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CHRISTMAS CHARITY DRIVES VERY SUCCESSFUL

Preston Elementary School

Bethesda Church had the opportunity again this year to help support a needy family from Preston Elementary School. Although we started on this project late this year, and only a week was given to provide the selected items, our church body met the challenge, bringing in all of the requested items for this family. The church ended up giving several shirts and pants for a young boy and girl, underwear and shoes for both, at least 6 toys apiece, and about \$50.00 in Wal-mart and also Food Lion gift cards. The items were delivered to the school on Dec. 17 so that the parents could pick them up on Dec. 18.

We have built a strong relationship with Preston School in the last few years, and the staff there were very appreciative of our efforts this time around. Supporting the school and its families is a central part of our mission to help the community around us.

Thanks for making this drive successful.

Kari Farnell

Board of Child Care

This year, in addition to supporting Preston School, Bethesda also gathered gifts to send to the Methodist Board of Child Care, in Denton. Sixteen boys are housed at the BCC facility, and the BCC provided a list of items needed to fill a general pool of gifts for those boys who have no family to go home to over the holidays.

With only a week provided to gather the gifts, and despite asking for donations immediately after the Preston School drive, the congregation nonetheless outdid itself. On Monday, Dec. 23, I was able to carry a carload of toys, clothes, and other items up to Denton. The staff at the BCC were overjoyed at the contributions, and thanked us profusely. The director of the BCC, Karen McGee, has offered to come speak to Bethesda about the work of the organization, and we hope to have her sometime in the new year.

Thanks to all who helped with this drive.

Eric Cheezum

Please keep the following people in prayer as they attend the 2014 Peninsula-Delaware Conference Youth Rally in Ocean City, MD, January 10-12: Cris Guerra, Hunter Guerra, Tammy Guerra, Christian Handy, Collin Handy, Guy Lowry, and Pastor Karen.

Here We Came A-Caroling!

On Sunday, December 15, many of our church families assembled for a Christmas carol tour around Preston. Heedless of the wind and weather (and cold!), the group had a great time singing, and came back to Bethesda for hot chocolate and cookies. Caroling has become an annual tradition for the church, and we were delighted to have so many participants!



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In Christ, every day is a new day! Every day a new beginning! Every day a new year! A new year is once again upon us. Many of us will make a resolution to either quit something, or add something, or improve something in our lives. Some estimates say that over 40% of Americans make New Year's resolutions. But of all the good intentions, only a tiny fraction of us keep our resolutions; University of Scranton research suggests that just eight percent of people achieve their New Year's goal.

Why is it so hard for us to change? There are many thoughts on why so few of us strive for these goals. In fact, this has created an explosion of studies on how the mind works. The experts recommend that we: (1) keep it simple, (2) make it tangible, (3) make it obvious, and (4) keep believing you can do it. Even with this, it is still hard.

This year, start by seeking God's desire for your life. Give yourself some space for reflection and thought where you can truly hear or sense God. While you are focusing, ask God to reveal to you that which He most desires a change in your life. God knows you better than anyone else. God is your creator and has designed you with a great plan and purpose. When we seek God's direction, we are starting the process of transformation. Transformation in Christ is not something we wholly do. It is something that the Holy Spirit does with in us. This is what John Wesley referred to as being moved onto perfection. This reminds me of the scripture in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

May 2014 be a year of transformation for us all!

Pastor Karen



Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Matthew 6:19-21 (*New Living Trans.*)

YARDSTICK FOR LIVING

In the bleak mid-winter
 Frosty wind made moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron,
 Water like a stone;
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 Snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.
 Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
 Nor earth sustain;
 Heaven and earth shall flee away
 When He comes to reign:
 In the bleak mid-winter
 A stable-place sufficed
 The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
 What can I give Him,
 Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb,
 If I were a wise man
 I would do my part,--
 Yet what I can I give Him, give my
 heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

At Home

Betty Hinnershitz (410-673-7383)
 2701 Choptank Main St.
 Preston, MD 21655

Gloria Trice (410-673-7339)
 21850 Water St
 Preston, MD 21655

Virginia Quinton
 24460 Grove Road
 Federalsburg, MD 21632

Out of Town

John Legates
 505 Academy St.
 Cambridge, MD 21613

William Evey
 28 Adamsville Road
 Colrain, MA 01340

At Nursing Homes

Bea Trice
 William Hill Manor
 Easton, MD 21601

Bob McConnell
 520 Kerr Ave.
 Denton, MD 21629

Tharon Harrington
 The Pines
 610 Dutchmans Lane
 Easton, MD 21601

WEEKLY INCOME

Date	Attendance	Plate	Pledge	Total
12/1	46	\$332.00	\$620.00	\$952.00
12/8	54	\$435.00	\$899.00	\$1,334.00
12/15	66	\$657.00	\$1,217.00	\$1,874.00
12/22	68	\$1,117.00	\$835.00	\$1,952.00
12/24*	87	\$582.00	\$20.00	\$602.00
12/29	48	\$456.75	\$530.00	\$986.75

*indicates extra service

Required Income (5 weeks @ \$1450 per week): \$7250 Actual Income: \$7700.75
 Yearly Average Attendance: 49 Yearly Per Capita Income: \$26.27

HISTORY NOTES

Minutes of the first quarterly meeting for Federalsburg Circuit, Dover district, Wilmington annual conference, held at Friendship June 5th/76. Rev. John Hough, P.E.¹ in the chair. After devotional Exercises on motion S.H. Melson was elected secretary. Roll was called (see roll²).

No special committees.

No complaints.

No appeals.

Pastor's report. Read & placed on file (see report³).

Report of Spe. Com. The Estimating Committee reported as follows: Sen. Preacher's salary \$800., Jun. preacher, \$175. with provision for board for 1/3 of the year. On motion the report was voted on & lost. On motion the vote on report of Estimating com. was reconsidered. On motion the report was amended by changing the Jun. preacher's salary from \$175. to \$250, he providing for himself & House; also that all claimants on the funds shall share pro-rata in whatever deficiency there may be at the end of year. On motion the report as amended was then passed.

What amt^s have been raised for the support of the ministry and how have they been applied?

raised	applied
Federalsburg 18.25	
Friendship 27.25	P.E. 10.00
Preston 20.00	Sen. Preacher 100.00
St. Paul's 20.00	Jun. 5.32
Harmony 13.00	
Bethlehem 15.00	
P. Col. <u>1.82</u>	
<u>\$115.32</u>	<u>\$115.32</u>

No change in the board of Stewards.

No Recommendations for license to preach.

The general rules have not been read.

The following resolution was then offered and on motion adopted by the conference:

Whereas our Pastor, the Rev. I. Jewel⁴, has been absent from his native home for eight years, and now desires a leave of absence for the purpose of visiting his Parents and family connections, therefore:

Resolved that we the members of the quarterly conference [sic], Federalsburg Circuit, do cordially grant him an absence of three months for the above purpose, and pray most devoutly that the Gracious providence may be over him for his safe return.

The next quarterly meeting to be held at Preston the 26th and 27th of August, Saturday and Sunday.

Minutes read and approved.

On motion the Conf. [sic] adjourned, Benediction by Bro. Jewel.

J. Hough, P.E.

S.H. Melson, Sec'y

JEWELL OBITUARY

The Obituary of Isaac Jewell, transcribed from the *Yearbook of the Southern California Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church: Thirty-third Session* (Los Angeles: Commercial Printing House, 1908), 57-59.

The old maxim runs: "Say nothing but good of the dead." How could anything but good be said of a minister of Jesus Christ, who like his Master, "went about doing good"? Such an [sic] one was Isaac Jewell, Ph.D., the subject of this sketch. The earthly lamp was turned low long before time for the dawn of the new day to arrive. In the midst of life he was in death. Isaac Jewell had the native characteristics and instincts of a minister. He was essentially a true gentleman, polite, agreeable, sociable.

Continued on page 3

Notes:

1. Rev. John Hough (November 1, 1821 – March 27, 1879) was a minister in the Methodist Church for over thirty years. The last seven years before his death he spent as presiding elder in the Easton and Dover districts. According to his obituary, "whether pastor or elder, he was always faithful in the discharge of the duties of his office" (*Wilmington Conference Journal* [1880], 44).

2. It is missing.

3. It is missing.

4. Rev. Dr. Isaac Jewell (November 1, 1848 – July 29, 1908) is one of the central figures in the drama surrounding the erection of Bethesda's present building. Although his predecessor, Rev. William O'Neill, had initiated construction of the new church building, Jewell was saddled with the problem of paying for it. By all accounts, the stress of retiring the debt from the project not only divided the congregation, but also profoundly exercised Jewell. In June 1876, however, those struggles were still in Jewell's future. See inset beginning above for Jewell's obituary.

JEWELL OBIT., cont.

Early this year he was stricken down with pneumonia and for some time his life was despaired of. He rallied and heartened his faithful wife and friends with the hope of ultimate recovery. He was in the midst of a new church enterprise and its tug was felt by every throbbing nerve in his body. He did more than a convalescent man should. Early in July he sought the cooler airs of Huntington Beach, but the change of climate was too sudden and too extreme to meet his case. He was taken to the Glendale Sanatorium [sic] where he sank rapidly and passed on to his glorious reward on July 29th. His funeral service was held at First Church, Los Angeles, and the interment was in Mountain View Cemetery, Pasadena.

Isaac Jewell was born in Truro, England, November 1, 1848. He moved to America when but a youth, settling in one of the Eastern States. A call to the ministry stirred in the young man's breast and he began making preparation for his life work. In 1870, at the age of 22, he entered the Wilmington Conference and continued his work there until 1894, when in consideration of his wife's health he sought a change to a more salubrious climate. He was then transferred to this Conference, where he continued until his death. The charges favored with his ministry were: Perris, Santa Ana, Fresno, San Bernardino, North Pasadena, Covina and Colton. In 1883 he was married to Ada Estella Carter in Queenstown, Md. He prepared for his theological degrees in Harriman University, Tenn.; and in Yale under the late Dr. Harper. His father, mother and only sister preceded him to the Heavenly home. He is survived by his widow and one brother.

Dr. Jewell's library has been donated to the University by his widow. The books are of a high character, showing in a marked degree the literary tastes of their former owner.

P.H. Bodkin.

PRESTON HOUSE TOUR AT BETHESDA

The Preston Community Club sponsored a very successful Christmas house tour on December 7. Bethesda served as the "hub" of the tour for ticket sales and refreshments, and hosted three Colonel Richardson musical ensembles as entertainment for guests, including the CRMS chorus (pictured below) and orchestra, directed by Alyson Reitmeyer, and the CRHS orchestra, directed by Tom Cheezum.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE PICTURES



Clockwise from upper left: Dennis Baker gives the church staff presents and congratulates the congregation on its work this year; Alyson (left) and Meridith Farnell lead an interpretive dance; Eric (left) and Tom Cheezum sing "Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth"; Rev. Handy prepares the bread for communion as part of her sermon.

**Happy New Year!
2014**

W.O.B. LUNCHEON

The Women of Bethesda held their annual Christmas party at Helen Fletcher's house again this year, on Dec. 19. All ladies of the church were invited, and there were fourteen in attendance (pictured at right). We had a delicious covered dish luncheon and enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship. The gift exchange is always entertaining. We thank Helen again for opening her lovely home so that we can all get together.

Donna Lane

OUTREACH MESSAGE

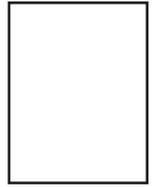
The Outreach Committee wishes to thank everybody for their donations at Christmas time. Through your generosity, we were able to donate a bag full of hats and gloves to Caroline County Social Services, and fill six food boxes. We visited with the shut-ins and took them poinsettias, and visited two members at nursing homes. We hope to do visitations more often, not just at Christmas time, and are looking forward to 2014 and the many ways that we can help others.

Donna Lane

At right and below: images from the TGIT Christmas Pageant, Dec. 12.



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BETHESDA

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