



Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 34
Fall Issue, 2021

Calendar

September

8th Wednesday
Online Bible Study
begins

October

31st Sunday
Reformation Sunday

November

Food Drive

7th Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Daylight Saving Time ends

21st Sunday
Christ the King Sunday

28th Sunday
First Sunday of Advent

December

The Gifts of Hope

12th Sunday
Greening of the Church

19th Sunday
Cookie and Chinese Gift
Exchange

24th Friday
Christmas Eve Service
at 7:00 pm

26th Sunday
Lessons and Carols

Can You Imagine?

"Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old?'" (Genesis 17:17)

The Bible regularly confesses more than anyone understands. It claims more than can ever be explained by anyone. The Bible dares to assert that a miracle from God stands central to our faith and at the bottom of life.

We are not speaking of a big, spectacular miracle, but a little, local one. Our faith-father Abraham was a very old man. His wife Sarah, our faith-mother, was equally old and together, they could not have a child. All of their hopes, all of God's promises, and the whole story, hinged on a child to inherit, but none was given. Abraham did have Ishmael, born of a surrogate mother, and the old, almost cynical Abraham was prepared to let this Ishmael be his rightful and only heir because there was no one else on the horizon.

As the story goes, however, God has more faith, more resilience, more confidence in a possible future than Abraham or Sarah does. Inexplicably, this yearned-for, unexpected, desperately wanted baby is born, not by normal human circumstances, but by the power and fidelity of God. This birth is an event that defies explanation and reason. Abraham, Sarah, and all of us are thrown out of the hub of reason and understanding to the more elemental and natural responses of wonder, astonishment, amazement, gratitude, praise, and laughter. Through the history of faith, we identify hints and glimpses and oddities where the impossible power of God has overcome our tightly disciplined, fearfully guarded notion of what is possible.

Thus, a dialogue is set up in our faith. One voice says, "Can you imagine?!" The other voice answers, "Yes, but..." Abraham was filled with "Yes, but..." Yes, but I am very old. Yes, but she is not pregnant. Yes, but we only have Ishmael. It is the naked voice of the gospel that counters

his tiredness. Can you imagine a new son born right now? Can you imagine a covenant kept to countless generations to come? It is not: Can you implement it? Can you plan it? Can you achieve it? The question is more precisely: Can you entrust possibilities to God that go beyond your own capacity for control and technical prediction?

When we have our lives governed by "Yes, but," by our proud capacity to control or our fearful need to control, we resist God's power for newness. We deny God's freedom to give gifts. Those of us who gather around the altar of the APLC keep alive in our hearts the terrible, unsettling transition between "Yes, but" and "Can you imagine?" Most of the time, the "Yes, but" voice wins, but by God's powerful grace, the voice of cautious optimism in our resistance to miracles is broken. Newness appears; we can sing songs, unembarrassed, songs about miracles. Faith is enacted by those who trust in our God who imagines well beyond our resistant presuppositions.

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Message from the President

When summer kicked off on Memorial Weekend, it seemed like I had all the time in the world to get a list of special projects done. But alas, as the calendar ticked off the days, my free time got crunched, and I told myself that I could do them later. Now I am looking at my calendar and wondering, "What was I thinking?" I still have things on my list to do, which of course, still must get done. However, I am thankful for the things that I completed, and the ones that were not of course will get done later.

Once again, this year our congregation was not able to participate in any of our usual activities. I am sure I am speaking for all of us, when I say that I missed the times together for having fun and the delicious dishes we used to share with each other. I hope those days return soon. Although it is not the same without them, we are still blessed with seeing each other on Sundays, sharing what is happening in our lives, and discussing various topics. We thank Chris, Nathan, and Pastor Na for making this possible virtually through Zoom.

While our church is still not fully ready for in-person services, I am happy that our choir director Laura Kalshoven and choir members are planning to attend church in person even though they may be singing with masks on. We will continue to have services on Zoom as well as in the Sanctuary for those who wish to attend in person. Hopefully soon we will be able to attend all our worship services in person once again and return to our normal activities.

Thank you all for your willingness to continue to support this congregation, for sending your offerings through the mail or dropping them off at church, and for sharing your talents with us. Thanks also to all of our faithful visitors who continue to attend our service virtually every Sunday. Let us continue to pray for the world and this congregation and ask that God will keep us all safe and in good health.

*Congregation President
Annie Gajadhar*

In Our Prayers: Anna, Betty, Bobbie, Chris, Debra, Julia, Lisa, Martha, Meghan, Pat, Ramesh, Wol-Mak Park, and Zally

Happy Birthday to: Annie Gajadhar (9/3), Rachel Soobin Ham (9/4), Eugene Lehr (9/11), Julia Kalshoven (10/2), Murzeena Gajadhar (10/18), Seon Hee Ham (11/7), Jean Opeka (11/17), Matt Opeka (12/10), Jason Kalshoven (12/13), Keisun Na(12/16).

Benevolence News

Synod benevolence is paid monthly and is up-to-date. Three of the other agencies included in our 2021 budget (American Wheat Mission, CUCE, and Michael's House) have received the full amount designated for the year. And LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services) will receive theirs in early September. You may remember that the amounts for all these agencies are much lower than what was included in past budgets.

Given the current crises in Afghanistan and Haiti, you may wish to give additional donations, on your own, or through APLC. LIRS (lirs.org/), which is coordinating ways to donate, or volunteer to assist the Afghan Refugees coming to the US. The ELCA (elca.org) site allows you to designate donations for the people impacted by the mid-August earthquake in Haiti or to those in the southern United States suffering from the devastation wrought by hurricane Ida.

If you wish to give additional support through APLC, you can write a check payable to *APLC*. On the check memo line and on the envelope indicate that you wish this amount to be given to the agency you selected. (Writing two checks to APLC, one for the unified budget and the other for the benevolence agency is preferred as it makes accounting and tracking easier.) Council will provide periodic updates so that you know what has been given. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer will work together to periodically forward the funds to the selected benevolence. Additional support for American Wheat Mission and LIRS has been received.

Bible Study



While those of us in Bible Study were delving into Revelation chapters 13-15, I was also working my way slowly through Karen Armstrong's *The Lost Art of Scripture*. Armstrong traces the history of the scriptures of Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and other religious traditions. She argues (among other things) that today too many people read such texts in a "doggedly literal manner (p.451), read scripture to find confirmation of their own views rather than to achieve transformation (p. 451), and expect scripture to give clear messages. We have all likely seen evidence of those views of Revelation including claims about signals of the end times, a certainty of views about who will be saved, and disenchantment with the lack of a clear picture of what exactly follows death.

Armstrong also makes the case that scriptures always "*drew on the past to give meaning to the present.*" (p 437). This is certainly true in Revelation. John draws on, but sometime revises, many Old Testament writings, and symbols to provide hope and encouragement to his audience.

In Revelation 14:12 John describes those saints who “keep the commandments and hold fast to the faith **of** Jesus.” We usually think of faith **in** Jesus. But I think John gives us a new way to view this. What would our life be like if we could always have the faith Christ had?

Synod Assembly



Annie Gajadhar, Pastor Na and Bette Deller attended the two-day ELCA D.C. Synod Conference by Zoom on June 4-5, 2021. Bette attended a pre-conference meeting on April 24th, which was a sort of orientation meeting during which each attendee was asked to introduce themselves, name their church, and speak about what their church was doing. In it, attendees were encouraged to register for the conference early and attend one of the 4 training sessions offered in May. Only a small group of 14 attended this

meeting, most of whom were pastors.

During the training sessions in May, attendees were instructed on how to check in, how to raise your hand if you wanted to speak, how to use the chat function and enter a break room, and how to vote by an electronic ballot that would be emailed to attendees.

The first session began on June 4 at 6:00 with a worship service followed by a business meeting. The overall theme of the 2021 Synod Assembly was "Alive: Inspired by the Holy Spirit." Bishop Leila Ortiz presided as the mistress of ceremonies and introduced various speakers throughout the meeting. She also introduced the Synod Themes: Sabbath, Transformational Leadership, and Cultural Competency and spoke of her feelings of marginalization and stereotyping as a Hispanic woman.

The first presenter was Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio, who spoke for 27 minutes on the evening of June 4th about embracing the Sabbath as “Resistance and Establishing Justice.” He encouraged us to keep the third commandment about the Sabbath but said that in his opinion the Sabbath is more than just a day of rest. To him it is the theological starting point for God’s concern for justice, equity, and inclusion and he proposed that instead of just resting on the Sabbath, we give the Sabbath away by creating communities in which justice is given so that all can receive God’s rest.

On June 5th, several main presenters spoke between items of business. Most speakers were from the minority communities (Hispanic, black, Asian, and gay) and although all were accomplished individuals, they spoke of the need for justice, equity instead of equality, inclusion, and “transformational leadership.” Some attendees felt that there was a feeling of negativity and a criticism of our culture in their presentations as one speaker after another mentioned stereotyping, marginalization, racism, the faults of western culture in general, and the need for transformational leadership... in spite of the fact that this is the least racist and most inclusive country in the world and one which already offers more freedom and opportunity than most others do.

One resolution was to support the U.N. project of sustainable development, which is really Agenda 21. Critics claim that under the guise of protecting the environment, this U.N. program would create their extraconstitutional control over the countries of the world through zoning and seizure of private property, stripping countries of national sovereignty, reducing the world population, controlling consumption, and allowing the U.N. to create a global government in the name of environment. This resolution was passed.

Another resolution was to support racial justice and to participate in racial “equity,” which is different from the racial “equality” our founders intended. Some people claim that equity aims to achieve the same “outcomes” for all regardless of individual effort rather than granting the equal “opportunity” for all, which our founders established. Racial equity, some argue, requires taking from some and giving to others in order to make the outcomes equal for all as in socialism. Critics also feel that this discourages a work ethic and kills incentives for innovation and achievement. This resolution was also passed.

Two other resolutions had to do with: 1. Ending genocide and a memorial to the Assyrians, Greeks, and Armenians persecuted by the Ottoman Empire in the first quarter of the 20th century and 2. Supporting statehood for D.C. and Puerto Rico. The Constitution expressly designated DC, the seat of the national government, as a “federal city” to keep it independent of the machinations of politics. Opponents claim that statehood for DC would result in precisely the peril to the machinations of politics that the Founding Fathers sought to prevent. Both of these resolutions were passed.

Near the end of the day, Julie Hamre, Synod Treasurer, gave a report about the mission spending plan, and gratitude was expressed for the Synod planners who put together this event.

For videos of the presentations of the Synod Assembly go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/metrodcsynod/videos>

Bette Deller

A Salute to Our Friends: Norma Kumar

In our Zoom Sunday services we see some faces that are not quite as familiar to us. One of those is Annie and Jerome Gajadhar's sister - Norma Kumar - one of the nine siblings from Guyana.

Although Norma is here now, in Laurel, her life took a very different turn of events. Norma went to London, where she studied nursing and became an RN and orthopedic nurse. While in London, she met her future husband who was a native of Fiji. They married in London and stayed there until he finished his studies toward a law degree. They then moved to Fiji where Norma and her husband lived for 35 years.

From Fiji, they did a lot of traveling, which she enjoyed, but also in Fiji she chaired organizations called NGO's - non-governmental organizations. These groups were dedicated to the care of helping others, through educational means or simply providing assistance where and when needed.

Norma eventually came to the States after her husband died in 2010. She has always enjoyed reading, movies and music - activities severely hampered by the covid invasion but she hopes to be back out and around soon. A number of nieces and nephews help fulfill her family life, and we at Abiding Presence are happy to see and hear about many of them.

(By the way, the correct terminology for someone from Guyana is not Guyanian, but Guyanese, she tells us!)

WHERE DID THAT PHRASE COME FROM?

In our never-ending quest for the origins of popular idioms, in this issue we search out the derivation of why people say, “by golly,” or “by cracky,” or “by gum,” or “by gosh.” Turns out that they are really trying to say, “by god” but years ago this was outright blasphemy... punishable in some societies with a jail term or even assassination! Thank God we no longer adhere to such stringent measures or my days would be numbered for this sentence.

Another odd exclamation we often use is to explain how someone escaped “by the skin of their teeth.” Now we know that today we have no skin on our teeth, but this idiom actually comes from the 1560 Geneva Bible. The literal translation from the original Hebrew is: “I have escaped with the skinne of my tethe...” – probably just poetic imagery as is the phrase “as small as the hairs on a gnat's bollock” (whatever that is!) At any rate (another over-used expression) we know that Biblical writers had a way with words – not always sensible but imaginative, and many have found their way into our everyday language.

Jean Opeka

Birthdays



Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between May and August 2021. We usually sing *Happy Birthday* to those who show up at church on a Sunday near their birthday and share a special birthday dessert with them. We could not celebrate that way this time since we are still having our worship services on Zoom, but we did sing to a couple of them. Happy belated birthday, everyone!



Ann LaVigna



5/12 – Billy Clark



5/27 – Steve McKisson



6/11 – Joyce Das



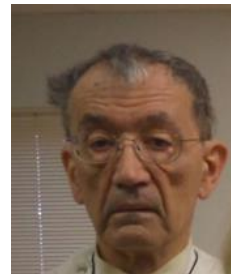
6/13 – Anna Graeber



6/18 – Bette Deller



7/4 - Jerome Gajadhar



7/15 – Rich Moore



7/10 – Soomin Na



7/18 – Nathan Na



7/31- Lydia Kalshoven



8/13 - Laura Kalshoven

In Memory of Ming Yee Chen



Ming Yee Chen passed away peacefully on May 17, 2021, at the age of 86. She was a beloved teacher, and long-time resident of Beltsville, Maryland as well as a long-time member of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church. Her faith was always an important part of her life, and she seemed to enjoy socializing with church members at the coffee hour after worship services. Ming Yee sang in the church choir and had a very pretty voice. She made it a special point to sing her personal rendition of “Happy Birthday” to anyone at church who happened to have had a birthday the past week or one coming up in the next week. She was always cheerful and supportive of her church friends and seemed to bring a bit of sunshine into the room whenever she was present. Ming Yee will be remembered as a very warm-hearted, outgoing person who always seemed to have a positive attitude and a cheerful word of encouragement and praise for all.

Mrs. Chen, as her former students fondly called her, was a second and third grade teacher in Beltsville for 24 years and touched the hearts and minds of generations of community members. When Ming Yee retired in 1992, more than 300 people in the Beltsville community came to honor her at her retirement reception. After Ming Yee retired, she and her husband took up ballroom dancing and discovered the polka. They developed a passion for polka dancing and became regulars at Blobs Park in Jessup, Maryland, often dancing every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to a live polka band. They also travelled extensively throughout the USA to various polka festivals and became a well-known couple on the polka dancing circuit.

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church held a lovely memorial service for Ming Yee Chen on July 10, 2021, at 11:00 am. The service was held both in person and on Zoom. About ten people attended in person, among whom were her two daughters, Terra and Teresa, Terra’s husband, Marc McClintock, and son, Leo, Pastor Na and his wife, Keisun, and a few friends, neighbors, and students from the Beltsville area. Many more friends, former students and family members tuned in via Zoom.

Several reminiscences and tributes were given as part of Ming Yee’s memorial service. Her oldest daughter, Teresa Chen Bertsch, narrated a wonderful photo video presentation of Ming Yee’s life. A former student, Dr. Sean Enkiri, contributed a video telling how much Ming Yee influenced his life. Bette Deller, a long-time friend, neighbor, and fellow teacher spoke about her 47-year friendship with Ming Yee and the various experiences they had together over those years. Another former student, Lori Campanella sang a special song in her honor entitled “Be Still and Know” by Steven Curtis Chapman.

Ming Yee's grandson, Leo McClintock, sent a video of him playing a beautiful rendition of Chopin's Nocturne in E Flat major, Op. 9 No. 2 on the piano. Granddaughters Kira, Klea and Kiana Bertsch sent a video tribute entitled "You are my Friend." Ming's youngest daughter, Terra Chen McClintock, gave a very moving eulogy. It was a beautiful memorial service honoring a beloved friend, neighbor, church member, mother, grandmother, and teacher.

Ming Yee Chen radiated positive energy. She loved to laugh and sing, and she had a gift for encouraging and making others happy. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and former students but will live on through the many people she knew and inspired, and in the wonderful memories held by those who loved her.

Bette Deller

COUNCIL REPORT



May – The council met on May 16, 2021. Pastor Na thanked Rich Moore for contributing a 6-volume collection of books entitled *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, by Warren Wiersbe. Pastor Na also announced that Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller will participate in the virtual Synod Assembly meeting with him on June 4th and 5th and thanked Anna Graeber for registering all three members for the event. There will be a \$75 participation fee for each attendee. Chris Ham will be in Korea for the first two weeks in June so Nathan Na

will manage our Zoom church services. Pastor Na announced that Bible Study will end on May 26th and resume again in the fall. Billy Clark reported that the HVAC parts came in and the two units will be repaired this week. Pastor Na reported that he will delay the full opening of the church until the end of summer. Our Treasurer, Anna Graeber, reported that the three designated administrators for the Mission Investment Fund accepted the offer of online access to our MIF account for conducting financial transactions. The three authorized administrators are Annie Gajadhar, Anna Graeber, and Chris Ham.

June – The council met on June 27, 2021. Pastor Na thanked Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller for participating in the Synod Assembly meeting on June 4th and 5th. He reported that those interested could view videos of the event at <https://www.youtube.com/user/metrodcsynod/videos>. Chris Ham installed strong microphones in the sanctuary so that music will be heard well on Zoom when we resume in-person worship services fully on the first Sunday in September. Billy Clark takes care of the lights and changed 12 bulbs in the last two months. He reported that some of the lights are slow to come on and that 20 ballasts are weak and loose. They will need to be replaced. Chris Ham and Billy will look into the best way to do this, and the decision was made to upgrade to LED bulbs. Pastor Na reminded us that the memorial service for Ming Yee Chen will be held on July 10th at 11:00 am. Ming Yee's daughters, Terra and Teresa, will participate in the observance in the sanctuary and asked that those who are unvaccinated not come in person. There will be about 10 people in the sanctuary that Sunday for the service. Pastor Na announced that the fall issue of our newsletter will be published on September 5th and that Bible Study will resume on the second Wednesday in September at 6:30 pm. Zoom services will continue in the fall along with the reopening of in-person services. Chris Ham is working on the Paycheck Protection Program forgiveness (PPP).

July – There was no church council meeting in July.

August – The council met on August 22, 2021, for a special meeting to discuss the full reopening of our church. There are no state restrictions at this time, but Prince George's County requires masks to be worn inside. Laura Kalshoven agreed to play the vocal responses, hymns, and the offertory in-person from the Sanctuary. She will talk to Steve McKisson and Rich Moore about whether or not they are willing to sing in-person as our choir and report back to us about that. Pastor Na is concerned that some danger is still lurking regarding gatherings in person. To come in person or participate via Zoom will be your choice. Mask-wearing is required for those attending in person. There will be no coffee or refreshments for now.

Bette Deller, Council Secretary

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- **Jean and Matt Opeka** celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on August 31 with a glass of wine and a hearty dinner. Festivities were postponed until September 10th as son, Mark, and daughter-in-law Pam, were away celebrating Pam's 60th birthday at the same time. Plans for the 10th include more wine and a steak dinner, followed by a showing of all Matt's old slides that chronicle much of their life since the beginning of time (well, maybe not that far back, but a long time ago!)

- **Anna Graeber:** My terrific and only real break from the COVID shut-down was a late June trip to Brunswick, Maine to join my sister, brother-in-law, and one of my nieces. Their trips from and to Germany and Switzerland came off without any great hitches; just the need to prove they were fully vaccinated.

The prompt for the trip was my niece's return to the riding camp in New Hampshire that she had attended in 2019. While she was off for a week with the horses, the adults stayed in a waterfront home in Brunswick. We talked, played games, enjoyed lobster and other seafood meals and took short walks in area sites. It was just so great to be together. Although we visit by Skype quite regularly, I had not seen my sister in-person since November 2017.



On our return drive to Boston airport, we managed to walk *The Marginal Way*, the mile-long cliff walk in Ogunquit, Maine with its fantastic views of the ocean and shore (See the picture for a sample.) It is one of the great memories I have.

- **Jan Kalshoven: "There and Back again"** – Doing everything needed in these times to get to



London's Heathrow for my daughter's July graduation was easier than connecting with my daughter and our family friend at the airport. My Icelandic flight brought me to Terminal 2 whose Wi-Fi is notoriously poor. And, in case you did not know it, most American cell phones do not work in Europe for texts, calls or data, so you really need the Wi-Fi. When you connect to a public free

Wi-Fi, it usually starts by first automatically opening a web page for some agreement that you must check. Heathrow's Wi-Fi webpage just kept spinning with no connection after opening my browser. Luckily, a very friendly cashier at Nero's, a coffee shop, in the terminal handed me her phone so I could call Denis, my longtime friend and the one with the car. That done, I eventually found out from another friendly clerk at a SIM card shop in the terminal that I could go to BBC.co.uk on my browser, and low and behold, up came the missing agreement page. I finally had my phone with all its power back.



I had been nervous about all the covid regulations before departure, but it turned out to be unfounded. I got a PCR Covid test at CVS but then thought results would not be ready in time for my flight. So, I got a Rapid Test from an urgent care center just in case. Ironically, my CVS negative result came through as I was getting my Rapid Test. Luckily,

all these tests are paid for by the federal government through insurance mandates. For England, I also had to fill out a locator form on-line, and then register and pay for another self-administered covid test, called the Day 2 test, that is mailed to your address in Britain. That was not free: \$43 which I later learned was a great price.

At the Dulles check-in, officials did a cursory glance at the sheets of proof of these requirements, my passport and vaccination card. In London, we colonists were treated like UK citizens and could join them in their customs line. This was July 20, and it was not crowded at all. All they did was ask me if I had done the locator form and Day 2 registration. I said yes; the inspector said I did not need to get it out.



All I needed to return to the US was a negative Rapid Test (Which I got in a mall near



my daughter's flat in Cambridge). It costs about \$65. With all the news about how contagious the Delta variant was, I worried that I would breathe in some of that virus floating through the air and it would be in my nose when I tested. So, I wore a mask the day before the test to be safe, and it was the first time since all this started last year that I made sure it was way up on my

nose, properly in position! At the testing place, for the first time that I have taken any of these tests over the past year and a half, they had me blow my nose first. So logical in hindsight. Luckily the test was negative, and I made it back. I would not have minded being forced to stay longer, but it is a good thing that I got back when I did because. I found the ceiling in the kitchen leaking, and it would have been a mess if I had arrived even a day later!

***The pictures, in order of appearance show Julia –

- marching with her Jesus's College residence community classmates through the streets of Cambridge to the Cambridge University Senate Hall.
- waiting to be called forward in the traditional ceremony not open to guests.
- receiving the proclamation of her Master's (That the event was live streamed is a relatively new feature).
- emerging with her degree proclamation.

- **Ramesh Das: "Feed my flock"** – Walking in the footsteps of a pastor back in my country during the good old days. Yes, I was given that opportunity when our pastor took a one-month sabbatical. I had to prepare the service for three congregations in three separate districts each Sunday. It meant choosing the lessons, the gospel passages and the hymns each Sunday and delivering the sermons. It gave me a different perspective and new found respect for the job of a pastor. Preparing lessons to teach my students was a breeze compared to having a discourse with the congregation. It took me many days and nights to prepare what I think the Lord would want me to say. That was an experience I would not easily forget since it taught me humility and faith and trust in the Lord.

I was often reminded that being a good pastor or his substitute is to be caring and loving, a good listener, give solid advice, willing to lend a helping hand, provide counselling and give hope when there is despair and hopelessness. So, for anyone thinking of joining the seminary if you don't have the calling don't even think about it. You will be lost as a shepherd and so will your flock. God bless.

- **Pat Thornberg: "Celebration of Life"** – A lot has happened this year beside the pandemic. My children lost their father, grandmother, and aunt within a few months of each other; the family decided it was not possible to have a funeral but to have a celebration of life in August. I thought last year was my last year to visit Lake Gaston.



Amelia caught her first fish

But my family rented a house on the lake and during the first few days we went boating, swimming and fishing with my son and daughter and their families. It was a great time for all us being together. At night we made s'mores and told ghost stories around a campfire. It was interesting listening to the girls' stories. Some were very long and interesting to say the least. Toward the end of the week other families came in for the

celebration. We had chosen to have the celebration at the lake Gaston as the family had spent twenty years working on and promoting the lake. My children wanted me to speak at the celebration about the beginning of many projects that we started. At first, I thought I could not speak. However, once I started to describe the events, I found it to be a very healing experience.



Amelie, Brooklyn, and Meghan

When I met Bob's family, they were very poor, did not have inside bathrooms, central heat, or air conditioning. They may have been poor, but they were so rich with so much love and spiritually. The Williams family was a hard-working Christian family, who farmed for a living. Bob and I were married, went to school and worked in DC. We had great careers going for ourselves. Bob's father wrote to him offering him a partnership if we would come to NC and help expand the farming operation. We did that.

He brought the family out of poverty and helped many to be very successful. We developed many businesses, but the most successful was the resort on Lake Gaston. Unfortunately, we made a few mistakes. The economy changed, the gas crisis hit us hard, and we lost everything that we worked for the past 20 years.

In 1996, Bob had his first open heart bypass. He joined a heart clinic and study program in Richmond VA. Through many experiments and surgeries, he lived another 24 years. Last year he was in the hospital so much, he told the doctors it was time. He had 3 major heart operations. The last one cost more than a million dollars. He had 30 stents in his heart area. He lived longer than anyone in the study. His unusual case has appeared in a medical journal.



Table setting was the scene of the celebration.

Bob had God given talents: he was a builder and a dreamer. He worked hard, accomplished more than most people dream about but had little time for his family. Sadly, at the end of his life he realized that he had missed much of his children's growing years. When he was rich and flying high, he left God out of his life. The last several years of his life, he found God and lived a Christian life and died poor financially. So, his message to

his children and friends is to keep God in your life when you are poor or rich. God giveth and he can take it.

-Bette Deller – Bette had another birthday on Friday, June 18th. Her son and his family came over on Saturday the 19th to celebrate it with her. They went to the Olive Garden for an early supper and then back to Bette's house for cake, ice cream, and presents. She really enjoyed their visit. Bette also celebrated later that week by going to lunch with two friends and her sister, Joan, who lives in Crownsville, MD. It turned out to be a busy and enjoyable birthday week. Here are some photos of Bette with her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, Mitchell (age 20) and Brooke (age 16).



Bette at 83



Bette & Son, Steve



Mitchell, Denise, & Brooke



Bette and grandson, Mitchell

In August, Bette's grandson left home to begin his junior year at Virginia Tech. His grandparents said goodbye to Mitchell and wished him well at a family lunch at the Olive Garden in Laurel on Friday, August 20th. Bette texted him the evening August 21 and found that he had arrived safely after a 6-hour bus ride. This year he will be living in off-campus housing.



Mitchell in his Blacksburg place



Mitchell with his Maternal Grandparents

Bette's son, Steve, found a place one block from campus in a fully furnished student apartment complex called The Edge. Mitchell will have two roommates. Each student has his own bedroom, closet, and bath and share the use of the living room, kitchen, etc. Mitchell moved most of his things into the apartment in June, so all he will need to take back and forth is a suitcase in the future. A bus terminal is nearby that goes from VT to Dulles Airport, which is only 12 miles from his parents' home. He has already used that bus a few times in the past.

- **Pastor Na:** There is one more story I wanted to share with you all from my experience of setting up two bird feeders in my backyard. On July 26, 2019, it appeared to be a usual morning where I look out the window to watch the birds come to the feeders. Previously, there had been several different occasions where a couple of foxes came by to hunt for squirrels and chipmunks, but this time I saw something different, a juvenile fox (See the pictures from Nathan's video). It did not seem to be interested in the squirrels. Instead, it lay down on its legs under the feeder and started to chew and devour a pile of seeds. There were a bunch of seeds piled up under the feeder



so, the fox kept trying to scoop those seeds into its mouth. What I saw felt really bizarre to me: the fox tried to eat the seeds (mostly sunflower seeds), instead of trying to hunt like the other foxes that come by. The way the fox desperately tried to chew the seeds gave me a gut-wrenching sense of compassion for him (I still refer to it as a male). I know foxes are omnivorous, but I can't imagine how hungry he was, considering how they are primarily nocturnal.

So, I decided to put out a couple slices of bread near the feeder that very night, thinking that same fox would stick around the backyard. Surprisingly, the bread was gone the next morning. I did not see him eat the bread, but for some reason, my gut told me that it was the fox. It was my pure speculation because I have never seen it personally since that first time. I just knew it was him. I started putting plain bread (sometimes some donuts too) out there every night. It has already been more than two years now. Throughout the whole time, he only missed one day when it rained heavily. I also missed a time too when I brought the bread to the basement and forgot to put



it outside. Putting the bread out became my daily routine. Sometimes, I get this odd feeling that the fox is watching me when I put out the bread, but I have never seen him.

Last July, it was Nathan who was curious about confirming whether it was really a fox or some other animal. Nathan decided to do a stake out one night with our light left on in the backyard after I estimated that the fox would come by around 10:30 pm. I usually put the food out a little bit before then. Nathan spotted him exactly at 10:32 pm. Yes! He confirmed that it was a fox. I cannot explain how I have this unspoken agreement with the fox whether through telepathic communication or intuition without seeing. Keisun keeps saying that I have been possessed by the legendary nine-tailed fox from the Korean folklore. Maybe she is right. At least, the relief is that I have never seen any fox attempt to hunt in my backyard from that time onwards.

Trivia Corner



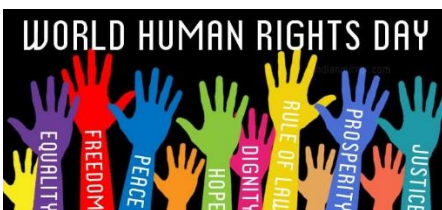
September – The fourth Friday in September is Native American Day. Native American Day is only a public holiday or official state observance in some states. However, it has been steadily growing in both scope and popularity. Native American Day is an opportunity to celebrate and learn about the traditions, culture, and background of Native Americans. Events vary from one place to another, but they may include pow wows, markets, or exhibitions.



October – The Bavarian festival of Oktoberfest takes place every year in Munich, Germany. The festival usually runs for 16 days from mid-September until the Sunday of the first weekend in October. The event has been held since 1810 when Prince Ludwig of Bavaria held a festival to celebrate his marriage with Therese, the princess of Saxony-Hildburghausen.



November - November is the month dedicated for moustaches and beards. It is that time of the year for men to let their hair grow wild and free. No Shave November is an awareness drive for men all over the world to drop their razors for the entire month of November so as to grow out their facial hairs. No Shave November is a month-long time during which participants forgo shaving and hair grooming to stimulate conversation and raise awareness of cancer.



December - Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on December 10th. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation on December 10, 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This was the first global enunciation of human rights, and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER

	5 TH	12 TH
A-Minister	Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
Lector	Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

	19 TH	26 TH
A-Minister	Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
Lector	Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

OCTOBER

	3 RD	10 TH
A-Minister	Ramesh Das	Steve McKisson
Lector	Steve McKisson	Ramesh Das

	17 TH	24 TH
A-Minister	Billy Clark	Richard Moore
Lector	Richard Moore	Billy Clark

	31 ST	
A-Minister	Anna Graeber	
Lector	Annie Gajadhar	

NOVEMBER

	7 TH	14 TH
A-Minister	Annie Gajadhar	Bette Deller
Lector	Anna Graeber	Jean Opeka

	21 ST	28 TH
A-Minister	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
Lector	Bette Deller	Steve McKisson

DECEMBER

	5 TH	12 TH
A-Minister	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
Lector	Ramesh Das	Richard Moore

	19 TH	26 TH
A-Minister	Richard Moore	Lessons and Carols
Lector	Billy Clark	--