

Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church



The Point



2020

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Towson, MD 21204

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Staff

Rev. Travis Knoll
Pastor

Beth Woody
Administrative Assistant
&
Editor of "The Point"

Jim Holford
Praise Leader

Patrick Weikle
Choir Director

Cheryl Warren
Pianist

Service Schedule

10:00 AM
Contemporary Worship
and
Traditional Worship
on alternating Sundays

10:15 AM
Sunday School

**Hunt's Church
Preschool**
www.huntschurchpreschool.com

To the Members and friends of Hunt's -

May God bless us, one and all. As I recall, this is pretty close to the line of Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol. This month, as I write, I can feel that God is indeed blessing us, one and all. Even in a time when pestilence stalks the land, economically we are in disarray, and politically we are divided, God is blessing us. Hunt's has been able to resume worship outdoors, with only one week of weather-related interruption so far (your prayers are powerful indeed!) and with effective, by and large, live streaming for those who for various reasons cannot join us in person. The congregation continues to be active in study, in mission, and in worship together. Lives are being changed, hope is being restored, and God's love is being made manifest to people of all ages.

Financially, Hunt's has been blessed with remarkably faithful people who have stood in the gap and supported the work of the Church – for which we are all grateful, especially the staff and finance committee!

As I understand it, our attendance at the last two Sundays was 76 and 86 outdoors, with roughly 55 views of our livestream and an additional 20 or so of the YouTube recording/upload each week. Cumulatively, that is considerably higher than our average worship service last year. God is indeed blessing us, one and all.

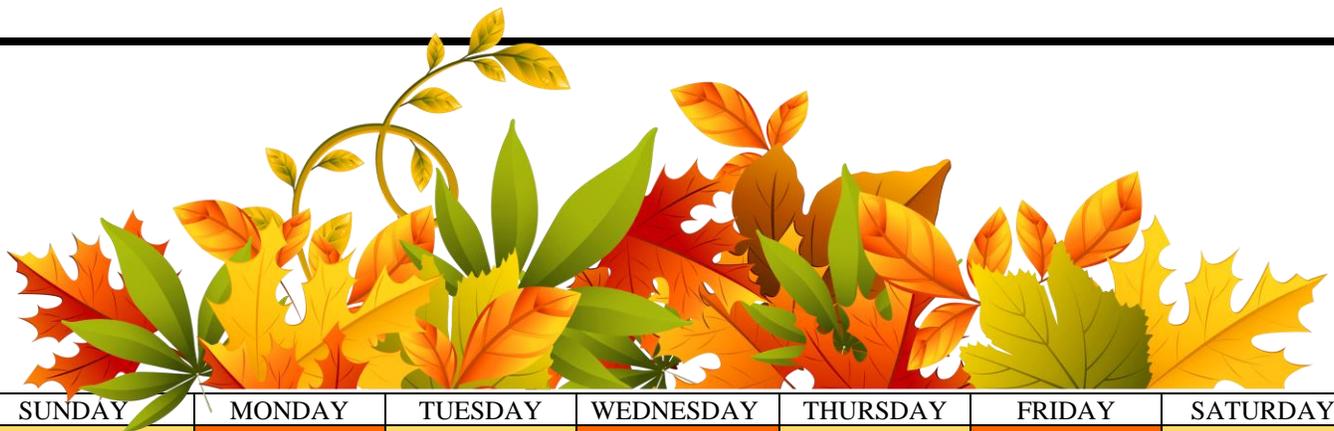
The preschool has opened and is weathering its first brush with Covid – it is hard to avoid an illness that is functionally pervasive in our community. The children are enthusiastic, the teachers are loving and kind, and the parents are grateful... God is indeed blessing us, one and all.

By the time you read this, our Youth Group may have had its kick-off meeting, and as usual includes many kids beyond the immediate congregation, which speaks to its value and how appreciated it is. God is indeed blessing us, one and all.

I am not interested in trying on rose colored glasses, but the truth is that we have a lot to be thankful for, and a lot of opportunity to do good for the kingdom. The light shines brightest in the darkness, let us shine with the light of God brightly in these dark times.

Godspeed.

Pastor Travis

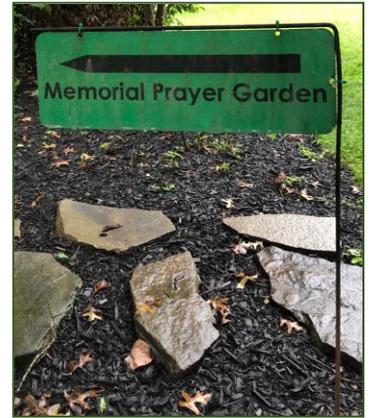


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER	Monday's Bible Study has been moved back to 10 a.m.			1 7:30 pm Music Enrichment Zoom Time with Patrick	2 8:00 am Men's Fellowship in the Prayer Garden	3 1:00 pm Emory L. Brown (III) Golf Tournament
4 World Communion Sunday 10:00 am Traditional Worship Service <i>Communion</i> 10:15 am Sunday School 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Sr. High - Outside	5 ↓ 10:00 am "Unshakable Hope" Study (Zoom) 7:00 pm Trustees Zoom Meeting	6 Pastor Travis' Sabbath	7	8 7:30 pm Music Enrichment Zoom Time with Patrick	9 8:00 am Men's Fellowship in the Prayer Garden	10
11 10:00 am Praise Service Baptism 10:15 am Sunday School <u>NO Sr. High</u>	12 10:00 am "Unshakable Hope" Study (Zoom)	13 Pastor Travis' Sabbath	14 7:00 pm Finance Committee Zoom Meeting	15 7:30 pm Music Enrichment Zoom Time with Patrick	16 8:00 am Men's Fellowship in the Prayer Garden	17
18 10:00 am Traditional Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Sr. High - Outside	19 10:00 am "Unshakable Hope" Study (Zoom) 7:00 pm Preschool Zoom Meeting	20 Pastor Travis' Sabbath	21	22 7:30 pm Music Enrichment Zoom Time with Patrick	23 8:00 am Men's Fellowship in the Prayer Garden	24 4:00 pm Church Conference (Zoom)
25 10:00 am Praise Service Guest Speaker: Ken Strubler (Pastor Travis is on vacation.) 10:15 am Sunday School Sr. High ???	26 10:00 am "Unshakable Hope" Study (Zoom)	27 Pastor Travis' Sabbath	28 7:00 pm Church Council Zoom Meeting	29 7:30 pm Music Enrichment Zoom Time with Patrick	30 8:00 am Men's Fellowship in the Prayer Garden	31 



**A Heart-felt “Thank You”
to John & Kathy Davis!**

John & Kathy spent numerous days, in this past summer’s heat and humidity, to give the Memorial Prayer Garden a “facelift.”



The task of weeding, trimming, mulching, scraping, sanding, cleaning, and varnishing. was *(and continues to be)* truly a “labor of love” by both.

In July, the benches looked like this:



By August, one bench looked like this (and the other one is still in the workroom).





"Happy Fall, y'all!"

We did it!

Preschool is open and there is laughter and the sound of children's voices everywhere!

We have had a smooth beginning and the children are doing a great job wearing their masks and following our new COVID rules and regulations! Parents are learning new check-in and carpool procedures and are very appreciative of everything we are doing to give their children some "normalcy".

I would like to thank several people. First, is the Preschool Committee. We have spent many, many hours collaborating and planning for this 2020-2021 school year! The support the Preschool receives from this committee is amazing! They also provided daily treats for the staff at the preschool during the first week of school. It was so nice to be a little spoiled every day as we got the school ready. **Next, I would like to thank Pastor Travis** for implementing, shopping and setting up computers and large screen TV's in the classrooms. These computers and TV's will be used for educational enrichment. We can take virtual field trips to the zoo, fire department, aquarium etc. There are many new ways to incorporate Music and Religion into the day using these computers. **Also, a big "THANK YOU" goes out to Cathy and Dave Junkin.** The preschool staff is required to wear scrubs this year. Cathy and Dave donated money to help cover some of each teacher's out-of-pocket cost for these scrubs. This was a huge help when buying three or more scrub sets! We really appreciate their thoughtfulness! **Finally, I would like to thank the church congregation.** You are so generous! Whenever we ask for things, we get an abundance! We asked for dishtowels, cloth diapers, and small hand towels and before you know it, we had bags and bags of them. Pastor Travis asked for any unused TV's and the phone started ringing with donations! We really appreciate all you do to make the Preschool so great! As they say.... It takes a village!

The Parent Volunteer Group is hosting a fundraiser on Thursday, October 1. It is a restaurant giveback night at Pepe's Pizza (6081 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21209). Pepe's will donate 20% of all carry-out, dine-in and delivery sales made from 4:00pm-8:00pm on October 1. Please mention Hunt's Church Preschool when ordering. Any purchase counts, including gift cards.

I hope that all of you are having a nice start to this beautiful Fall. It is so good to be back with our little children!

Kelley Unger
Director: Hunt's Church Preschool



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Your financial support of Hunt's Church during the pandemic continues to be amazing. As I shared at the September 13th service, offerings during the pandemic are 4% higher than the same time last year (March through August) – WOW! What is also impressive is that each month this summer resulted in higher offering than the previous month (i.e., August exceeded July, which exceeded June) – not typical at all. Again, thank you for your faithful support.

Here is our performance through the end of August:

	2020 Actual through August	2020 Year-To-Date Budget	Difference	2020 Budget
Income	\$270,918	\$278,719	- \$7,801	\$386,662
Expense	\$243,296	\$272,868	\$29,572	\$418,445
Difference	\$27,622	\$5,851	\$21,771	- \$31,783

As you can see, we are performing well against our budget due to excellent expense management. While some expenses are lower due to our facilities being closed these past six months, all expense categories are running favorable to budget, which suggests very careful spending by those who manage the church's operations. While income is trailing our budget expectations, the gap is modest and with strong yearend giving could be erased.

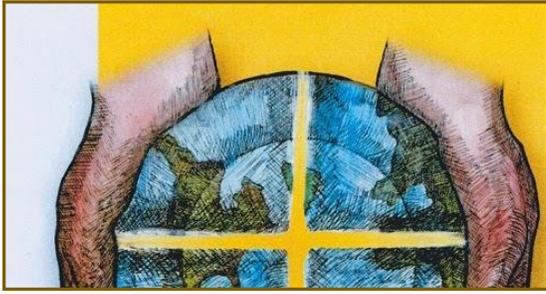
I would remind you that the Finance Committee, primarily through Rick Ehrlich's efforts, has expanded the ways to give electronically as a result of the pandemic. We added the GivePlus app (<https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/church-app>) to our Vanco electronic platform, and now we also offer the option to give via credit card and text-to-give. Information on these two methods can be found on the church's website (www.huntsunc.org). We encourage you to check them out and choose the method that works best for you. Of course, we also welcome checks mailed to the church office – whatever works for you.

Again, thank you for being faithful to Hunt's in your giving – this allows us to continue the great missions for which our church is known. If you ever have questions about our finances, please do not hesitate to contact me at tedochs@msn.com.

Yours in Christ,

Ted Ochs
Finance Committee Chair





World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020.

In scripture, we have a pretty explicit scriptural discussion about how communion and the sharing of food are connected:

In John Mark Hicks' book [Enter the Water Come to the Table](#), he says concerning division in the Lord's Supper, "This scenario emerged at Corinth's meal (1 Cor. 11:17-22). The rich divided themselves from the poor so that they ate and drank without them. The poor, perhaps slaves or lower class workers, arrived later when the food and drink were gone. The poor, then, went hungry while the rich were well-fed and some of them drunk."

This is, of course, true for those among our immediate fellowship, and for those who live nearby. It is also true for those around the world who do not have regular access to reliable sources of food and who sometimes simply don't eat because they haven't any food. For this reason, I want to invite on this World Communion Sunday our congregation to consider the hungry, and to make sure that their tables are not empty. One way to do this locally is to give to ACTC and their local food pantry.

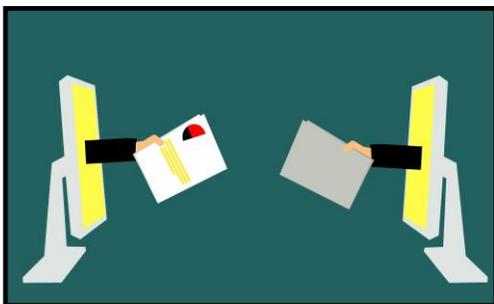
To do so globally, consider a gift to the UMCOR advance special (100% of donations go to the project, administrative costs are covered by our apportionments) for Covid-19 relief. For more information, see: <https://advance.umcmission.org/p-2025-umcor-covid-19-response-fund.aspx> These funds, according to the website: "will be disbursed quickly and efficiently to address health concerns, food insecurity, water and hygiene limitations and other pressing needs. Even as you shelter in place, you can be there for others."

Donations to help with either ministry can be made by making a contribution to the church and noting in the memo line of the check "COVID-19 relief" or "ACTC" or by specifying online your intention to give to either outreach.

To be there for others is a wonderful way to celebrate World Communion Sunday indeed.

Pastor Travis

Church Conference is October 24



Annual Church Conference: October 24th at 4 pm

This will be a combined conference with 4 other churches from our district, and it will be a zoom meeting. Beyond that, details are a little thin on the ground, but we are working on the Lay Leadership (nominating) report, and Trustees, Finance, and SPPRC are working on their contributions to this effort even as we speak... More information to come (like the zoom link) when we have it. – *Pastor Travis*

Worship Updates



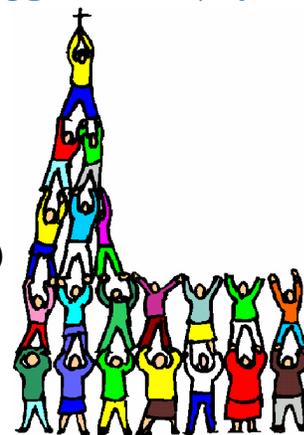
In a time of COVID, it can be very confusing as to how to effectively worship and when and where to go as we move toward colder and less forgiving weather. After considerable discussion, we have decided to move back our indoor service start to November 1, and to proceed with our “normal” outdoor services at 10 am weather permitting until that date.

Cold will force us indoors, but health, space to accommodate everyone, the ability to have beautiful singing from our cantors (currently only possible outdoors), and the option to participate in our cars have swayed us to delay moving indoors. That means that our October services will be on the lawn and not indoors. We will begin indoor worship (please note, this requires advance registration and an assigned seat) on November 1 at 10 am, at which we will celebrate All Saints Sunday.

Due to safety concerns while worshipping indoors, there will not be live singing (even by a single cantor). I am concerned about my ability to craft/prepare effective worship services without any sing musical component. Instrumental music can be powerful and even transformative, but the sung words of Christian music can carry a significant portion of the meaning and power for the congregational worship experience.

Therefore, I am asking for input from our church family. **Please provide the following information to Beth (beth@huntschurch.org) and me (pastortravisk@gmail.com) by October 15. – Thank you.**

1. **Your name and preferred contact method**
(in case I want to discuss your response with you)
2. **Your in-person attendance at current outdoor services**
3. **Your intention to attend indoor services, without sung music** *(later this year)*
4. **Your current viewing of our online live or recorded worship services**
5. **Your intention to view online live or recorded services** *(later this year)*
6. **Whether you would prefer an exclusively live-streamed/online worship that includes sung musical pieces** *(like we are doing now, but without in-person participation by the congregation)*
– or --- a live-streamed/online service without any sung musical pieces, but with as many in-person congregants as can be accommodated safely in our sanctuary.
7. **Please share any additional thoughts or questions that you may have regarding this brief survey or our worship at Hunt’s during this time of Covid.**



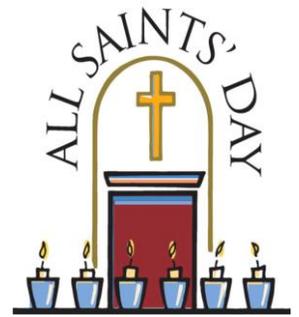
Pastor Travis

Thank you for your input.



All Saints Day is November 1

We are not going to be able to do quite what we have done in the past and have people come forward to share celebrations of their saints or for individuals to light a candle in their memory.



Pastor Travis will light a candle in remembrance of each of them.

If you have a family member or friend that you would like us to remember on All Saints Day, during worship on November 1st, please contact Beth as soon as possible.

Just a reminder: Submit the names of family members and friends who have gone Home to be with our Lord since November 3, 2019 (All Saints Day).

Email: beth@huntschurch.org

Deadline: Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Monday Bible Study moves back to 10 a.m.

THIS SEASON, WE ARE STUDYING "UNSHAKEABLE HOPE" WITH MAX LUCADO. **THIS 12-WEEK STUDY HAS BEEN MOVED TO 10:00 A.M.** BECAUSE WE FOUND THAT 1:00 P.M. WAS NOT AS CONVENIENT FOR THOSE ATTENDING AND EXCLUDED SOME WHOM WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE COME. -- **MONDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. - JOIN US!** - IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COPY OF THE STUDY GUIDE, PLEASE CONSULT AMAZON OR YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSELLER FOR A COPY. PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR TRAVIS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS. *Pastor Travis*

New "TRASH CORRAL" dedicated in memory of Jerry & Rachael Knoll on Sunday, September 27, 2020



It took many skilled hands and many long hours to build this lovely corral.

Special thanks to:

Linda Keatts, Steve Lippy, Dave Young, Ellie Lott, Lizzie McMillan, Joe McMillan, Annie Smith, Pastor Travis, and Glenn Keatts.

Baptism of Bode Poggi on September 20, 2020



Bode's Parents, Samuel & Alissa Poggi, with Pastor Travis

Bode's "BIG" Brother: Aiden



Scholarship Update

Last month, we provided you an update on the scholarships we awarded from the Kidder-Thomas Scholastic Fund. We are pleased to bring you news of additional scholarships we awarded from the Craig Scholarship Fund in September. As some of you may remember, Isabel “Izzie” Craig (Nell Kirby’s sister) donated money to the church in 2015 to create a fund to provide scholarships to students of limited economic means. It took us a while, but we finally put her generous gift to work. After Jim Foster helped us solicit some applications from the greater community, the Scholarship Committee met and decided to award three \$1,000 awards and two \$500 awards. What a joy it is to be able to help these fine young people continue their educational pursuits.

Here is an excerpt from an email we received from one of the recipients: “Please accept my sincere and heartfelt thanks for awarding me this amazing college education scholarship! It will certainly alleviate some financial burdens as it relates to meeting the need of various required college materials expenses.”

Our Church has a reputation for being active in missions, and these scholarship activities are just another example of how we are impacting the lives of others. Thank you for your support for all of the Church’s mission work.

Cara Ehrlich, Nancy Kennedy, Lisa Lipman, and Ted Ochs

The Scholarship Committee



It's October - Time for a Reconciliation Celebration!

- This month marks the one-year anniversary of the Hunt's congregation voting to become a Reconciling Church. We continue to discern what that means and how to grow into it.
- We are proud to report the first major step. The Marriage Equality Statement for Hunt's shown below was approved by the Church Council at their August 2020 meeting.
- This policy statement will be used as a guide for all future weddings held at Hunt's.



We are a Reconciling Congregation

Marriage Equality Statement
Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church
1912 Old Court Road
Towson, MD 21204
410-339-7770

www.huntsumc.org

We believe every person is made in the image of God. Hunt's Memorial UMC is a Reconciling Church and welcomes all people, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, ability, marital status or financial condition. We support the full inclusion for all people in the life of the church and celebrate the ability of any couple to be legally married in the state of Maryland.

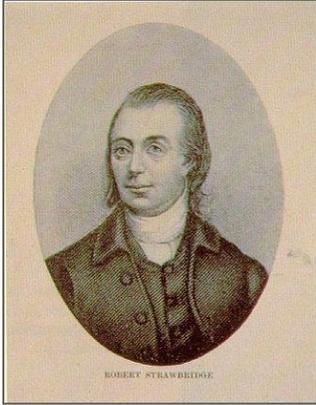
A couple who feels God's spirit at work in their lives may look to the church to bless their wedding. We recognize, support and celebrate the faithful commitments of any two people who come to Hunt's to be married, regardless of their gender. We view marriage as a sacred covenant and a lifelong commitment to faithfulness, love, patience and mutual comfort between two individuals and God, as witnessed by family, friends and the congregation who may gather with them.

Our congregation fully supports our pastor(s) if they choose to perform a same-sex marriage in either our church building or another location. If our pastor chooses not to officiate a same-sex ceremony, it is their responsibility to assist the couple in finding a designated representative who will officiate the marriage pending the usual premarital counseling. Our congregation approves the use of our building or grounds for same sex marriages within our usual sanctuary guidelines.

Reconciling Committee Membership – Please note that membership on the committee is guided by the Church Council's decision in November 2019 to make it open to anyone who would like to join it, regardless of their position on the subject of Reconciliation. Please contact the church office if you have interest in joining.

Moment in Time...1781

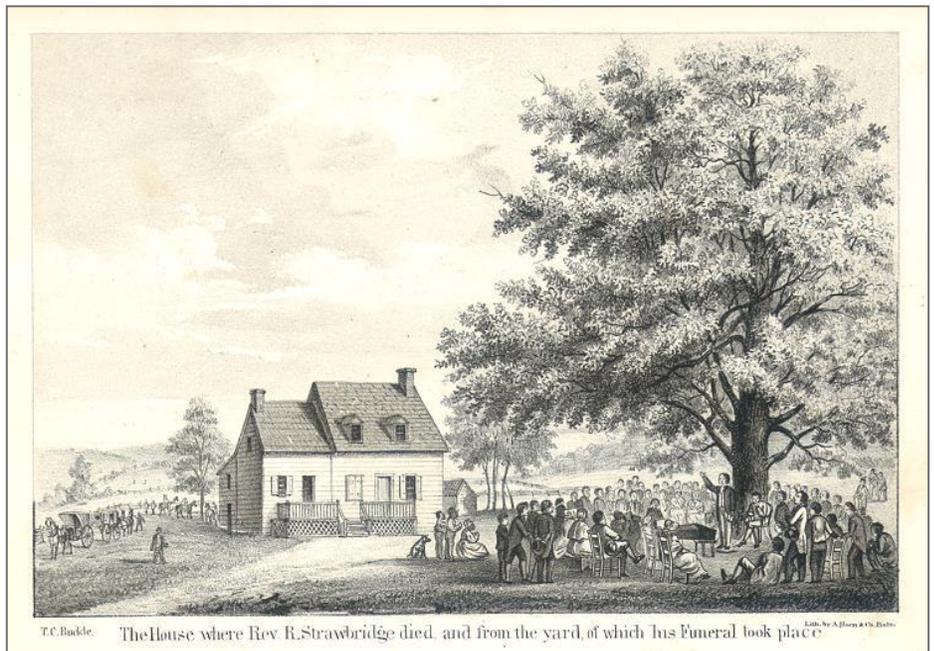
In the fall of 1781, Methodist Societies throughout Maryland and neighboring states were grieving the death of Robert Strawbridge, a beloved and influential itinerant lay preacher, later to be recognized as the *Founder of Methodism in America*. Among those in mourning was the society that had begun at the home of Phineas Hunt, the progenitor of our present-day congregation.



As early as 1773, Hunt's was a preaching appointment on the Baltimore circuit, served by Robert Strawbridge along with several other colleagues. However, even before this official appointment, Strawbridge had been spreading the word and converting people to Methodism. Soon after his arrival from Ireland in 1760, he had established a Methodist class and society at his home in the Sam's Creek/Pike Creek area of what is now Carroll County. Not long afterwards, his labors as a traveling minister of the gospel began. It is therefore likely that Phineas and his brother Samuel were among these early recipients of Strawbridge's message, leading them to establish a society at Phineas' home in 1773.

According to early Methodist histories, during the summer of 1781 Strawbridge returned to the neighborhood of Hunt's Chapel (built in 1780) to visit that society and others nearby. While visiting at the home of his friend Joseph Wheeler, who lived about a half mile east of present day Ruxton, Robert Strawbridge, approximately age 49, was taken sick and died.

As reported by Reverend H. Wilson Burgan in his 1910 booklet, *The Story of Hunt's Methodist Episcopal Church*, the Wheeler home was not large enough to accommodate the "vast concourse" of persons who desired to attend Strawbridge's funeral. Hunt's Chapel, the nearest Methodist society, was also too small to hold all of the mourners. Therefore the sermon, preached by local preacher Reverend Richard Owings, was delivered in the open air under the spreading branches of a walnut tree on the Wheeler family homestead. Strawbridge was buried in the private graveyard in the orchard of Mr. Wheeler about 100 yards or more south of the house. Here his body rested until 1866 when it was removed along with that of his wife Elizabeth to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Baltimore City...where he now lies in the *Bishops' Lot* alongside Francis Asbury and other notable early Methodist leaders.



In the 1934 *Methodist Sesquicentennial* program book, it is noted that Dr. George C.M. Roberts, a Methodist historian, local preacher, and founder of a home for the aged transferred the remains of Strawbridge and his wife at his own expense in 1866, and placed them in this sacred ground. As of the 1934 sesquicentennial celebration, it was noted that more than 150 early Methodist preachers were buried in the *Bishops' Lot* at Mount Olivet.

Information compiled by Chery Eisenhauer
(Additional information can be found at Strawbridgeshrine.org)

“HOW ARE YOUR KIDS, WHAT ARE THEY UP TO THESE DAYS?”

by P.J. Boyle

It’s a polite icebreaker often asked by a church friend you haven’t seen for some time. It’s meant to elicit a quick answer and move the conversation along. But when someone asks me that question I reply, “How much time do you have?” I rejoice when answering because Peter and Caroline are living out lessons learned during Hunt’s Mid-High and Youth Group and are putting into practice Agape Love.

By way of background, over the past several years Peter and Caroline have traveled the world together: skied the Alps, hiked to Machu Picchu in Peru, canoed the Amazon River, climbed to the rim of an active volcano in Costa Rica, rode camels in the Sahara Dessert, tanned leather in Casablanca, made chocolate in Switzerland, and celebrated New Year’s Eve in the Bahamas, Peru, France, and Morocco.



Peter graduated UNC-Chapel Hill in 2010 majoring in Business Administration with a focus on Entrepreneurship. Caroline graduated 2019 from The George Washington University in DC with a degree in Architectural Design and a concentration in Art History. Between them they studied abroad in Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Berlin, and Paris.

After graduating they both drove cross-country with friends to take jobs in education through Teach For America (TFA). TFA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "enlist, develop, and mobilize our nation's most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence." Teach For America works toward the day when every child will receive an excellent and equitable education. On campuses across the country TFA recruits and nurtures high achieving undergraduates who commit to expanding opportunity for low-income students, beginning with at least two years teaching in a public school. All Corps members attend the TFA Institute, a rigorous summer training program that provides them with the foundations, skills, and mindsets needed to be an effective beginning

teacher. Institute runs about 8 weeks after which graduates are placed as teachers from kindergarten through high school in some of the most underserved school districts in the country.

Peter was assigned to a small start-up public charter middle school in Phoenix, AZ. During two years of teaching he developed and implemented a school-wide data-driven instruction program and was made Assistant Principal. While teaching, Peter's students' families asked if there was a similar, small, rigorous high school option in the neighborhood. At the time, there wasn't. Peter's charter organization challenged him to solve that problem. So, Peter worked the next two years and founded the Western School of Science and Technology, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) academy. For the last six years Peter served as executive director and school principal, managing 45 staff and 550 students. Under his leadership, Western became the highest-performing public high school in west Phoenix and achieved full state accreditation. He was named the statewide Educator Honoree by the Children's Action Alliance, recognized by his charter organization as the Administrator of the Year, and won the Maryvale Community Revitalization Corporation Educating Excellence Award. During this time Peter also earned a Master of Education from Arizona State University in secondary education, and an Ed-LEADer Certificate from Stanford University.



Peter recently “retired” from Western School to join The Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA), an organization created by Arizona State University. CFA “brings Arizonans together to build a brighter and stronger future for the state”. Peter serves as the Director of Educational Leadership and Innovation. In this new role, Peter will lead the statewide expansion of the Beat The Odds School Leadership Academy. BTO Academy is part of CFA’s broader work in education innovation aimed to help Arizona realize educational excellence and equity for all Arizona communities. The BTO Academy delivers proven executive training and leadership development programs to principals and school district leaders that impacts student achievement and creates a culture of high expectations for schools.

Caroline’s Teach For America assignment sent her to San Jose, CA. Being in Silicon Valley you don’t think of San Jose as having a high population of underserved students but there is a very large immigrant community and contingent of migrant workers. Caroline is starting her second-year teaching fourth grade Language Arts. She’s been tasked by her school to develop and implement a pilot program in Thematic Instruction. Thematic Instruction is the selecting and highlighting of a theme through an instructional course or multiple courses. It is interdisciplinary, highlighting the relationship of knowledge across academic disciplines and everyday life. Also, Caroline was just selected by Teach For America’s Innovation Collaborative with Stanford University to develop and implement a new “Design Thinking Program” at her school. Caroline has been working on her California State Teaching Certification and Master of Education at Loyola Marymount.



So how does Hunt's fit in with this "brag"? Peter and Caroline credit Hunt's Mid-High and Youth Group for teaching them "servant leadership". Through activities like bussing tables at Turkey Dinner, Random-Acts-of-Leaf-Raking-Kindness, the Christmas Present Project, leading Youth Service, and participating in Camp HOPE they exercised Agape Love's principles of selflessness, sacrifice, and unconditional love of their fellow persons.

In their careers Peter and Caroline must interface with and lead many stakeholders: students, parents, administrators, community groups, and politicians. They both credit Youth Group for developing their communications and leadership skills. They stressed Youth Group's emphasis on building community through relationships, communication, and vulnerability. Peter stressed how Group starts each meeting sharing Highs and Lows. In fact, at Western School he implemented something similar at the end of each staff meeting.

Caroline uses these relationship building skills every day with her students to get them to like and trust her. She feels that this makes for the best teaching environment. Caroline especially benefitted from Camp HOPE's interactions with the homeowners, folks many years older than her. She was able to build relationships with the homeowners and learn their stories and experiences. She does this now with her students' parents, other faculty members and administrators.

Going away to college, studying abroad, traveling the world, and moving cross country put them in many new, sometimes stressful situations with strangers. This was somewhat like the beginning of each year of Youth Group which brings together students from all over the Baltimore area. Youth Group's leaders (particularly Kelly, Rusty, Pegg, Bennett, Adam, and Meredith...thank you all) encouraged the building of friendships across different groups of people. This helped Peter and Caroline to be able to talk openly with other people and make friends more easily. This has provided Caroline with confidence to help her extend herself to others while still being true to herself.

Agape love is selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love. It is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible: divine love, brotherly love, family love and romantic love. Agape is the term that defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is His ongoing, outgoing, self-sacrificing concern for lost and fallen people.

Peter and Caroline are living out Agape love. Through the relationships, communication skills, and vulnerability awareness honed at Hunts, Peter and Caroline are improving the educational achievements of their students and positively impacting their local communities. In turn their students will positively impact the broader communities they move through. The beneficial influences of Hunts are much broader and deeper than many of us realize.

LAY MEMBER REPORT ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION OF THE BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

It was a privilege for me to represent Hunt's at the 236th Annual Conference Session of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church as the Lay Member to Conference. More than 1,300 clergy and lay people participated in this session held on Saturday, September 12, 2020. It was hailed as historic because for the first time in history this session had to be held virtually because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In opening the Conference Bishop Easterling thanked all the churches throughout the BWC for their hard work during the pandemic to come up with creative and safe ways to continue worshipping together, including both social media and outdoor worship.

The Conference Financial Report indicated for March a budgeted shortfall of 21% and April a budgeted shortfall of 31%. Since then things have started to rebound. The shortfall was a result of the shortfall in the Mission Shares that come from the local churches who have also experienced shortfalls. Because of this the Conference has cut their original proposed budget and has also instituted a staff salary freeze for 2021.

One troubling moment for me in the conference was when the District Superintendent's presented the 7 churches that were closing. Our district, Baltimore Suburban had 3 of the 7. Each of these churches had a long history. St John's UMC in Monkton, a historic black church that began in the 1860s is one of the 3. Hearing the stories of these churches should be a reminder to all of us the importance of caring for and reaching out to all our members even if there are differing opinions.

At the close of each Annual Conference a Commissioning and Ordination Ceremony is held for new pastors and deacons. In keeping with this strange year of 2020, this year's ceremony was a live webcast of an outdoor socially distanced and masked event, during which the Bishop commissioned eight new Provisional Pastor and Deacon candidates and ordained eight new Full Member Elders and Deacons. It was a fitting way to close this historical Conference.



It was enlightening to see all the good things that are happening in the Conference, State, Country, and the World. The focus for this year continues to be inclusion of all people regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, ability, marital status, etc. The BWC has also devoted itself to ministries of anti-racism. The Conference's delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference has committed to "give voice, witness and action to the

insidious acts and existence of racism that continue to infect the society and the church, our nation and the world, and to give impetus to fresh vision and ways of imaging a church structure, governance and way of existing in which all of God's people are treated fairly and justly, and are fully valued.

Donna Sibley, Lay Member to Annual Conference

MISSIONS

Welcome to Fall at Hunt's. What a different year this has been for everyone. I have to say one of the high points was when we were able to get together for our outside services. A special thanks to everyone who made things run so smoothly. Things seemed to be a little more normal. I and the committee hope you all were able to stay safe and healthy so far.



For those of us who make their offering online, this is a reminder that last month was the support of the Board of Child Care. This month is for the support of our missionaries Nan and Miguel in Mexico. Please take time to read about their work in Mexico.

The McMillan family has been working very hard to get food and donations to the **Assistance Center of Towson Churches**. There is such a need for food at this terrible time for families. There are many people who have sent money to ACTC via Hunt's, thanks for your generosity, we are so grateful. Please feel free to bring nonperishable food to church any time to church for ACTC.



Marcia and I are trying to get **Food For Thought** started at Ridge Ruxton, but are waiting to hear from them to see how we are going to work things out. We have great news. Robin Bosley is going to head up FFT and give Marcia a much-needed break. Thanks to Marcia for starting this program and all of her many shopping trips to get the best prices in town. When we figure what this year is going to be like, we will give everyone an update.



Samantha was trying to get the **Casserole Ministry** going again but ran into some logistical problems. – Problems resolved, so we can soon start cooking again.



Marcia is keeping in touch with **Earl's Place**. When the Casserole Ministry gets started, we will be taking food to them once again. We are planning to do the Christmas gifts for the men to give to their children or grandchildren.

Melissa is still working with **our sponsored youth**.

We really make such a difference in their lives.



We are starting to think about the **Christmas shoebox mission**, with a COVID twist. There will be more about this in the next newsletter.

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY AND HELP OUT WHEN YOU CAN. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.!



“Give Ye Them To Eat”

An Integrated Development Program

September 9, 2020

Dear Friends and Churches

Warm greetings from Give Ye Them to Eat (GYTTE) and missionaries Nan and Miguel.

We would like to invite you to participate in a **Virtual Mission Journey to GYTTE**. Online, through a zoom experience, you will get to know GYTTE and be able to see what an in-person mission experience is like. It requires that you download zoom to your computer. This virtual mission journey requires about an 8-hour commitment on zoom over two weeks. We have facilitated 4 mission journeys (May, June, July, Aug.) and the feedback is very positive.

The upcoming trip includes two 1-hour team preparation sessions; then three mission trip sessions of two hours each; and an hour of reading before each trip day.

The dates are: 1-hour Team meetings: Wed. Sept. 23 and Fri. Sept. 25, at 11am eastern time.

Then three 2-hr. mission trip days: Mon. Sept. 28, Wed. Sept. 30 and Friday Oct. 2.

All 5 meetings start at 11am Eastern time.

Through this trip you will be with missionaries Nan and Miguel and begin to get to know 4 of GYTTE's staff and learn about six development programs in rural Mexico. Our Virtual tour will include photo/description shows including Educational Tourism, Rural Reality, Community Development, Construction/Appropriate Technology, Agricultural and Livestock Development, Community Health/Training of Health Promoters, Church and Faith Development and AWARE (Alternative Work-Study and Reality Experience).

We will also study themes related to the historic relationship between the United States and Mexico like NAFTA and the root causes of migration by people from Mexico and Central America to the US.

We will do the short readings on our own. In the 3 zoom mission sessions, we will go to small breakout groups to discuss a question, then share briefly in plenary. The small groups are fun!

If you would like to go on this Mission Journey to Mexico with GYTTE please respond to me at nanmig1@yahoo.com and to **Rev. Marian Hartman**, mhartman@susumc.org, who will be the facilitator of the mission journey.

GYTTE's offices are in Puebla, Mexico and the Tree of Life Training Center, where much of the mission work happens, is in Tlancualpican, Puebla state, 2.5 hrs south of Puebla City by car.

Currently our goats and sheep are pregnant and will have their young beginning at the end of October. There is corn, green beans, squash, watermelon and more planted. The staff are helping a family build an ecological toilet that doesn't use water and does produce fertilizer. And farm/Center improvements are taking place. The Methodist churches we relate to are still not having in-person church. This is hard.

We hope you will join us at GYTTE! You could also encourage someone else from your church to join the virtual mission journey. Thank you for considering getting to know GYTTE.

In God's love,

Nan and Miguel

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Weather Updates and Notifications

While in October, we do not usually have any urgent weather events to prepare for, we periodically remind everyone that we have a text/messaging service we use on Sunday mornings to let everyone know about severe weather-related updates as promptly as possible. This is an entirely voluntary “opt in” program. – If you would like to be included either via text or phone call, please let us know in the church office and we will include you on the call and/or text list. This method will ONLY be used for emergency situations and will not be utilized for any other purpose.

Pastor Travis



Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church
1912 Old Court Road
Towson, MD 21204

*Address Service
Requested*