsey, Mark Miller, Justine Foxwell, Carolyn Lane
- 26 Betty Schwaninger
- 27 John Stichberry III
- 28 Taylor Ann Jacobs
- 29 Wendy Faulkner
- 30 Megan Timms
- 31 Robert McGee

DECEMBER Anniversaries

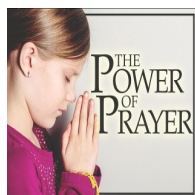
- 2 Gene & Diane Walbridge
- 4 Larry & Kathy Fike
- 23 Derek & Brynn Keller
Mike & Nina Jacobs
- 28 Mark & Tracy Lednum
- 31 John & Mischelle Nalley

Thank you

The family of Gene G. Lednum extends heartfelt thanks for all the thoughtfulness and sympathy given to them during their recent loss. It will always be remembered and appreciated. God bless you!

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: for those who have contracted COVID-19, for health care workers, and for government and civic leaders who are seeking the best way forward, for our District Executive, Gene Hagenberger, for all those who have been affected economically, for Camp Mardela and administrator Jennifer Summy, the Keller family, the family of Louise Ireland, Eric Gunn, Amelia Mitchell, Kevin Mitchell, Charlie Willis, Betty Sanger, Dennis Covey, Holly Jones, Seth Willis, Carolyn Lane, Pauline Lane, Adele Pogue, Priscilla Truitt, Crystal Windsor, Darren Koenig, Steven Webb, Brenda (a friend to Terri Tarr), Jim Saathoff, Maggie Hegedus, Caitlyn Bussey, Kim Hammond, Misti Green, Bunky Miller, Theresa, (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Verna



Calloway, Bonnie Langford, Mary Kelly, Hermann & Peggy Oberkofler, Doris Schwaninger, John Evans, Isabelle Halliday, Wyatt Ewing, Jim & Loretta Lohr, Kathy Spurry, Lillian Sefcik, Judy Haddaway, Jean & Don Saballus, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Chuck Davis, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Childlene Brooks, Alan Segar, Bruce Butler, Pat Lewis, Lee Roesti, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Dee Candel, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. **Please phone or email the church office to add or remove persons on our prayer list.**



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Louise Ireland. Louise passed away on November 1 at Talbot Hospice. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, November 10 at The First Baptist Church. We pray Christ presence to the Ireland family.



Camp Mardela News from Jen Summy:

- **Camp Mardela continues with their fundraiser of Scrip:** What is Scrip? Buy gift cards online (all year long) at www.shopwithscrip.com, pay online and a rebate will be earned between 2% and 16% that will immediately go towards Camp Mardela. When your gift card arrives, use them for your everyday shopping...that simple. If you would like a copy of the instructions, contact Lee Ann and she can mail you a copy. **See the updated flyer in your newsletter.**
- **There are several copies of Camp Mardela's newsletter.** "The Lane" is available in the narthex.

Sights & Sounds of Christmas: December 4 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. We are excited to host the first Sights and Sounds of Christmas event at Camp Mardela. There will be free music, a food stand, a Christmas tree raffle, and a Christmas Workshop for kids to make their own Christmas presents for just \$2. Come see Camp Mardela in winter and celebrate the birth of Jesus while supporting camp. There will be music, decorations and holiday cheer for everyone. Please visit campmardela.org/sights-and-sounds-of-Christmas.

SCHEDULE FOR CAMP MARDELA'S SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 4TH, 2021
 301 DEEP SHORE ROAD, DENTON, MD 21629

- 5PM-8PM - SANTA SL"HAY" RIDE
- 5PM-8PM - FOOD - PAVILION & KRABILL
- 6PM-8PM - CRAFTS - KRABILL - \$2
- MUSIC - PAVILION - FREE

5PM	Rhythm of the Ridge
6PM	Tidewater Singers
7PM	Bethany Chime Choir

TREE RAFFLE - PAVILION

\$1.00	1 Ticket
\$5.00	6 Tickets

Winners announced 7:45pm

SHOP WITH SCRIP



Support Camp Mardela by shopping at your favorite stores!

Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. No extra money spent. Over 750 brands available. Visit

campmardela.org/scrip for information on how to enroll.

amazon

DUNKIN'

Walmart



1) YOU BUY A GIFT CARD

You get the full value.
Purchase on the website or the app



2) THE BRAND GIVES BACK

No extra money comes out of your pocket



3) CAMP MARDELA EARNS

Each card purchased gives Camp Mardela a percentage back

2 WAYS TO ORDER:

Website: shopwithscrip.com

App: RaiseRight App

Camp Mardela Enrollment Code - 5FA38BB564885

How to keep Christmas

Inspirational author Wilferd Peterson pondered ways to “best keep Christmas” and “defeat the little bit of Scrooge in all of us.” After reading his suggestions, add your own!

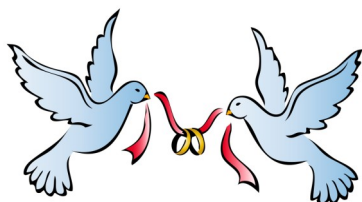
- By following the Star ... to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in the manger.
- By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child.
- By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.
- By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master’s standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.
- By resolving to give ourselves away to others.
- By using the light of Christmas to guide us through ... the coming year.

Special dates in December

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2021
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2021
- First day of winter, December 21, 2021
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2021
- New Year’s Eve, December 31, 2021



Brian Walbridge and Alycia Papa were married on Thursday, October 28. They are residing in Columbia. MD. Congratulations to Brian and Alycia and the Walbridge family.



Leadership Team

The Leadership Team will meet on Monday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Minutes from the Leadership Team Meeting, September 27, 2021

- Dale received books back from our yearly audit.
- Waiting for responses from Calling Team.
- Budget was presented to Leadership Team and will go to CBM in October.
- John Trax presented a condensed version of the original funds report. Was accepted by the Leadership Team and will go to CBM in October.
- A renewal contract was signed for six months on the Dutchmans Lane Property.
- Ministry Teams gave brief reports.
- Next meeting date will be December 6 at 1:00 p.m.

From the Witness Team

The Witness Team has two projects in need for Christmas giving this year. The first project is filling six Christmas stockings for the residents of the Ridgeway House. There are six stockings on the table in the narthex; three men and three women. We have a suggested list for the men and women. If you think of other items they would like, feel free to place it in the stockings. Anne Harvey (chair) will include Christmas candies in each stocking before delivery.



Please return the stockings to the church by December 19.

The second project: We have been asked to sponsor a family at the Interfaith Shelter. A mother, father and 14 mo. old girl. They have a wish list, and members of the Witness team and Deacons will buy the gifts. We are asking for donations of money to cover the cost of these gifts. Money may be placed in the basket on the table in the narthex. ***Donations are accepted through December 19.***

Thank you for your support!

The Witness Team & Deacons

Serving the month of December

	12/5/2021	12/12/2021	12/19/2021	12/26/2021
Message	Pastor Walt	Cameron Edsall	Jennifer Summy	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader	Wanda Baynard	Tammy Haddaway	Jay Lister	Sharon Lister
Head Usher/ Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on call	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Anne Harvey & Jane Marshall
Special Music	Darlena Roesti-Butler	Peachblossom Bells	Peachblossom Bells	Carolyn Lane
Flowers	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	



News from the District Office



From Jim & Loretta Lohr

The Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction raised more than \$53,000 (including the business, church, and patron ads and the pretzel jar monies). Quilts were a large part of the total, bringing \$22,585. These additional monies will easily add over \$2 million to our giving for the Emergency Disaster Fund over the past 41 years. Thank you for your support!!

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Appeal for a design for the 2022 Disaster Conference Logo

Please consider using your artistic gifts to create and submit a logo that includes the title "In Step with Each Other" and conveys the theme scripture:

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ-the Message-have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives-words, actions, whatever-be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

Colossians 3:15-17, The Message

If at all possible, please use these guidelines when submitting your design: send as an email attachment, and on PDF or PNG format.

The deadline is Thursday, February 17, 2022. The Program and Arrangements team will select the logo they feel best conveys the theme and works the best for all uses of conference promotion and publication. The selected logo and creator will be announced when the logo design is chosen. Please email to aamad@brethren.org or call 443-960-3052 with any questions. Thank you!

O CHRISTMAS TREE

Can you find these words associated with this special season in the church in the puzzle below? Answers can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, forward or backward:

CHRISTMAS
CAROL
STAR
CANDLE
MANGER
ANGEL
GIFT
GLORIA
EVE
JOY
LOVE

MAGI
SHEEP
JESUS
INN
PEACE
HOLLY
LIGHT
ADVENT
NOEL
TREE
GOLD



					E	C	A	E	P	
		G	J	V	R	Y	A	R	N	
	E	D	L	O	R	I	A	O	L	
A	F	V	I	L	Y	E	A	L	E	Y
	N	G	R	F	S	H	E	L		
	M	U	E	C	T	N	O			
			N	H	A	L	D			
		C	A	R	R	L	E	V		
	S	A	M	I	O	N	I	G	D	
J	E	S	U	S	N	G	O	P	H	A
H	E	E	R	T	C	L	E	J	O	T
				A	A	E				
				S	H	V				



News from the Talbot Interfaith Shelter

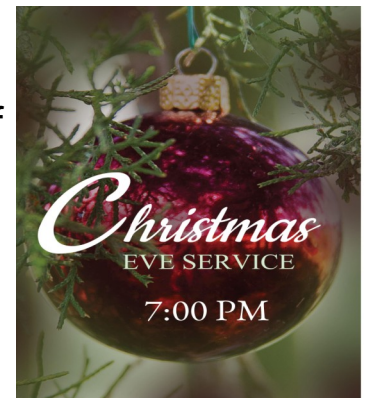
"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS RETURNS!"

*December 3rd-5th, 10th-12th, and 17th-19th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm
at the beautiful Hummingbird Inn
(14 N Aurora Street, Easton)*

We are very excited to announce that the Home for the Holidays event is returning to the Hummingbird Inn for its second year! Co-sponsored by the Inn and Easton Economic Development Corporation with support from Marc Randall, Scossa Restaurant and Studio 2 Salon, the event will be bigger and better than ever. Santa will be "in the house" every night and live music will fill the air on Aurora Street. Yummy cookies and beverages will be available for purchase and we will offer carriage rides on Sundays, December 12 and 19th. Check out the TIS website, <https://talbotinterfaithshelter.org/home-for-the-holidays/> for more information or to purchase a luminary for our "Walk of Lights" from downtown to the Hummingbird Inn.



Please join us on Christmas Eve for an evening of singing carols, scriptures, candle lighting and communion. Christmas Eve Service begins at 7:00 p.m.



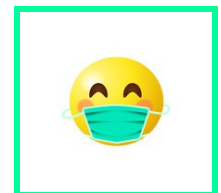
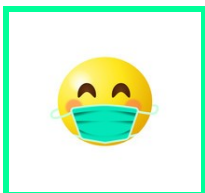
*Sunday Worship
December 26*

On December 26, we will only have worship service at 10:45 a.m. Pastor Walt will be bringing us the message. There will be no Christian ed/Sunday school classes held.

Attendance & Offering for November

	Attendance	48	51	33	36	168
		11/7/21	11/14/21	11/21/21	11/28/21	Totals
<u>Distributions</u>						
General (06)						
Envelopes		2,130.00	1,716.00	2,311.00	981.00	7,138.00
Loose Change/Cash		280.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	330.00
Total Before Prepaid Tithes		2,410.00	1,716.00	2,311.00	1,031.00	7,468.00
Prepaid Tithes		675.00	675.00	675.00	675.00	2,700.00
Dale		3,085.00	2,391.00	2,986.00	1,706.00	10,168.00
Other Income (06)						
Dutchmans Lane Rent						0.00
Harrison St. Rent						0.00
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Offerings (07)						
Deacon Fund		1,000.00				1,000.00
In Kind						
In & Out						
Camp Mardela Raffle Tickets				20.00		20.00
Pretzel Jar/Disaster Auction		42.44				42.44
Bldg/Memorial Fund						
Rick Marshall			25.00			25.00
Lee Willis			25.00			25.00
Totals		1,042.44	50.00	20.00	0.00	1,112.44
Totals		3,452.44	1,766.00	2,331.00	1,031.00	8,580.44

Love Your Neighbors!! In light of recent pandemic metrics, please wear a mask inside the church regardless of vaccination status. Thank you!!
Let us all be vigilant. Wash your hands and socially distance.
Pray for God's guidance and healing.



Volunteer Opportunities

Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **Consider bringing in your non-perishable items when church re-opens.**

Interested in Serving as Worship Leader or doing the Children's Time?

We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

The volunteer opportunities listed below are currently closed due to COVID-19. Please keep these opportunities in mind when things re-open.
Thank you!!!

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2021/2022 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is December 19, 2021.** If you are interested in providing a meal, please sign-up in the narthex. **Two volunteers are also needed for three two hour shifts (8:00-11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 2:00-5:00 p.m.)** Please sign-up in the narthex or call the office. Thank you.

Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.





December
2021



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