

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

FEBRUARY, 2023 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



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February...a Time of Love and the Beginning of Lent...a time of Repentance and Reflection

Usually, when we think of the month of February, we automatically think of Valentine's Day. It is a day that we show gratitude to that special person or persons we hold dear...the one(s) we LOVE! Even now, the stores have on display Valentine cards, chocolates and candy hearts, and lovely bouquets of flowers to give to that special sweet heart.

However, did you know February comes from the Latin word februa, which means “to cleanse”. The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year.

So, it seems quite appropriate that Lent begins on the 22nd of February this year, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Between Ash Wednesday and Easter, many Christians observe a 40 day period known as Lent. Lent is meant to be a period of repentance and an awareness that sin separates us from God.

Prayer, fasting, almsgiving and reflection are considered to be the pillars of Lent. Traditionally, Christians have used the time period to prepare themselves spiritually for the drama of Holy Week and the celebration of the resurrection.

It has been said that Lent is the most “Brethren” of all the liturgical seasons. Lent invites us to both inward piety and outward practice. And, of course, Lent includes the Brethren “high holy day” of Maundy Thursday, when we gather as Jesus did with His disciples to wash one another's feet, share a meal together and partake of the bread and cup of Holy Communion: all ways we remind ourselves of the kind of people we are called by God to be.

—Christian Ed. Corner





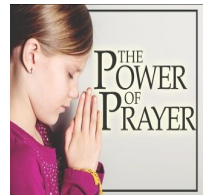
- 1 Ember Mae Stichberry
- 2 Pam Fluharty, Steve Wooters
- 3 Marjorie (Pete) Fox
- 4 Adam Lohr, Harold Lyons
- 5 Barbara Saulsbury
- 6 Wade Miller
- 7 Kevin Kinsey, Christopher Cober, Matthew Schwaninger
- 8 Gieta Gresh
- 12 Ava Elaine Valliant
- 13 Sarah Loscomb, Jennifer Saulsbury, Margaret Pete, Aubrie Stichberry
- 14 Andrew Cheezum
- 15 Judy Musch
- 16 Phil Ridenour
- 17 Renee Baldwin
- 18 Pat Schwaninger
- 19 Ted Schwaninger
- 20 Ryan Glass
- 21 Casey Edsall, Jan Hagenberger, Rebecca Moore
- 22 Brynn Dayton Keller
- 26 Tracy Johnson, Eden Holmes
- 27 Charles Schwaninger, Bernard Randall-Jones
- 28 Kimberly Patrick

- 14 John & Dorothy Stichberry
- Albert & Margaret Pete
- 18 Bud & Judi Loscomb



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, for all those who have been affected economically, for Camp Mardela and administrator Jennifer Summy, Ray Collins, Mary Lou Segar, Frances Morse, Eddie Blessing, Bruce Butler, Scott Baynard, Bonnie Langford, Sandra Showell, Loretta Lohr, Stacey Geisel, Ruth Gunn, Charlie Willis, Adele Pogue, Crystal Windsor, Brenda (a friend to Terri Tarr), Maggie Hegedus, Caitlyn Bussey, Theresa, (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Doris Schwaninger, Wyatt Ewing, Kathy Spurry, Lillian Sefcik, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Alan Segar, GraceWay CoB, Roger Plagge, John Nalley, Dee Candel, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, 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.**



NOAC (National Older Adult Conference) will be held in Lake Junaluska, NC, September 4-8, 2023. Registration for NOAC will open on May 1. Look for more details in the coming months ahead.

News from the District Office



The 42nd Annual Disaster Response Auction will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Carroll County Agricultural Center 706 Agricultural Center Drive Westminster, MD. Patron ad sign-up is now available in the church narthex. Deadline is Sunday February 5.

Mark your calendar now for the 2023 Empty Bowls

This year's Empty Bowls will be held at St. Mark's UMC in Easton on Saturday, February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. See the flyer in your newsletter and for more information, here is the link: <https://m-scf.networkforgood.com/events/51659-empty-bowls-2023->



Leadership Team Meeting

The next Leadership Team meeting will be held Monday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Congregational Business Mtg. Feb. 19, 2023

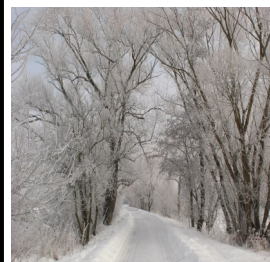
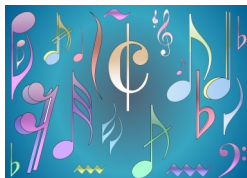
CBM will be held on February 19, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a bag lunch, with drinks and desserts provided. All written reports need to be into the office no later than Wednesday, February 8, for distribution to the congregation on Sunday, February 12. All written reports are for year 2022. Thank you!

Offering and Attendance for January

Attendance	34	35	28	37	41	175
	1/1/2023	1/8/2023	1/15/2023	1/22/2023	1/29/2023	Totals
<u>Distributions</u>						0.00
<i>General (06)</i>						
Envelopes	2,960.00	1,090.00	1,435.00	1,715.00	1,275.00	8,475.00
Loose Change/Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Before Prepaid Tithes	2,960.00	1,090.00	1,435.00	1,715.00	1,275.00	8,475.00
Prepaid Tithes	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	1,500.00
Dale	3,260.00	1,390.00	1,735.00	2,015.00	1,575.00	9,975.00
<i>Other Income (06)</i>						
<u>Building Use</u>						
Tidewater Singers				200.00		200.00
Washington St Rent		1,700.00		0.00		1,700.00
Harrison St. Rent			1,500.00			1,500.00
Totals	0.00	1,700.00	1,500.00	200.00	0.00	3,400.00
<i>Special Offerings (07)</i>						
Bequests		-				0.00
Estate of Melvin J. Allston	12,740.59					12,740.59
In Kind						
In & Out						
MADD Auction Ads		35.00	25.00	50.00	0.00	110.00
Totals	12,740.59	1,735.00	1,525.00	250.00	0.00	16,250.59
Totals	15,700.59	4,525.00	4,460.00	2,165.00	1,275.00	28,125.59

Special Music for February

2/5 Ellen Wile
 2/12 Carolyn Lane
 2/19 Cheryl Dayton
 2/26 Choir, Handbells



In case of inclement weather this month, please tune into WCEI FM 96.7 or the church's Facebook page for any church cancellations.

Camp Mardela News—from Jen Summy, Camp Administrator

Camp Mardela News Camp Mardela News from Jen Summy:

- ♦ **There are several copies of Camp Mardela's newsletter "The Lane"** in the narthex.
- ♦ **Winter Service Day: February 18, 2023 from 9:00-5:00 p.m.** Join in for another Saturday work day as we prepare for winter retreats. We will be cleaning, organizing, and working on maintenance jobs around camp. Lunch will be provided.
- ♦ **Camp Mardela Spring Auction: April 1, 2023 from 8:00-1:00 p.m.** Come to our biggest fundraiser of the year and support camp while getting some great deals! You can support this fundraiser by donating items to sell, or come and bid. ***If you have items to donate to the auction, please let Bob and Judy Musch know.***
- ♦ **Camp's 75th Birthday: May 21, 2023 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** Join us as we kick-off our anniversary celebrations, complete with all of the traditional birthday fun! This event is free and open to all who want to celebrate with us!
- ♦ **Camp's Anniversary Week-end: September 1-3, 2023.** During Family Camp we will have presentations, displays, and activities celebrating 75 years. Meals and lodging will be available by registration, which will open February, 2023.
- ♦ **Scrip Fundraiser:** We are still running our Scrip fundraising program! Order gift cards through Scrip and Camp Mardela gets a percentage of the sales. Register and order cards at www.shopwithscrip.com. Contact campmardela@gmail.com for the registration code or any other questions.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for camp and its ministry. It is greatly appreciated and we continue to see the fruit of Camp ministering in the lives of people.



Special dates in February

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, *February 14*
- Transfiguration Sunday, *February 19*
- Presidents Day, *February 20*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 22*

APPLESAUCE MAKING AT CAMP

For many years up until COVID, applesauce making at Camp Mardela had been a wonderful experience. Apples are donated to camp, they get washed, sliced, cooked and made into some of the best applesauce you have ever had. It was normally made close to Camp Supper in September and used for the meal. The rest would either get sold or frozen to be used during Summer Camp. If you have ever eaten this delicacy you know it is amazing! The Camp Board would love to see this tradition come back, but we need someone (or several someone's) to head this up. If you have any interest or need more information, please contact Amy M. Hutchison at 410-310-1428.

Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in Serving as Worship Leader

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 Marlena Groves (Nurture Chair).

Neighborhood Service Center 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.**

Neighborhood Service Center

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

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2023 Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) 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 month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is February 19, 2023. If you are interested in providing a meal, please sign-up in the narthex.** Volunteers are **NOT** needed for this month, **ONLY** the meal is needed. Please sign-up in the narthex or call the office.

Serving the month of February

	2/5/2023	2/12/2023	2/19/2023	2/26/2023
Message	Wanda Baynard	Jim Lohr	Jody Gunn	Jen Summy
Worship Leader	Mat Baynard	Wanda Baynard	Tammy Haddaway	Mat Baynard
Head Usher/ Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on call	Les & Marlena Groves	Jane Marshall & Anne Harvey	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller
Special Music	Ellen Wile	Carolyn Lane	Cheryl Dayton	Choir, Handbells
Flowers		The Wile's		

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON VOICE & GUITAR DUO IN CONCERT!!!

Who: North Meets South Duo

What: "From Spain to Spirituals"

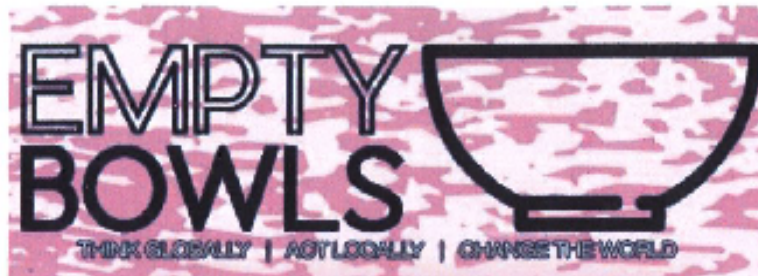
When: February 16, 2023

Lunch begins at 12:00 noon ~ Concert begins at 12:30 p.m.

Where: Brooklets Place Senior Center – Easton, MD



Toronto-born guitarist **Danielle Cumming**, and American tenor **John Wesley Wright** from Rome, Georgia, **North Meets South**, joined forces in 2007 when they met as colleagues at Salisbury University, and have now performed together for over a decade. While their repertoire ranges from the Renaissance to modern popular music, it is African American spirituals that hold a central place in their performances and educational outreach programs. The Duo has performed for descendants of Frederick Douglass as part of the "Frederick Douglass: Talbot County's Native Son and International Hero, Bicentennial Prayer Breakfast" in Easton; at the Roland Hayes Museum's Harris Arts Center in Calhoun, Georgia, a concert hall honoring the early 20th century lyric tenor; and most recently at the National Folk Festival hosted in Salisbury, Maryland. **Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon Concert will begin at 12:30 p.m. Advance registration is required for lunch by February 2nd or you may bring your own.**



Empty Bowls of Talbot County is holding its annual Empty Bowls dinner February 25, 2023. I am hoping you will help spread the word about our upcoming in-person soup dinner to your congregation. Empty Bowls' mission is to eliminate food insecurity one bowl at a time by raising funds to donate to local food pantries. The soup dinner on February 25 is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we hope to raise \$10,000 for local food banks.

Below is information to share with your community:

What is Empty Bowls and its Annual Soup Dinner?

The Empty Bowls dinner on February 25th at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Easton is an opportunity for those of us who eat without worry to reach out to our neighbors for whom a meal may be a luxury. Every penny raised from ticket sales for the event is given to Talbot County food pantries to help keep their shelves stocked.

How does Empty Bowls work? When you come to the dinner, you will be provided with a meal of hot soup donated by local chefs in bowls created by members of the community. The hand painted bowl is yours to take home.

How can you help Empty Bowls end food insecurity in Talbot County?

1. **Purchase a ticket and attend the dinner on February 25:** Advanced ticket purchase required. Tickets go on sale January 8th. Purchase early as the event sells out.
2. **Hand paint a bowl:** Go to Kiln Born at 1 S. Washington Street, Easton between January 1 and February 14th to purchase and paint a bowl that will be donated for the Empty Bowls event.
3. **Make a donation:** Donate online at www.mscl.org

For more information or to find out how you can get involved, please visit [Talbot County Empty Bowls](https://www.facebook.com/TalbotCountyEmptyBowls) Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TalbotCountyEmptyBowls. Questions? Contact talbotcountyemptybowls@gmail.com

Please post this on a bulletin board in your church. Thank you!

Special Item Donation

Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction

**Do you have a special item of high value
that you would be willing to donate to the
Disaster Response Auction on May 6, 2023?**

Such as...



Valuable Crafts



Antiques



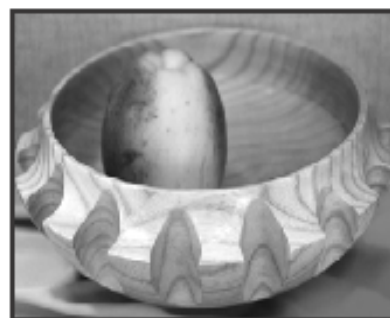
Gift Baskets



Artwork



Destinations



Fine Woodworking

**Please call Jeff McKee at 443-547-5958 or
email a photo with description to auctionbooklet@comcast.net**

A photo and description needs to be received by February 10th to be published in the booklet!

Love
never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:8



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