



THE JOHN WESLEY COMMUNICATOR



John Wesley United Methodist Church

6922 N. Ritchie Highway

Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Volume 18 No. 4

Telephone - (410) 766-6981

June 2025

*“ And He told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees.
As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves
and know that the summer is already near. So also,
when you see these things taking place,
you know that the kingdom of God is near.’ ”*

Luke 21:29-36



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor

Rev. Sarah Schliekert, Annapolis District Superintendent

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Editor's Message

June 1, 2025

Greetings,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Can you believe it's summer already? It seems that 2025 just began, but regarding this country's political scene, it may seem that a lifetime has been compressed into just a few months. This is a time of uncertainty when we do not know what will happen from one day to the next, nor who will be affected by whatever happens. Life is a blessing, but it is fragile, fraught with uncertainties. So we thank God every day for waking us up and starting us on our way. He didn't have to do it, but He did, and we are so grateful, for we know not when our time is near. Matthew 24:36 says, "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son Himself. Only the Father knows." Therefore, we must stay in prayer, appreciate life, be positive, be proactive, and remember that God is still in charge.

When we look at the trees and flowers in full bloom, we know that it is summer and the kingdom of God is near. We can see God's handiwork in nature, and it's beautiful! Summer is a time of relaxation. Many of us enjoy a more carefree lifestyle in the summer, and that's a good thing. Relaxation rejuvenates us. Psalm 23:2-3 says, "He leads me beside the still waters; He restores my soul."

Nonetheless, please remember that the doors of the church are open in the summer, and we want them to remain open. We should attend worship services whenever we can, support the church with tithes and offerings (the church does not "run on empty"), fellowship with each other at church events, and be active participants. There's still work to be done, even in the summer. Help! Matthew 9:37-38 says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." We need you now and always. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do" - Eph. 2:10. Enjoy your carefree, summer lifestyle, but make time for John Wesley UMC.

Sincerely,
Deborah Williams
Editor

Editor
Deborah Williams

Staff

Morgan Jacobs
Linda Mouzon
Camille Rawlings

Maria Rawlings
Terrance Watts



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
August 5, 2025 or ASAP

Quarterly Calendar

June 2025

Sunday, June 01, 10:00 AM
Worship Service and Holy Communion
Sunday, June 08, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
United Women in Faith Anniversary
Saturday, June 14, 12:00 - 6:00 PM
Cedar-Morris Hill Community Day
Sunday, June 15, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Friday, June 20, 11:00AM - 6:00 PM - Fish Fry
Sunday, June 22, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Monday, June 23 - Friday, June 27, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Vacation Bible School
Sunday, June 29, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Graduation Recognition Ceremony

July 2025

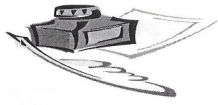
Sunday, July 08, 10:00 AM
Worship Service and Holy Communion
Sunday, July 13, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Sunday, July 20, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
July 20-27 - Cruise to Bahamas
Sunday, July 27, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

August 2025

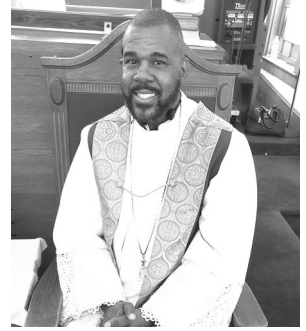
Sunday, August 03, 10:00 AM
Worship Service and Holy Communion
Sunday, August 10, 10:00 AM
Sunday, August 17, 10:00 AM
Sunday, August 24, 10:00 AM
Sunday, August 31, 10:00 AM

Ongoing Classes, Meetings and Practices

Bible Study - Tuesdays - 7:00 PM (via ZOOM)
Children's Church School - 2nd, 4th Sundays - 10:00 AM
Dance Rehearsal - Tuesdays - 6:00 PM
Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays - 6:00 PM
United Women in Faith's Meeting - 1st Monday of the month
(Zoom) - 7:00 PM
United Methodist Men's Meeting - 1st Monday of the month
(Zoom) - 7:00 PM



A Message From Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor



Dear Beloved John Wesley Family and Friends,

As we transition from spring into summer, I would like you to ponder a few things. There is more to summer than relaxing on the beach. While there is plenty of value in rest, you will also want to take advantage of the many restoratives and personally fulfilling opportunities that this unique season provides. Below, Lady Tonica and I offer a few ideas for living out your faith this summer:

Strengthen Your Relationships

Christ instructs us to love one another and yet, mired down in our usual to-do lists, we fail to follow this basic command. We are built by the master Creator to have fulfilling relationships, and for a Christian, there are few worthier pursuits than to spend time with loved ones. If you have spent months away from them, summer may grant you the time you need to maintain or even strengthen these bonds. From pool parties to backyard barbecues, you will enjoy catching up in person, rather than over the phone or social media. It is not all about lighthearted conversation. As a Christian, you are called upon to care for others. Keep an eye open to suffering around you. Be prepared to provide emotional and spiritual support where it is needed. Your friends and family members should know that they can unburden themselves of their worries and fears in your presence, and that you are always happy to help.

Get Reacquainted with Your Bible

If you are like many students, you find yourself thoroughly consumed by textbooks throughout the school year. Now that you finally have a little spare time, dedicate some of your reading efforts to your Bible. Consider joining a summer Bible study if any are available in your area. Otherwise, feel free to peruse your Bible at your own pace.

Keep a journal as you explore new Bible passages or revisit favorites. Recording your thoughts and reactions may help you to better conceptualize the concepts you come across. Explore the applications of these passages. This is a fantastic way to grow stronger in faith and to understand how this beautiful, God-breathed book is still so important 2,000 years after it was written. You will be amazed by the many ways in which Biblical concepts are at play in your home and community.

Expand Your Reading List

The Bible can form the basis of an excellent summer of reading. Beyond this essential, however, you will find plenty of literary options for both insight and entertainment. Set aside a few minutes at the end of each day and curl up with a faith-based book.

Relearn to Pray

If you have fallen into a habit of only praying on Sundays or when you are worried about an upcoming exam, it is time to break out of the trap and establish a more routine prayer life. Summer provides you with more time to relearn how to pray, and the impact prayer has in our lives as believers. If you struggle to get started, begin by thanking God for the many blessings you have received throughout the school year and during the summer. Daily devotionals may also prove helpful; many are designed explicitly for college students and young adults.

Embrace a Spirit of Service

Opportunities for volunteerism abound during the summer months. Whether you feel called to a local animal shelter, food shelf, or Habitat for Humanity, you will love the spirit of service at local charities and service organizations. Many churches have ways to serve in a small way on Sundays and beyond. Dedicate yourself to a worthy cause and determine where your talents can best be utilized. Whether you commit to a few hours here and there or go all out with an in-depth volunteer project, you will gain a greater sense of confidence as you see how your efforts benefit others in your community. If you make a regular income, try tithing ten percent of your pay. You are never too young to put aside a portion of what you make to be a resource for God's work, because it is a great blessing to understand everything you have belongs to God. When you serve with all your resources, monetary or otherwise, the Bible says, "You shall be blessed."

Share Your Love of God

Do not feel too discouraged if mission trips are out of reach. You can still share your faith within your community. One of the best places to start is your local church, which may require assistance with vacation Bible camp or other summer programs. This is your opportunity to help a new generation of believers grow in their faith. Outside of signing up for a Bible program, you can share your love of God simply by chatting about your faith with loved ones. You never know where a meaningful conversation might lead.

Make this summer a season of intention. There is nothing wrong with relaxation, but you will come away feeling far more rejuvenated if you take this time to invest in your faith journey.

Grace, Love & Peace,
Reverend Dr. Kenneth P. Moore, Lady Tonica & Noelle

Pastor and First Lady's Appreciation Dinner Party January 25, 2025

"And I will give you pastors according to Mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Jeremiah 3:15

Thank you, Pastor Moore, for your knowledge, understanding, dedication and service to our church community. Your commitment is a testament to your faith and dedication to God's calling in your life and your influence on our lives. We love and appreciate you and the First Lady!



Wine and Cheese Party

We had a Wine and Cheese Party from 6:00-10:00 PM on *Valentine's Day*. We had wine and cheese, of course, and other tasty treats; a 50-50 raffle; a silent auction; and great music played by our favorite disk jockey, "D J Lyric".





Black History Roots: How Did We Get Here?

The Veterans' Ministry held a luncheon on March 1, 2025. Michele Jacobs, "The Beautiful One", was the emcee. Camille Rawlings talked about how African-Americans got our last names. Maria Rawlings discussed the origins of various soul foods, and Wayne Hines talked about his mixed-race ancestry and his roots in Anne Arundel County.

The guest speakers included: Daniel Phipps Metzel who discussed his experiences in the Congo and displayed his musical prowess on the marimba; Sgt. Major Kendra Tyler who discussed her successful military career despite her troubled upbringing, and Dr. Janel R. Perkins, Social Psychologist and Youth Mentor, who encouraged us to mentor youth to develop leadership skills that promote racial equality.



Ignite Youth Conference



Our Youth attended the Ignite Youth Conference in Ocean City, MD, on March 7-9, 2025. The theme for this year's Conference was "& Go", based on Matthew 28:19, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The purpose of the Conference was to provide tools to enable youth to reach out effectively and impact positively the church and community. Both the theme and purpose of the Conference are in keeping with the mission of John Wesley UMC, "to make disciples and be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, where everybody is somebody".

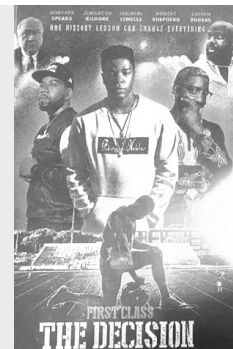
Abigail Abanukam, Makiyah Banks, Noah Bedell, Nicholas Bedell, Grace Matthews, Hailey Holt, and Laila Alexander attended the conference with their chaperones Kevin Kess, Audrea Matthews, Tina Ekemam, Rochelle Jones, Clarese Alexander, Dabria Lowman, and Rev. Kenneth Moore.

The youth had an awesome time at the Conference. They attended workshops, enjoyed entertainment, and worshiped and praised God with their peers from many different churches and denominations. The main topic that stuck with them was "The Devil is a Liar". The devil will mislead in many ways: being ashamed to tell friends about Jesus, socializing with people who devalue them and are doing bad things, and believing that God will never forgive them for their sins.

Armed with their acquired knowledge and skills, the youth intend to "ignite" the church and community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



First Class: The Decision



H

On March 15, in celebration of Black History, we viewed “The Decision”, the second in a series of films produced by First Class Productions. We had viewed the first film in the series, “The Remarkable Story of James Apostle Fields” on January 11. Fields was a member of the first graduating class of Hampton University.

B

“The Decision” is a fictional story of a phenomenal, young man and his conscientious decision to attend a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) instead of staying at a prestigious, prejudiced, predominantly white one in pursuit of an extremely lucrative sports career.

C

U

Mr. Anthony Bynum hosted the event and facilitated the question and answer session with Morgan Avery McCoy (seen on screen) of First Class Productions. Ms. McCoy says that her progress toward developing and enhancing projects depends on 5 Fs: followers, free marketing, fans, funds, and future stories.



HBCUs - Did You Know?

Let us dispel some myths.

1. **Myth:** HBCUs are no longer needed.
Fact: HBCUs continue to serve a higher proportion of low-income, Black students than other colleges and universities.
2. **Myth:** HBCUs discriminate against white students.
Fact: HBCUs are open to students of all creeds, colors, and conditions. In 2022, non-Black students made up 24 percent of enrollment at HBCUs.
3. **Myth:** HBCUs provide an inferior education.
Fact: HBCUs provide an efficient education for students in a self-affirming environment conducive to learning. There are 104 HBCUs, all of which are accredited by nationally recognized accrediting agencies. Accreditation is crucial for acquiring and maintaining federal funding and ensuring the quality of education.
4. **Myth:** HBCUs receive sufficient funding.
Fact: Since their inception, HBCUs have been shortchanged public funding owed to them by law.
5. **Myth:** HBCUs are fiscally mismanaged.
Fact: HBCUs have managed with tighter budgets. They are a “best buy,” costing 28 percent less, on average, than other colleges and universities.
6. **Myth:** HBCU students receive enough student aid due to Pell Grants.
Fact: Pell Grants pay for less than a third of college costs, leaving HBCU students to make up the difference.
7. **Myth:** HBCU Alumni giving is low.
Fact: Alumni giving at some HBCUs is relatively high, despite the racial wealth gap, but it’s not nearly enough to fill funding gaps.
8. **Myth:** Private HBCUs only enroll well-off black students
Fact: Nearly half of the students enrolled at the top private HBCUs, Spelman College and Howard University, come from low-income families.
9. **Myth:** Many HBCUs have significant endowments due to private philanthropy.
Fact: HBCU endowments are typically much lower than those of non-HBCU institutions.
10. **Myth:** HBCUs are not different from other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).
Fact: Not all Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) are created equal. HBCUs have a historic designation for Blacks because of segregation.

Bible Study

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15

You are invited to attend the weekly Bible Study via Zoom on Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Each week in June, July, and August, we will focus on a given scripture and related scriptures. Each Tuesday, you will receive an e-mail with a reminder of the Zoom identification code us02web.zoom.us and password 142985 prior to the session. Please see the following schedule:

June 2025

06/04/25 - God Appears to Abraham - Gen. 18:1-5
 06/11/25 - The Lord Is Grieved with Men - Gen. 15:4-9
 06/18/25 - God's Covenant with Abram - Gen. 15:4-9
 06/25/25 - God Appears to Abraham - Gen. 18:1-5

July 2025

07/01/25 - The Body Is a Temple - 1 Cor. 6:9-14
 07/08/25 - Neither Be Ye' Idolaters - 1 Cor. 10:7-15
 07/15/25 - Of Spiritual Gifts - 1 Cor. 12:4-11
 07/22/25 - The Body Is Not of One Member
 1 Cor. 12:14-20
 07/29/25 - The Praises of Charity - 1 Cor. 13

August 2025

08/05/25 - The Purpose of Proverbs - Pr. 1:1-7
 08/12/25 - Wisdom Promises Safety - Pr. 2:10
 08/19/25 - Things Hateful to God - Pr. 6:12-20
 08/26/25 - Proverbs of Solomon - Pr. 10:1-8

Women of the Bible




*Oh, Mary,
 don't you weep.
 Tell Martha,
 don't you moan.*



On March 22, some women of the church portrayed various women of the Bible as a fundraiser for the church's 175th Anniversary. They displayed knowledge and understanding of those Biblical women. Here they are:

Abigail (Abigail Abanukam)

"I am your servant and am ready to serve you and wash the feet of my lord's servants." - 1 Sam. 25:41

Bathsheba (Vickie Thornton)

"May my lord King David live forever!" - 1 Kings 1:31

Deborah (Deborah Williams)

"... because of the coarse you are taking, the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." - Judg. 4:9

Delilah (Renee' Johnson)

"Please tell me where your great strength lies." - Judg. 16:6

Eve (Denise Payne)

"The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat," - Gen 3:13

Hagar (Peggie Bessicks)

"You are the God Who sees me." - Gen. 16:13

Leah (Emma Krouser)

"This time I will praise the Lord." - Gen. 29:35

Martha (Audrea Matthews)

"Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me alone to do all of the work by myself?" - Luke 10:40

Mary of Bethany, Martha's sister (Robin Chester)

"Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother, Lazarus, was ill." (Luke 10:42)

Mary Magdalene (Maria Rawlings)

"I have seen the Lord" (after the Resurrection) - John 20:18

Miriam (Camille Rawlings)

"Sing to the Lord for He is highly exalted." - Ex. 15:21

Naomi (Linda Mouzon)

"Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Lord has dealt bitterly with me" - Ruth 1:20

Priscilla (Emma Krouser)

"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life." Romans 16:3

Queen Esther (Michele Jacobs)

For Such a Time as This - Esther 4:14

Rachel (Morgan Jacobs)

"Give me children, or I die!" - Gen 30:10

Rehab (Joyce Howard)

"The Lord your God, He is God in the heavens above and the earth beneath." - Josh. 2:11

Sarah (Emma Krouser)

"Everyone who hears will laugh over me." - Genesis 21:6

Tamar (Lynn Smothers)

"I am pregnant by the man to whom these belong." - Gen. 38:25

Virgin Mary (Addie Liles)

"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to Your word." - Luke 1:38

Jesus (Michael Matthews) was the emcee.



Congratulations! *3rd Quarter Honor Roll Students*

Abigail Abanukam
Monarch Academy
(Tina Ekemam's daughter)

Laila Alexander
Chesapeake M.S.
(Sponsor - Audrea Matthews)

Elijah Cieslik
Glendale E.S.
(Robert Woods' grandson)

Keeon Emedoh
Overlook E.S..
Briella Emedoh
McArthur M.S.
(Mabel May Emedoh's children)

Jacobi Jones
Lindale M.S.
Jeremiah Jones
North County H.S.

Zaina Jones
Hilltop E.S.
Damir Toppins
Corkran M.S.
(Sandra Jones' grandchildren)

Nayah Wooten
Glen Burnie H.S.
(Sandra Jones' grandchild)

Grace Matthews
Calvary Baptist Church
Academy
(Michael Matthews' daughter and
Audrea Matthews' granddaughter)

Khari Mouzon
Old Mill Middle School
South
(Linda Mouzon's granddaughter)

Cameron Stevens
Lindale M.S.
(Sponsor - Audrea Matthews)

Hendrix Thiaw
Oakwood E.S.
Yvonne Thomas' grandson

Zorri Mae Wallace-Leaver
Glendale E.S.
(Fred and Joyce Howards' great-granddaughter)

Noah Wilson
Northwest Academy
(Rene Newman-Price's grandson and Evelyn Price's great-grandson)

Resurrection Sunday - What a Day, What a Day!

On Sunday, April 20, 2025, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Sunday School youth and children presented the play, "The Betrayer", wherein none of the participants wanted to portray Judas Iscariot, the infamous betrayer of Jesus, but in the end, they realized that all of the disciples were betrayers somehow, as are we.

Rika Evans recited an original poem, "God's Gift to You and I", based on John 3:16-17.

Pastor Moore's sermon was entitled "You Can't Keep a Good Man Down."

Despite His horrific death, Jesus arose victorious, and in Christ, so are we. Victory is mine. Victory today is mine!



Laila Alexander was baptized. She and Christine Emedoh were confirmed. "God saved by the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

Titus 3:5

Puppeteer Danny Williams posed the question, "How do we get the victory?" The answer - "Jesus is the way."

Book Reviews



Have you read any good books lately? Can you suggest a book for us? To arouse our interest, are you willing to write a review of one for the September newsletter? If so, let us know. Here are some books that we recommend:

The Nickel Boys

by Colson Whitehead

In this book based on a true story, boys deemed criminals are sentenced to a Jim Crow-era reform school. However, there is no reforming, only racism, abuse, corruption, and even murder.

The main character, Elwood, a boy of good character, is falsely convicted of car theft and is sent to Nickel Academy where he witnesses and endures intense verbal, mental, and physical abuse, especially of black boys. Corruption, to the disadvantage of the boys, exists between the headmaster and the townspeople. Horrific murders, not discovered for fifty years, occur.

How are desperate boys to survive? How do the survivors recover? This book may leave you with thoughts from which you may need to recover.

An adaptation of the book, the movie, "The Nickel Boys", is now available on Netflix. Check it out!

Deborah Williams

The Silent Patient

by Alex Michaelides

This book is a psychological thriller about a woman's act of violence against her husband and the therapist obsessed with helping her.

Alicia Berenenson, a famous painter, is accused and found guilty of shooting her husband. She never speaks another word and is committed to the Grove, a mental facility.

Theo Faberia is a psychotherapist who is determined to unravel the mystery behind Alicia's silence.

This story is full of interesting characters and unpredictable twists and turns that will captivate you.

Caroline Neal

Friend of JWMFC

Buried Too Deep

by Karen Rose

Two can keep a secret if one of them is dead.

Employed as the nighttime security guard of Broussard Investigations, Phineas Bishop has been working through overwhelming PTSD episodes from his army service while still utilizing his military skills. But when a violent break-in occurs at the office, the accusatory eyes of the New Orleans's Police Department are on Phin, and he resolves to track down the intruder and clear his name.

Phin's only lead is Cora Winslow, a spirited librarian who also needs answers. The body of her father, murdered twenty-three years ago, has just been discovered under a recently demolished building. Someone wants to keep her in the dark. As Cora's self-appointed bodyguard, Phin is surprised by his growing fondness for the woman and her fierce determination and research prowess. But the New Orleans's Garden District holds secrets as old as the streets themselves. With help from the entire Broussard P.I. team, Phin and Cora enter a labyrinth of fraud and homicide that threatens to bury them all.

Addie Liles

Vacation Bible School



John Wesley UMC will have Vacation Bible School from June 23-27, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. We will provide Bible lessons, games, arts and crafts, and dinner. Youth of all ages are welcome.

For a successful VBS, we need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ms. Sharon Pitt at 410-889-6436.

Most of all, we need children, who must register to attend. Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex. Complete the form and submit it to Ms. Sharon Pitt or Mrs. Valerie Williams.



Ushers' Anniversary

"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked."

Psalm 84:10

The ushers celebrated their anniversary on May 18, 2025. Lay Leader Michele Jacobs, "The Beautiful One", was the Speaker of the Day, and Terrance Watts was the Worship Leader.



Ushers and Greeters, because you express a sincere greeting and a warm handshake, you form the first impression of JWUMC as a church "where hearts are strangely warmed, and everybody is somebody".

Thank you for your gift of hospitality, your unwavering commitment, and your dutiful service to our church family and friends.

The liturgical dancers performed, the children's choir sang, and a soloist, Brianna Jacobs Greene, sang.

In her sermon, Mrs. Jacobs said that the qualities of a good usher are their faithfulness, trustworthiness, and devotion to God. She related the Biblical story of Korah's descendants who were the doorkeepers of the temple. She concluded that we should ask God to have a greater presence in our lives and to use us to bring His greater presence into others' lives.



Nicole A. White

Nicole A. White, the Principal and Founder of Symmetra Design and the daughter of Barbara (usher at JWUMC) and Wesley White, received a "Top 100 Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE) Award for demonstrating exceptional entrepreneurial accomplishments, professionalism, and substantial contributions to the community. She was honored at the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council's (CRMSDC) 39th Annual Leaders and Legends Awards Ceremony at the MGM National Harbor on November 19, 2024.



Ms. White was also awarded a "Leadership and Excellence Award" from Minority Enterprise Advocate Magazine that recognizes outstanding women and minority entrepreneurs in the Mid-Atlantic region and provides public relations, marketing and communications services.

This is what Ms. White says about her company:

"Symmetra Design is a transportation planning and traffic engineering consulting firm that offers services to public and private clients. The firm is at the forefront of the transportation industry in expert planning and engineering multimodal solutions that appeal to the balanced needs of urban environments. It excels in community outreach and understands the importance of diversity and inclusion in planning. The name Symmetra is derived from the word "symmetry" and affirms the commitment to consider the needs of all project stakeholders. Symmetra Design partners with clients to achieve innovative solutions on a variety of projects: mixed-use development, higher education, and safety studies. Services range from intersection studies to transportation master plans. The firm analyzes and develops solutions that consider infrastructure, management, and operational measures for multiple modes of transportation. Founded in 2004, the firm is proud to celebrate its 20th Anniversary."

Ms. White and her husband, Maurice Patterson, reside in Upper Marlboro, MD.

*A 175th Anniversary Special:
Back in the Day at John Wesley UMC-GB*



I would like to share a few reflections about John Wesley United Methodist Church - Glen Burnie during my youth and young adulthood. Reverend Solden Nicholson, my grandfather, “Pop Solden”, joined JWUMC-GB in his early adulthood. He was a member of the church for more than a half century. He served as Superintendent of Sunday School for 42 years (1913-1955) while also serving as local pastor of the church and the community until his declining years. He passed on November 12, 1966, when I was in my senior year of high school. In remembrance of my grandfather, on Sunday, July 20, 1980, our family sponsored a “Reverend Solden Nicholson Day” church service under the Pastor, Reverend J. C. Belu-John. Grandfather’s entire family including his sister, Carrie (Nicholson) Matthews, his son, daughters, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren participated in the service. They served as organist, worship leaders, hostesses, singers and ushers. I gladly served as an usher.

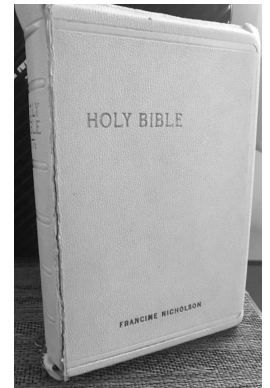
After some years of administering the birth-baptism for my older siblings, Pop Solden administered my birth-baptism on July 11, 1948, and thus began my JWUMC-GB connection. My earliest memory of JWUMC-GB was my walking to church. My family lived within walking distance. I remember my first Sunday school teacher, the lovely Mrs. Sarah Crawford. Her husband, George Crawford, also taught. I remember Mrs. Rosy Williams and Mrs. Mazie Brooks who played the piano for us. I vividly remember my grandfather, distinctively dressed in his suit. He had the best broad smile. I also remember him praying and speaking in the church pulpit.

The church had a strong Christian youth education program. In addition to Sunday School classes, I participated in “Children’s Day”. Each child in the church was given a speaking part to practice and recite. I fervently practiced my lines. In the summer time, children participated in Vacation Bible School (VBS). Classes and activities were often held outdoors. The Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), open to youth in grades 6-12, had an active participation. The program focused on worship, service, recreation and fellowship. The Boy Scout and Girl Scout units also met at the church.



Every June, a Bible was presented to each high school graduate who attended the church. In June 1966, I received one with my name engraved on the cover. Mrs. Helen Taylor, President, and Mrs. Lola Hines, Secretary, of the Women’s Society of Christian Service of JWUMC-GB presented it to me. I still have it.

The young adult confirmation classes, usually led by the pastor or his designee, were held in the basement of the parsonage. After completion of our confirmation classes, we were confirmed in the faith, read in as church members, and presented a church membership certificate.



I remember the stylish hats and the various outfits that the ladies of the church wore. Back then, the women parishioners wore beautiful head coverings with matching attire, dresses, suits, skirts and blouses; they didn’t wear pants in church.

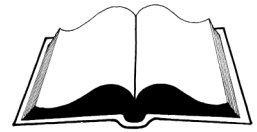
The Sunday worship service experience was enriched by the church choirs. Mr. Hamilton Hines, Organist, accompanied the Senior Choir, Male Chorus, and Mass Choir. Janet Donald was the pianist for the Gospel Choir. It was newly formed back in the day. Her gift of singing was amazing and soul-stirring! I have always loved Gospel music, so I would often go to choir practice with my cousin, Sylvia Queen, a choir member, just to hear the Gospel Choir sing. I was eager to join that choir, and after I did, I sang alto and enjoyed every minute of my time on that wonderful choir.

I believe God is the giver of all life. My family thanks God for our grandfather’s beautiful life and the wonderful love and special moments my family and I shared with him. We also thank God for the lives of the pastors, parishioners and friends of JWUMC-GB. Your love has graciously touched us, and you will forever be in our hearts.

Submitted by

Francine (Nicholson) Chambliss

Bible Quiz: Biblical Feet



Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answer. You may read the scripture in parentheses to find and/or verify your answers. The answer key is at the bottom of the page, but please try not to peek at it before you finish the quiz.

- Before the Israelites could enter the promised land, where did the priests have to place the soles of their feet? (Josh. 3:13)
A. on the desert sands B. in the Mediterranean Sea C. on Mount Sinai
D. in the Jordan River
- God the Father told Jesus that He would make whom His footstools? (Ps. 110:1)
A. His enemies B. His mother C. His disciples D. The Pharisees
- In the New Testament, who prophesied that Jesus would guide them in the way of peace? (Luke 1:5-79)
A. Nicodemus B. Mary C. Zechariah D. John the Baptist
- Who gathered up his feet in his bed before he died? (Gen 49:33)
A. Moses B. Jacob C. Ishmael D. Stephen
- A certain lame man's feet were strengthened when he was healed in what place? (Acts 3: 2-8)
A. the Jordan River B. Meribah C. the temple gate called Beautiful
D. the foot of the Cross
- According to the Apostle Paul, what are the feet of the wicked swift to do? (Rom. 3:15)
A. find mischief B. shed blood C. get calloused D. run a race
- In Revelation, who stood on their feet after being dead for three and a half days? (Rev. 11:3-11)
A. two witnesses B. John and Jesus C. the Saints D. Martha and Mary
- In a dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw an image with feet made of what? (Dan. 2:33)
A. ivory B. ivory and baked clay C. gold D. alabaster
- How are the feet of Jesus described in Revelation ? (Rev. 1:15)
A. solid gold B. potter's clay C. burnished bronze, refined in a furnace
D. polished silver
- Balaam's donkey crushed Balaam's foot against what? (Num. 22:22-24)
A. Mount Sanai B. a wall C. the temple D. a gate post

1. D - in the Jordan River; 2. A - His enemies; 3. C - Zechariah; 4. B - Jacob;
5. C - the temple gate called Beautiful; 6. B - shed blood; 7. A - two witnesses;
8. B - ivory and baked clay; 9. C - burnished bronze, refined in a furnace; 10. B - a wall