

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

February, 2024 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



412 S. Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-822-0475

eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com

www.eastonbrethren.org

FEBRUARY: A SHORT, FULL MONTH

We all know that February is the shortest month of the year; however, with it being a leap year in 2024, February will have an extra day. February is also considered the coldest month, depending on where you live. Do you know where the word “February” came from? Since other months, like January, come from Roman gods, one would think February would be named after a Roman god, as well. However, “February comes from the Roman festival of purification called Februa, during which people are ritually washed.

In the 700’s BCE, the second king of Rome, Numa Pompilius added January and February to the end of the Roman calendar in order to confirm how long it actually takes the Earth to go around the sun. The two new months originally had 28 days. It is lost in history why January acquired more days.

We may not have a festival of ritual; washing., but February is a big month for holidays. On February we celebrate Valentine’s Day by giving a card, flowers, and/or chocolates to your favorite valentine...showing your love for that person or persons. By the way, February 14 is also the beginning of the Lenten season...a time of fasting, prayer and reflection. On February 22, we recognize past and present presidents on Presidents Day, also George Washington’s birthday, our first president. February is also Black History month. Black History is American history.

I have a story to share with you: On Valentine’s Day, a wrinkled old man sat on the bus seat holding a bunch of fresh roses. Across the aisle was a young girl whose sad eyes seemed to be locked to the floor, except for moments when she would glance back at the roses. When time came for the old man to get off the bus, the old man impulsively thrust the flowers at the little girl. “I can see you love the roses,” he explained. “I was going to give them to my wife, but I know she would love you to have them.” The girl thanked him as he got off the bus and walked through the gate to the cemetery. Now that was truly love! How might you show love today?

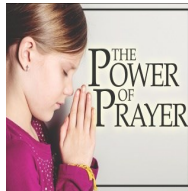
Wanda Baynard, Christian Ed chair.

February



Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: 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, Mid-Atlantic District DEM Search Committee, the family of Charlie Lyons, the family of Doris Schwaninger, the family of Mary Bridge, the family of Chuck Asmussen, John Sewell, Chris Lyons, David Kilmon, JC Russ, Robbie Faulkner, Ruth Gunn, Camryn Phillips, Michael Starkey, Larry & Barbara McCann, Dick Scott, Jack Wheatley, Leroy Miller, Jeanette & Bob Miller, John Merceron, David Hutchison, Mary Lou Segar, Frances Morse, Bruce Butler, Jimmy & Loretta Lohr, Charlie Willis, Adele Pogue, Caitlyn Bussey, Emerson Fike, Theresa Durnbaugh, Kathy Spurry, Billy Harding, Larry Fike, Alan Segar, GraceWay CoB, Roger Plagge, Dee Candel, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos. 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.*



The Leadership Team will meet on Tuesday, February 6, at 1:00 p.m.

Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18 following worship. **All written report are needed for 2023.** Please submit to the office no later than Thursday, February 8, for distribution to the congregation on February 11. Please bring a bag lunch. Drinks and desserts provided.



- 1 Ember Mae Stichberry
- 2 Pam Fluharty, Steve Wooters, Jeanette Miller
- 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



In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Doris Schwaninger. Doris passed away on January 20, surrounded by her loving family. Services were held on Saturday, January 27 at the church. Interment was at White Marsh Cemetery.

We pray Christ love and presence to the Schwaninger family and friends.

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.

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 2024 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 will be February 19.** Please sign-up in the narthex to volunteer a shift or make the meal.

SERVING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

	2/4/2024	2/11/2024	2/18/2024	2/25/2024
Message	Jimmy Lohr	Pastor Jody Gunn	Pastor Jody Gunn	Wanda Baynard
Worship Leader	Cheryl Dayton	Wanda Baynard	Jane Marshall	Mat Baynard
Head Usher/Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on call	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Jane Marshall & Anne Harvey	Leroy & Sharon Miller
Special Music	Jennifer Summy	Cheryl Dayton	Choir	Joy Miller & Peachblossom Bells
Flowers	Valentine Hearts	Valentine Hearts	Valentine Hearts	Valentine Hearts

Camp Mardela News—from Jen Summy, Camp Administrator

There are several copies of Camp Mardela's newsletter "The Lane" in the narthex.

- ◆ **Incorporation Meeting** (Open to the public), February 3 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Winter Service Day** (lunch provided), February 10, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- ◆ **BVS Reunion**, February 11, 3:00-6:00 p.m. (Alumni RSVP to campmardela.org/events-details/bvs-reunion)
- ◆ **Support Camp Mardela while enjoying one of your favorite fast-food restaurants - Wendy's!**
Please visit Wendy's between 12pm and 11:30pm on Tuesday, February 20th and they will take your order from their storefront for take-out. You can participate in this fundraiser by:
 - Dine in
 - Take out
 - Drive thru
 - Pick upWhen purchasing your meal, mention your group's name to receive 20% of your meal's price donated back to Camp Mardela. Visit the fundraising website for more information-<https://www.groupraise.com/events/271045>. What's cool about this fundraiser is that if people cannot attend, they can give donations right on the Wendy's fundraising page!
- ◆ **Krabill Hall fundraiser continues.** Send donations to camp or online (www.campmardela.org/ payments). We are almost halfway to our fundraising goal! We've been working on finalizing details for the remaining upgrades to the hall - the biggest portion of that being installing the heat & air conditioning system. We have taken a lot of time and thought to ensure we make the right choice for these systems, but we cannot go forward with installation until we raise the full \$50,000.
- ◆ **Brick Fundraiser:** Order bricks with custom text to put in the brick garden at the Peace Pole. 4x8 for \$75 and 8x8 for \$125. All proceeds from sale will go towards heat and air in Krabill Hall. Our Brick Fundraiser is a great way to contribute to this project. You may also give your year-end donations towards this project to help us reach our goals. We are very excited about the possibilities this will give us for year-round events, camps, rentals, etc. and would appreciate your prayerful support in reaching this goal and making this a reality.
- ◆ **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.



Congratulations to Zachary and Kelly Rose Correa on the birth of their son, Kit Jeremy. Kit was born on January 4. He weighed 7lbs., 10 oz. and was 19 inches long. Kit's middle name Jeremy, is after his uncle J.D., which delighted him. Proud grandparents are Mike & Tracy Correa and great-grandparents Leroy & Sharon Miller.

Congratulations to Trey and Justine Haddaway on the birth of their daughter Josie Lee. Josie was born on January 19. She weighed 8lbs., 13oz and was 21 1/2 in. long. Proud grandparents are Greg and Tammy Haddaway, auntie Tara Blake and great-grandparents Leroy & Sharon Miller.



From the Witness Team

The Witness team is asking everyone to bring in canned goods, package goods, cereal, pasta etc., for the Neighborhood Center. We will collect these items the weeks of February 11 and the 18th. This is part of the annual Service Day throughout the Church of the Brethren, which is recognized on the 1st Sunday of February. As always, we will continue to collect above items all year. There is a container underneath the table in the narthex.

+ + +

"Beloved, the world is waiting! Uncountable people and places and situations are looking for someone just like you to come, to share, to look, to listen, to feel, to pray, to witness, to act, to serve, to love-fully and deeply and wonderfully. You are loved by a God who IS love, so get out there and show the world what that love looks like.

*Pastor Walt Wiltschek
BVS Office Coordinator*

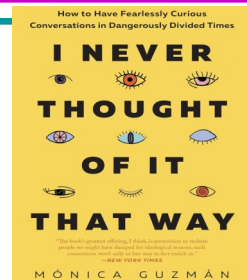
Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service 4p-6p

February 14 is Valentine's Day, but it is also Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. We will gather together in the fellowship hall for a soup dinner at 4 pm and the service at 5 pm will be held in the sanctuary, with music, ancient words, ashes, and oil. Praying for a meaningful gathering and focusing on setting our intentions for the season of Lent.

Joel 2:12-13: *Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.*



We will have a 6 week book group beginning in March 5 reading, exploring, and learning from Monica Guzman (end one another). It is available on Amazon in audio, hardback, and Kindle. Watch for more info and a sign-up sheet!



Morgan Harvey shared this Christmas Story on Christmas Eve. We hope you enjoy this story as much as we did. After reading the story, Dale Fike shared some poems that relate to this story.

Christmas

Around this time of year, I am often bombarded by a wide range of speculation on ‘the true meaning of Christmas.’ This comes in all forms, from conversations overheard at the grocery store, to Facebook posts, and discussions with close friends. These opinions vary widely in subject matter based on their origin, from deeply Christian conversations about keeping Christ in Christmas, to loosely spiritual conversations about spending quality time with family, and even the occasional highly excitable child telling me about Santa. I have often pondered which of these ‘right’ meanings I truly agree with, but in reflection recently I think I have found what Christmas truly means to me, and what it feels like in my soul. I think that, no matter what a person believes in terms of religion, Christmas is one of those few holidays that can have a different meaning to each and every one of us. I would like to share my own discovery with you this evening, as we celebrate here tonight.

Christmas to me is about the silence. People have whole hosts of things they think about when they think of Christmas, but I always imagine the silence. Let me try and explain to you what I mean.

I have been coming here, to the Easton Church of the Brethren, for the Christmas Eve service, every year of my life. This year will make 24 years. Those of you who have attended a Christmas Eve service here before will no doubt recall the tradition that takes place at the very end of the service. Each person is given a handheld candle, and those candles are lit, row by row, person by person. The lights in the sanctuary are then dimmed, and we are left with nothing but candle light to guide us as we sing Silent Night. There are no speakers playing a recording of the melody, and no microphones. Usually we have one guitarist, and the entire experience is based solely on the acoustics of the building. In some ways this is a testament to the plain roots of this church, and its history of no frills, good values, and good people. We would sing, and at the end of the last verse, there was always a moment where the congregation would stand in complete silence for a few seconds before being dismissed. For me it was always that silence that made the most impact.

In that silence, you could hear so much. There were, of course, the sounds of the environment - the cars passing by, the heat in the building cycling on and off, and possibly the sound of cold winds outside if there were any. But there were also the sounds of the people in the congregation. These were not audible sounds, merely thoughts that could be palpably felt in those few silent moments between song and conversation. They were thoughts of family, of children getting home before Santa arrived, of turkeys to be eaten, of presents to be opened. They were hopes and dreams of making memories with family members and loved ones. Wholesome thoughts, those with only good intentions driven by love. The silence was full of joy, of love, and that is the reason I cherished it so much. Very few times in our lives are we allowed to experience joy without sorrow, or love without hurt. In some way, shape, or fashion, there must be a yin to the yang, a counter balance that keeps the universe stable. But on Christmas, I found there was no such balance. On Christmas, pure, wholesome joy was allowed to dominate. And there was nothing in the world to question its purity.

I continued to notice this silence each year as I attended the Christmas Eve church service, and as I have grown I have found this joyous silence in other places in my life. It existed at the top of Machu Picchu in Peru, it exists in the first moments of life after a lamb is pulled from its struggling mother, I've found it time and time again on the back of a horse, and if I'm being honest, I hope to find it one day in the man I decide to marry. But for now, as I take time to grow, heal, and truly find myself, I am spending time looking for the silence. Because in that silence is where we truly find God. I'll be honest with you, no two people have the exact same beliefs, or the same level of connection to God, but I think everyone has found moments in their life where the silence is so deafening that you can feel that connection to something bigger than ourselves. The world is a hustle and bustle of noise and busy schedules, all of which is perfectly fine. There are innumerable joyous moments within that buzz of life, and that is where we spend the majority of our time. However, I challenge you to seek out those silent moments. Stop on the way to your car after leaving a restaurant and look up at the stars. Stand on your porch and listen to the unbelievable silence of a snowstorm. Turn off the tv and the music and just watch the lights on your Christmas tree change colors and allow your mind to wander. You'll be surprised at the things you find in those short moments of silence. You might even find a deeper meaning to Christmas.

Morgan Harvey

A Natural Symphony

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy...Psalm 96: 12 (NIV)

I enjoy walking my dog in a nearby neighborhood built around a series of small ponds surrounded by large trees and bushes. Often I listen to music on my portable music player as we walk.

One morning the battery died halfway through the first song. At first I was annoyed. However, I began to listen to the rustling of the cottonwood trees, the calm splashing of small fountains in the center of the ponds, the chatter of birds, the quacking of a duck, and the occasional melody of a wind chime.

Many distractions and activities fight for our attention, from the technology of smart phones and computer screens to the rush of the day-to-day chores and business. Yet none of this can compare to the melodies, art, and miracles of God's creation.

I still enjoy walking with my music player. Every now and then, though, I leave it at home and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. When I choose not to let my music block out the world around me, I recognize that God has composed an entire symphony of peaceful sounds. And it is beautiful music, indeed.

Lisa Tate

A thought for the day: I will listen attentively for God's wonders today.

**Symphony of God - 9/19/2020
Upper Room reading inspired**

Morning walk and the battery died for the I-Pod
Allowed her to hear The Symphony of God.

In the Blue Room recently cleaned you see
For outside its cool and windy
To windy on the porch to read
And the words of God to head
Missing the Symphony of God

Sitting on the folding chair, with Mary's spirit in the air
As behind me on the motorcycle she did ride
O'er the ground we trod
Where we heard the Symphony of God

AM/FM Radio, cassette player, C.B. and intercom
Ways to break the peace and calm, yet mile after mile
We did smile and let it be
Listening to God's Symphony

Awakening

I was up at 6:30, down again at 6:58
When next the time I see, it's...
8/1/8 the day is great
8/1/9..the day is fine
8/2/0...Away I go

With all that said I'm out of bed
Starting my day to be my best
Grateful for another nights rest.

2024 January Offerings

<i>Attendance</i>	49	26	36	35	146
	1/7/2024	1/14/2024	1/21/2024	1/28/2024	Totals
<i>Distributions</i>					0.00
<i>General (06)</i>					
Envelopes	8,386.00	2,190.00	2,200.00	715.00	13,491.00
Loose Change/ Cash	105.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	165.00
Total Tithes	8,491.00	2,210.00	2,220.00	735.00	13,656.00
<i>Other Income (06)</i>					
Building Use					
Mid-Shore Inter- group, Inc			150.00		150.00
Washington St. Rent	1,800.00				1,800.00
Harrison St. Rent	1,600.00				1,600.00
Totals	3,400.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	3,550.00
<i>Special Offerings (07)</i>					
Bldg/Memory for Diane Shores	100.00				100.00
Bldg/Memory for Doris Schwan- inger				100.00	100.00
In & Out					
MADD Auction Ads		60.00			60.00
Totals	3,500.00	60.00	150.00	100.00	3,810.00
Totals	15,391.00	2,270.00	2,520.00	835.00	21,016.00

CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers’ foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus’ death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”





Making memories since 1948

WINTER SERVICE DAY

FEB. 10TH
9AM-5PM

All
are
welcome!

SERVICE HOURS FOR STUDENTS!

LUNCH PROVIDED

campmardela.org/service-days
301 Deep Shore Road, Denton, MD
campmardela@gmail.com
410-479-2861



WORK LIST:

MANUAL LABOR

Wood Cutting, Building
Projects, Painting, Auction
Organizing, etc



ORGANIZING/CLEANING

Putting away decorations,
prepping for BVS Reunion
and Winter Retreats, etc.



Feb. 11
3-6pm



RSVP by Feb. 1st
at the website
below!



REUNION at Camp Mardela

Meet other past and current BVS volunteers

Have a potluck together, bring food to share

Share your stories



www.campmardela.org/event-details/bvs-reunion

301 Deep Shore Road, Denton, MD

TALBOT COUNTY EMPTY BOWLS



THINK GLOBALLY | ACT LOCALLY | CHANGE THE WORLD

PAINTERS NEEDED!

PAINT BOWLS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Support Talbot County Empty Bowls by painting bowls that will be used at the February 24th community dinner. Gather your friends and family at Kiln Born Creations or at your church or community space for 2 hours of fun and creativity.



FIGHTING TO END HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY, ONE BOWL AT A TIME

PAINTING AT KILN BORN CREATIONS

Kiln Born's new location is 174 S Washington St., #106 in Easton

- Walk-ins welcome, reservations preferred
- Painting for Empty Bowls: Mon, Jan 1 – Sun, Feb 11, 2024
- Reservations: 410-770-9091, after Jan 1.
- Price: \$26 per bowl + tax. A \$6 donation will be given to Empty Bowls with your purchase.

PAINTING AT YOUR COMMUNITY SPACE

- Pick up bowls & paint at Kilnborn Creations. Call in advance (after Jan 1) to secure supplies.
- Painted bowls must be returned to Kiln Born within 48 hours of initial pickup.
- Painting for Empty Bowls: Mon, Jan 1 – Sun, Feb 11, 2024
- Price: \$26 per bowl + tax. A \$6 donation will be given to Empty Bowls with your purchase.

FINISHED BOWLS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE COMMUNITY DINNER ON FEBRUARY 24TH AT ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, EASTON, WHERE ATTENDEES WILL CHOOSE A BOWL FOR THEIR SOUP DINNER PROVIDED BY LOCAL RESTAURANTS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: talbotcountyemptybowls@gmail.com

OR VISIT: <https://www.talbotcountyemptybowls.org/>



APRIL 6, 2024

301 DEEP SHORE RD
DENTON, MD 21629

8am-9am - Breakfast & Browse

9am-11am - Silent Auction

9am-1pm - Live Auction

CAMP MARDELA BENEFIT AUCTION

FOOD STAND | BAKE SALE
LIVE, SILENT & ONLINE
AUCTION

Support camp - shop for a cause!

Go to the link below for more info:

www.campmardela.org/spring-camp-auction



Find unique items for sale to support Camp Mardela at our fundraising auction. Breakfast and browse will start at 8am with bidding starting at 9am. The auction will continue until 1pm or until all items are sold! There will be a live auction, a silent auction, and a food stand/bake sale provided by camp volunteers. The camp auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we are looking forward to seeing you all here to enjoy a fun-filled day.

You can also donate items to be sold at the auction, such as new or gently used items, good-condition antiques, handmade items, baskets, tickets, gift cards, and more! You can also donate baked goods to be sold at the bake sale on the day of the auction.

If anyone has items to donate and cannot take to camp, please contact Bob & Judy Musch.

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 4, 2024?**

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 9th to be published in the booklet!



February

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eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com
Www.eastonbrethren.org**