

McKendree Matters

McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church

Rev. Alexis F. Brown, Pastor

24th & Lawrence Streets, NE
Washington, DC. 20018

July/August 2024

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WORSHIP with us



McKendree-Simms-Brookland UMC
invites you to worship with us
each **Sunday at 10:00 AM.**

Register here to join us for services on
Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/SUNDAY-MSB>

or

Worship with us in the Sanctuary at
24th & South Dakota Avenue, NE
Washington, DC. 20018

SUBMIT
YOUR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES

Due by
August 24, 2024

USPS:
Rosalind Harris
2034 Perry Street NE
Washington, DC 20018

email:
kaarmr@cs.com



McKendree-Simms-Brookland UMC

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Rev. Johnsie Cogman
District Superintendent

Rev. LaTrelle Easterling
Resident Bishop

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

The people of the United Methodist Church

2024 Bible Study Calendar

IT'S TIME TO
STUDY GOD'S WORD

WED	SEPT 4 – SEPT 25	LECTIONARY STUDY
WED	OCT 16 – NOV 13	GRATITUDE STUDY
WED	DEC 4 – DEC 18	ADVENT STUDY
TUES	DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

STARTING AT 7PM

ON ZOOM

MCKENDREE-SIMMS-BROOKLAND UMC

CHURCH

Council Corner

June 2024

MSB held a Church-wide meeting on May 18th where Pastor Brown and Church leaders shared a “State of the Church” report. Leaders outlined major accomplishments, including actions of the United Board, as well as on-going projects. As an example, the Board initiated actions to ensure that all properties were current in payments and began eviction actions for the two properties on Rhode Island Ave. The school in the Education Building has moved out. Another major project that the Board has approved is the sale of a rental property in MD to allow us to move forward with repairs to areas in the Church (Fellowship Hall, kitchen, bathrooms, etc.) as well as in the Education Building and with rental properties. The members present voted in favor of the sale. Slides from that meeting were included for several weeks in the Pastor’s weekly announcements and are available from the Church office.

One of the highlights of the morning was an exercise, led by Pastor Brown, where we engaged in role play to determine whether we are indeed a church that “welcomes” all—especially children and youth. The exercise opened our eyes to some physical barriers as well as ways of conducting worship that may not be as welcoming as we would like. For example, creating a space in the sanctuary where toddlers could play safely would allow parents and children to be in worship service. Those present made a commitment to address such areas.

Belva Martin



Matilda Corley	July 1
Paula Ryles	July 7
Maurice Beasley	July 8
Denise McKoy	July 10
Sylvia Wilkins	July 11
Lawrence Bradley	July 12
Raymond Dean	July 15
Felicia Klimpacher	July 15
Kevin Perry	July 18
Erin Alexander	July 19
Keenan Morse	July 25
Moses Joachim	July 26
Sandra Pagan	July 27
David Ratliff	July 28
Willa Kynard	July 31



Denita Bradley	August 1
Artis Johnson	August 2
James Martin	August 2
Markeda Corley	August 4
Karlene Ore - Klimpacher	August 8
Brandon Broadnax	August 10
Alexis Martin	August 14
Gwen Carter	August 15
Lucille Ratliff	August 15
Jackie Yates	August 16
Anita Lambert	August 16
Elsie Harrod	August 17
Laura Stockton	August 19
Karina Hagans	August 20
Delores Pittman	August 23
Ricki Hunt	August 24
Justin Martin	August 24
Preston Silver	August 24
Denise Bradley	August 25
Donald Davis	August 25
Mary Hayman	August 29
Kimberly Lewis	August 30

Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Sister Rosalie Guerra



A longtime member of McKendree-Simms-Brookland-United Method Church, Sister Guerra attended with her father, Bro. Oliver Sherbert (our first centenarian!) until his passing and her own illness subsequently prevented her from attending. Not only was her health failing, but her late husband's health also was failing as well. They cared for each other until her husband's passing, several years ago.

Pastors and members of the Sick and Recovering Ministry were aware of their illness and ministered to them accordingly. Sis, Guerra was most appreciative of the Ministry and demonstrated it by sending a donation to the church after every visit. She also enjoyed receiving the church bulletin and McKendree Matters, which kept her abreast of what was taking place in her church. There were times when she was in the hospital or bedridden and she would request prayers from the Pastor and the congregation. During her illness her daughter, Florence, became the caregiver for her and her late husband. Sister Guerra always shares her appreciation for her daughter's steadfast love, ever dutiful attention and present care.

For more than fifteen years, we have been blessed to serve communion to Sister Guerra every first Sunday, in addition to presenting her tokens of love baskets, reading scripture, praying with her, singing hymns and delivering Hosta Plants in May and Chrysanthemum Plants in October of each year. Oh yes, and we also shared political views often. Even during COVID-19 we were expected to drop-off communion to her, and we did. We are indeed grateful to God for her 100 years of longevity and her sound mind.

We look forward to the ceremony where her centenarian plaque will be affixed to the wall with the plaque of her late father and five other centenarians; two are still with us today. To God be the glory for His grace and mercy!

Karl and Dale Ore



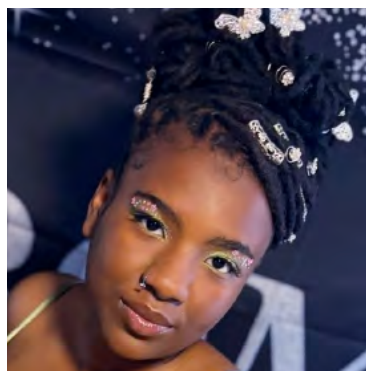
Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 9, 2024

On Graduate Recognition Sunday, the Higher Education-Scholarship Committee honored our graduating students for their academic accomplishments. Barinaale Dube presented the message from Mark 3: 20 - 35. She encouraged us to be “crazy” in sharing radical love and to be guided by the example of Christ in becoming a Christian family that loves and supports each other.



Imani Yates graduated from Edmund Burke High School. She will attend Virginia State University in the fall.



Khalia Sims graduated from D C International High School. She will attend Howard University in the fall.



Karson Klimpacher graduated from the Chelsea School. He will attend Loyola University in the fall.



Spencer Davis completed a 5-year Steamfitter Apprentice Certification. He graduated from the US Mechanical Trade School in Landover, Maryland.



Karina Hagans completed 8th grade at Perry Street Prep Charter School. She will attend Capital City Charter High School.



Samoya Onibuje completed 8th grade at Ida B. Wells Middle School. She will attend Jackson-Reid High School.



Ty'Leah Kelly completed 5th grade at Concord Elementary School. She will attend 6th grade at Walker Mill Middle School.



Kamryn Brown completed Kindergarten and will attend 1st grade at Clemens Elementary School.



Quincy Wilson was promoted from the two-year-old room to the three-year-old room at the Cheverly Weekday Nursery School.



A high school senior in Washington, D.C., offered this graduation prayer, which applies to people of all ages:

“Dear God, grant us one thing before we leave the sheltered reassurance of our childhood. Show us life. Not an empty, shallow world of shallow people and shallow dreams, but real life. For we have known the bliss of childhood as well as the passion of adolescence.

“We want to make the world a better place, but we don’t know how. We want to throw our arms around our brothers and our sisters, but our hands cannot reach. We want to break the cycle of violence and the bonds of injustice in our society, but we’re not strong.

“Smile on us when we drink from the waters of truth. When we are old, reassure us that our struggle helped make the world a kinder, gentler and more peaceful place. And please, God, don’t let us die without ever having lived.”

Fellow MSB members:

The Higher Education-Scholarship Committee is always happy to support our youth reaching their dreams of going to college. We also would like to remind all families that the scholarship application has criteria that must be met to qualify for our MSB Scholarship. Meeting all criteria is important to qualify, however we feel it is important to highlight the following significant criteria for all applicants.



MSB Scholarships

All applicants must be:

1. A current high school senior planning to enroll as full-time student (12 semester hours or equivalent) or is enrolled in an accredited college or vocational institution in the United States of America for the current academic year.
2. Applicant must be an Active or affiliate member of McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church.
3. An Active current member who has regularly attended MSBUMC (for at least one year) or an Affiliate member (must have attended for two years), and is participating in functions at MSB, such as, but not limited to any of the following: Youth Group, Young Adult Fellowship, choir(s), acolyte, usher, liturgist, receipt processor, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, etc.

Let us continue to celebrate all of our students, especially our graduates, and all their accomplishments for this past school year. We pray their continued success for SY24-25.

Submitted by the Higher Education-Scholarship Committee



240th Session of Baltimore Washington Annual Conference May 29-31, 2024

Like “Fire Shut Up in Our Bones” was the theme of this year’s Annual Conference as we gathered for holy conferencing in Baltimore.

Members of the conference represented 1025 clergy and 128,521 lay people in 571 churches in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and the panhandle of West Virginia. During the session we celebrated 1,253 new members in 242 churches in 2023.

Bishop Easterling, in her opening sermon, celebrated the recent General Conference as “one of the most collaborative, collegial and compassionate General Conferences that any of us can remember.” Bishop challenged churches to “adopt that sense of joy and hope and to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. We are a people going on to perfection.... “We can no longer delay our mission waiting on perfection....” The key for the church to find its way is to always love. When we are filled with the love of God, grounded in the love of God and animated by the love of God, it becomes like fire shut up in our bones. It cannot be contained and we cannot be constrained. Now is not the time for mandate and dictates and constraints.” Rather, now is the time to immerse ourselves in the Word of God. Now is the time to study together, to learn together, to wrestle with our Wesleyan theology, to hear God speak a fresh word into our lives. We need to pray with fervor and intention.”

Laity Session

- Learning about Fresh Expressions was led by Rev. Michael Black on how to redefine “vintage church” and create Fresh Expressions which are innovative faith communities that connect with people in their daily spaces and rhythms of life. Laity in attendance were asked to embrace their role as priests, ordained in the waters of their baptism.
- We have built churches but they haven’t come. He was acknowledging that church can feel irrelevant to many people in today’s culture.

- Today's Faith Expressions bubble up from conversations and a desire for belonging, meeting people where they are and when they want to meet.
- Most religious professionals are standing in the pulpit at a prescribed time weekly when people are hungry for conversation. They prefer dialogue to monologue.
- There is a need to create an authentic community where people can feel they genuinely belong.
- Creating Fresh Expressions is creating a community of belonging and letting the Holy Spirit do the rest. Share Jesus stories in places where people are comfortable.
- In closing, Rev. Black reminded us that we as a member of the priesthood of all believers, have a call and commission to go and offer the Gospel that can heal, restore and save people's lives.

Bible Study

Offering ourselves as living sacrifices – (Romans 12:1-12) was taught by Dr. Carla Works, dean of Wesley Theological Seminary. Her message: "We were constantly reminded that as disciples of Jesus, we are called to be living sacrifices; that is, offering all that we are and all that we have to God. The type of sacrifice written about by Paul is a perpetual, ongoing offering that puts you in a perpetual state of worship."

Deepening Discipleship

- Devotion: Reading, meditating, and studying the scriptures, praying, fasting, regularly attending worship; sharing our faith with others.
- Compassion: Doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others.
- Worship: Regularly sharing in the sacraments, Christian conferencing, (accountability to one another), and Bible study.
- Justice: Seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination (e.g. ending slavery), and addressing the needs of the poor. Churches were encouraged to focus on equipping disciples to witness and engage in acts of justice.

Recommendations

Council on Finance and Administration – Chair Williams stated this year's stewardship purpose focused on keeping money in local churches for mission and ministry. This was due in part to 23 local church disaffiliations and remaining churches finding it difficult to meet their financial commitments.

- Conference adopted a 2025 budget of \$18,338,467; Mission Shares set \$12,223,047; Benevolence factor reduced to 17.4% with a collection rate of 87%.
- Reductions enables the BWC to continue its long-term glide path to reduce the mission share budget to \$12 million dollars.
- Members approved a new retirement plan for United Methodist clergy in the U.S. called Compass. Compass is a defined contribution plan rather than the defined benefit plan that historically has been offered. This change will take effect in 2026.

- Clergy will retain Clergy Retirement Saving Pension (CRSP) benefits earned through the end of 2025, then begin earning benefits through Compass. The benefits of clergy who already have retired are not affected by the change.
- With Compass clergy will control their retirement accounts. All U.S. clergy, regardless of their church's size will receive at least \$150 monthly contribution plus 3% of pay. In addition, they can earn a dollar-for-dollar contribution match up to 4% of their pay. Clergy are encouraged to contribute at least 4% of their salary to receive the full matching contribution from the church.

Equitable Compensation

- Members voted to increase the base salary for the 2024 Clergy Salary Table by 3%, or \$1,497, which will make the base salary \$51,407.
- Housing allowance increased by 2%, or \$441, which will make the recommended housing allowance \$22,477.

Board of Trustees

- The Board reported that a lawsuit continues against the BWC, brought by 37 churches that objected to the terms of disaffiliations established by the General Conference and the Conference Board of Trustees. Members also voted to approve the closure of four churches.

The following United Methodist Churches requested to be closed:

Mount Vernon UMC	Baltimore Suburban District
Saint Matthews UMC	Baltimore Metropolitan District
Violetville UMC	Baltimore Metropolitan District
Mount Savage UMC	Cumberland-Hagerstown District

BWC creates sparks of vitality

- Members collected supplies for Adullum Health Care and raised \$9,000 in collections for Seeds in Security, a ministry that addresses the needs of domestic violence survivors.
- An offering was collected for a new Clergy Renewal Leave Grant Program, sponsored by the Board of Ordained Ministry, which will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for pulpit supply and renewal leave. The program begins July 1, 2024.
- Celebrated the evangelism efforts of the church who won the One Matters Award.
- Members celebrated the ordination of two Deacons and 14 Elders and the commissioning of one Deacon and six Elders, along with the commissioning of a home missionary. Also celebrated the ministry of 33 pastors who retired representing 789 years of service.
- Conference members heard from Rev. C. Anthony Hunt in the memorial service where 32 saints of the church were remembered and honored.

Resolutions

- Created a special Camping Sunday on the second Sunday of February, so that churches can raise money for camping scholarships.
- Encouraged churches to raise awareness of Sickle Cell Disease.

- Voted down a measure that called for opposition to the proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution establishing a right to reproductive freedom.

BWC restructures for discipleship

- Members voted to move from eight districts to six. Plans will now commence to create a structure that was designed for increased missional impact and vitality. Based on increased connections, the innovative new structure is intended to further ignite a growing movement of church vitality.
- The plan is comprehensive and goes beyond simply districting. Three main components:
 - Five to 12 local churches will be grouped in a Collaborative Hub in a shared, geographically based mission field. Each hub will have a designated Connecting Church, to facilitate collaborative work and vitality.
 - A group of hubs will be organized in one of six non-geographic districts, based on population density. This will create opportunities to network across perceived boundaries and learn from one another in diverse, yet similar contexts.
 - The hubs and districts will be organized into two administrative regions, which are supported by a centralized administrative team.

The grouping of hubs begins this June with information gathering. A list of the hubs will be published in January 2025. Also in January, the boundaries of the two administrative regions will be announced. A list of the churches in each district is expected to be published in March 2025. The Annual Conference will gather next year, in May 2025, and the restructuring will become fully operational July 1, 2025.

General Conference

The postponed 2020 General Conference was held May 2024 in Charlotte, N.C.

General Conference delegates made headlines by removing restrictive language about LGBTQ people from church law, adopted a new set of Social Principles, and approved a plan for regionalization.

Regionalization of the United Methodist Church required a constitutional amendment. It must be voted by every annual conference and receive two-thirds of all votes cast by all annual conferences world-wide in aggregate to pass.

If passed, it will restructure the denomination to be more contextual in different regions of the world served by the church. The current Central Conferences in Africa, the Philippines, Europe, and the U.S. would become Regional Conferences, with the same greater missional impact.

The amendment will not be sent out until June 2024. The Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, like many others, will not vote on it until the 2025 Annual Conference Session.

Over the next year, a team will be responsible for communicating and educating conference members on the purpose and impact of this amendment as we prepare for ratification by the Annual Conference.

Two additional amendments to the denomination's constitution - to welcome people into church membership regardless of "gender" or ability, and one to strengthen the denomination's stance against racism and colonialism.

Delegates Passed the following:

- Approved a 2025-28 budget of \$373.4 million. The total is contingent on collection rates being at 90% or more for the next two years. If giving is below that percentage, the budget bottom line will be \$363.6 million.
- Delegates approved a plan for distributing 32 bishops across the U.S. which represents a reduction from 39 active bishops currently serving.
- Voted on removal of same sex wedding ban- United Methodist pastors no longer face potential penalties for being in a same sex relationship or officiating at same-sex weddings, nor can they be compelled to officiate one.
- Approved a change to the requirements that clergy practice "celibacy" in singleness, an addition made in 1984 that targeted gay candidates for ministry. Delegates supported adding after the requirement of integrity in all personal relationships, "social responsibility and faithful sexual intimacy expressed through fidelity, monogamy, commitment, mutual affection and respect, careful and honest communication, mutual consent, and growth of grace and in the knowledge and love of God."

Judy B. Jones
Lay Member to Annual Conference

**(Information taken from BWC excerpts from General Conference, May 2024)
For additional information go to www.bwcumc.org.**





Sick & Shut-in Members

Susie Bennafield
Matilda Corley
Rosalie Guerra
Eldon Hayman
Sallie Henderson
Mary Hubbard
Abner McCorkle & Lucy McCorkle
David Ratliff
Annie Rice
Kathryn Thornton
Dannie Young

Sick & Recovering Members

Linda Alexander
Leon Anderson & Vicki Anderson
Eleanor Hamilton
Michael Johnson & Genevieve Johnson
Karlene Klimpacher
Anita Lambert
Alvon Lewis
James Martin
Bertha McNair
Lenora McRae
William Reddick
Christine Thomas

Comforting Those Who Mourn

McKendree-Simms-Brookland Church Family extends our sympathy to:

- The family of **Elizabeth L. Phillips** (mother of Linda Alexander and mother-in-law of Hunter Alexander)
- The family of **Jamesetta Royster** (sister of Willa Kynard)
- The family of **Clayton McKall** (grandson of Willa Kynard)
- The family of **Willie Harvey Cole** (father of Amber Cole)
- The family of our former Pastor, **Rev. Eric W. King**

Thanks to everyone who submitted cards to send to Rev. Eric King. He was grateful and thanked everyone. We are also grateful to everyone for the monetary donations that you continue to give toward the Sick and Recovering Ministry. Your giving helps support the ministry in giving love tokens to the sick and tokens of remembrance to MSB members when they experience a death in their family. Please continue contacting the church office or the SRM chairpersons to report death or illness.

May God continue blessing each one of you.

Sick and Recovering Ministry Co-chairs:

Sis Mary Harris & Sis Judy Jones

In Memory

Rev. Eric King



June 20, 1958 – June 25, 2024

McKendree-Simms-Brookland was blessed to have Rev. Eric King as Pastor for one year from 2021 until his retirement in 2022. He served us as we were emerging from the pandemic. We remember him as a dynamic preacher, teacher, visionary, and mentor. He was from Baltimore, MD and he brought that flare with him to the pulpit, which was on the floor behind a lectern. At the end of his sermons, he would say: “Thanks to Lottie, Dottie, and Everybody,” as a way of including anyone who participated in service. His messages, while scripture based, had a practical application. One in particular that resonated was from December 5, 2021, titled “He’s More Than a Baby Boy,” where he explained the prophecy in Isaiah’s 9:1-9, of the promise of a child who would save His people. He reminded us that Isaiah does not announce Christmas or mention Santa but rather the birth of God incarnate. He ended with “during this season, don’t get stressed out buying gifts but receive the gift of Jesus Christ.” As a retirement gift, we gave him a pillow with his sermon titles. He told us many times how much he cherished that gift.

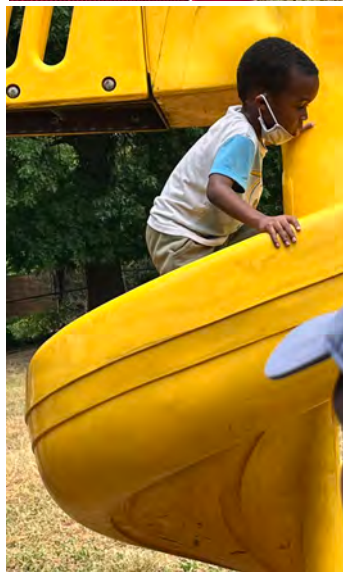
After retirement in 2022, Rev King continued to preach and coach until his health declined. He was very appreciative of the expressions of love and care that the MSB family shared with him a few months ago. God allowed him one last party. On June 22nd, his family, Alpha brothers, and others gathered to celebrate his 66th birthday. Rev King, thank you for the love that you shared. You reminded us that faith don’t quit; you are gone but not forgotten.

Belva Martin and Judy Jones

Community Day

MSB held its second annual community day, including blessing of the bikes and a picnic. Pastor Brown blessed over a dozen bikers. Members and friends enjoyed sunny weather, good food, fun, games, and fellowship. Many hands contributed to the success. Special thanks to Bea Sanders, Mary Harris, John Martin, Bruce Moaney, Robert Young, Jackie Roberson, Hunter Alexander, Judy Jones, Artis Johnson, Lott Jones, and Annette Scruggs. Thanks also to Jackie Hayman for the AARP goodie bags.











Blessing of the Bikes



MAY THE LORD
BLESS YOU
- AND -
PROTECT
YOU.
NUMBERS 6:24, NLT





I told our church today that if someone ever leaves our church to go to another church, our responsibility is to do the following:

1. Love them.
2. Champion them.
3. Thank them for the time we had with them.
4. Honor them.
5. Be their cheerleader.

Then I told them when you run into them at Target, Costco or anywhere else, don't treat them like a leper or like they walked away from the faith. Be kind; say "Hello", because in the end we're building the KINGDOM, not CASTLES.

The only type of group that treats people indifferently when they leave the group are "cults".

Church, do better!
Love better!
Be better!

Submitted by Mary Hayman



The Power of Warmth

In one of Aesop's fables, the North Wind and the Sun debated who was stronger. When they saw a traveler approaching, the Sun sensed an opportunity. He said whoever could make the man remove his coat would win — and even let the Wind go first.

So the Sun ducked behind a cloud as the Wind began blowing mighty blasts of air at the traveler. But the harder the Wind blew, the closer the man pulled his coat around himself. Finally, the Wind gave up in despair.

Then the Sun emerged and smiled down on the traveler. Feeling the gentle rays, the man soon found it too hot to walk with his coat on. He felt so warm he removed one garment after another and bathed in a nearby stream.

The Sun knew that warmth, friendliness and a gentle touch are always stronger than fury and force.



BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat-related deaths are preventable

WHAT:

Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.



Children

WHO:

More males than females are affected



Older adults



Outside workers



People with disabilities

WHERE:



Houses with little to no AC



Construction worksites



Cars

HOW to AVOID:



Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages



Stay cool in an air conditioned area



Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes



During extreme heat the temperature in your car could be deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°



Time Elapsed: 20 minutes



Time Elapsed: 40 minutes



Time Elapsed: 60 minutes

Independence Day Lessons For Church Life



• **Return to the basics** — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.

• **Honor the gift of freedom** — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.

• **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.

• **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.

by Heidi Mann

WEEKEND Vacation Bible School

Friday, July 26, 2024

5:30 – 8:30pm

Saturday, July 27, 2024

10:00am – 2:00pm

Sunday, July 28, 2024
10:00am Worship Service





BY THE SEASHORE

The sea and its creatures are evidence of God's intention and purpose in creation.

Directions: Unscramble the words. Then copy the circled letters in order below to complete Psalm 104:24-25, NIV.



DASN
LHSELS
USN
ESEDAIS
BHECA
LALUBMER
WRTEA
FRUS
VWSEA



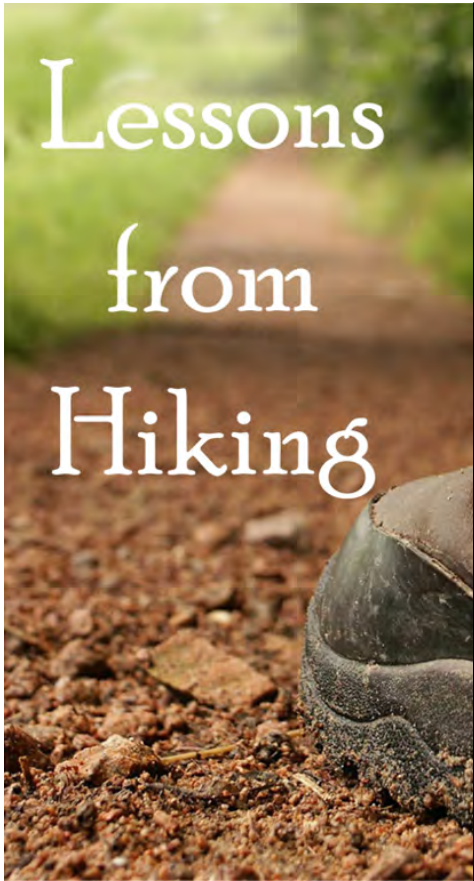
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How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them ____;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the ____, vast and spacious,
teeming with _____ beyond number —
living things both large and small.

Psalm 104:24-25, NIV

Answers: sand, shells, sun, seaside, beach, umbrella, water, surf, waves; all, sea, creatures




Whether I'm hiking an easier stroll or a 20-mile trek, I've noticed parallels to my journey with Christ.

- This is my journey. Too often I waste time comparing my stride, pace or equipment to that of fellow hikers.
- I don't know what's around each bend, but God does. I can't let anxiety steal my joy.
- It's best to balance hiking in silence with sharing the trail with friends.
- I'll be sore tomorrow, and that's okay. Engaging new muscles leaves a reminder that growth is uncomfortable.
- Being prepared is good; being *too* prepared makes for a heavy backpack. I need to do my due diligence and let God handle the rest.
- It's not a race, so finishing quickly offers no reward. When I'm not in a hurry, I tend to notice more of God's blessings.
- I need to look up, enjoying God's creation as I let him determine my steps.

Bible Quiz

Who had a staff sprout, bud, blossom and produce almonds, indicating that God had chosen him for a special reason?

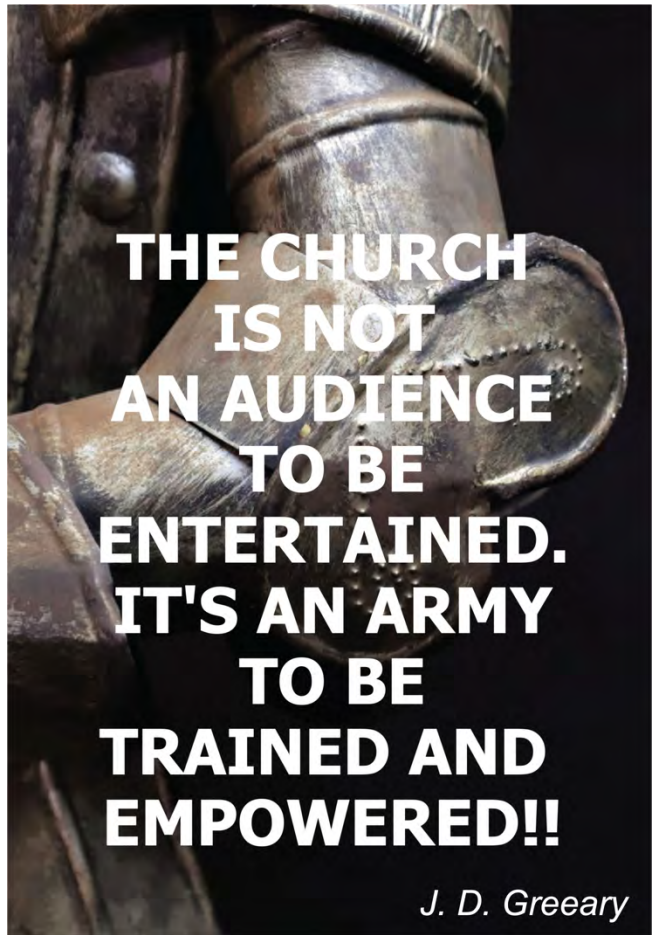
A. Moses
B. Zechariah
C. Aaron
D. Nathan



Answer: C (See Numbers 17:1-11, specifically v. 8.)



THESE SUMMER DAYS,
SHEPHERD LORD,
YOU LEAD US AMID
GREEN GRASSES AND
PEACEFUL WATERS TO
RESTORE OUR SOULS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GOODNESS AND MERCY!



**THE CHURCH
IS NOT
AN AUDIENCE
TO BE
ENTERTAINED.
IT'S AN ARMY
TO BE
TRAINED AND
EMPOWERED!!**

J. D. Greeary



Experience Christian community with bands, speakers, and fun with study and activities to take back to local churches to extend both your reach and impact.

And an opportunity for young adults to gather for community and leadership development time.

Registration opens September 15, 2024.

But wait...there's more.

The conference isn't a one-off event, but part of a discipling and leader development cycle that includes:

- **IGNITE Communities:** Bonfire kick-off event at each camp in the Fall. Spark interest and community about the March weekend around Ignite bonfires. While each site will have its own unique twist, youth, young adults and chaperones will find fun, fellowship, s'mores and an &Go scavenger hunt. Bring friends from the community and start fanning the flame toward the IGNITE Conference in March!
Manidokan: Sunday, 9/22 at 2 pm
West River: Saturday, 10/5 at 5 pm
Pecometh: Sunday, 10/20 at 2 pm
- **IGNITE Conference** in March with a study and activities to take back to local churches to extend both your reach and impact.
- **IGNITE Summer Camp** for youth interested in planning the following year's event.
- **Collaborative Youth Group Formation.** At IGNITE, we believe in harnessing the power of community to foster growth through providing a process and coaching for churches who want collaborative youth groups.



MCKENDREE MATTERS

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This newsletter was prepared especially for

