

THE PARISH CRIER
EMMANUEL (BAUST)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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From the Pastor's Desk

January 2022

It looked to me like the year of 2021 was filled with mixed blessings. We regained some of what we lost during the first year or so of the pandemic. Folks traveled a little more but under increased restrictions and requirements due to COVID. Baust Church restarted many of its programs but not all. Life is better but not the way we remember from pre-COVID times and certainly not the way we hope it will be in the future. We all continue to do the best with what we have and to hold out hope for a better future.

Of course we experienced some setbacks as well. Not the least of which are the COVID variants which have been abundant. Even though there are break-through infections brought on by these variants, those who are willing and able to be vaccinated have little to fear from them if they are healthy to begin with. We still have those with underlying health conditions who are at greater risk and so they must take extra precautions. So many issues to consider as we begin 2022.

As we look toward the new year we must cling to the hope of a better year before us. Hebrews 10:23-25 gives us some encouragement, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." We live with good and with evil every day as we await the second coming of our Lord but we should not be distracted by bumps in the road. Hopefully this year will be a year of reevaluation and reconstruction of our lives in the current time. Looking back will probably not help as much as pushing forward with open minds and open hearts. I will leave you with these humorous words from a poem by Ogden Nash.

Good Riddance, But Now What?

By Ogden Nash

Come, children, gather round my knee;
Something is about to be.
Tonight's December thirty-first,
Something is about to burst.
The clock is crouching, dark and small,
Like a time bomb in the hall.
Hark! It's midnight, children dear.
Duck! Here comes another year.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Jeff and Cathy



Greetings Church Families & Friends,

We are closing on another successful year for Baust Church.

During the weeks of Jeff's vacation we had more people using the steps to the preachers room and realized we need a railing for the steps. This and the church bathroom downstairs are 2 projects we hope to get done this winter.

Two additional upgrades to the sound system. A big screen TV is now located at the front pew. This enables Pastor Jeff to communicate during Time with Children with those online and also see who is worshipping online.

The other upgrade was 2 mics have been installed the in the center arch at the altar. They will pick up the voice of anyone speaking anywhere in the sanctuary.

The consistory voted to overhaul/modernize the Baust Church website. We are looking for the website to be more visually appealing, and easy to navigate. They will provide website maintenance, content updates and training services to bring Beth Raver ready to take over.

I would like to thank the outgoing consistory persons—Corey Wilt, Beth Raver and Bob Dougherty for their work this past year.

I welcome Mike Rodkey, Ed Dutterer, Susan Hardinger and Cal Bloom as new consistory persons. They will be installed on January 2, 2022

Sandra Stonesifer, Consistory President

This is an excerpt from a letter the church received from Sheila Helgerson of Earl's Place.

"Shirley Ecker and Doug White delivered your donation of men's clothing earlier this week. It is thanks to you that I can share thoughts from the residents such as the note below from Linwood."

"out of all the places I have been, Earl's Place is the place that knows you are a human being. The staff is very professional and into you getting the tools you need to make it on your own. I have nothing but love and respect for the staff. They don't judge--they help." The donation was men's suit coats that Susie had pulled out after the Sock Sale.

Sandy

What's the Pastor Reading Now?



In choosing this book by Chip Heath and Dan Heath my thought is that it might help the reader to deal with certain experiences during the pandemic in a positive way and to look constructively to what lies ahead in 2022. "*The Power of Moments: Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact*," was actually published in 2017 before we knew anything about COVID 19 or were taking pandemics seriously. This book is about processing life experiences in a positive way and was not touched by pandemic thinking.

The authors explore why certain brief experiences can jolt us and elevate us and change us—and how we can learn to create these moments in our life and work. They believe that our most memorable positive moments are dominated by four elements: elevation, insight, pride, and connection. Understanding these elements and putting them to use in our lives can create positive experiences for ourselves and others. The Heaths consider why we tend to remember the best or worst moment of an experience, as well as the last moment, and forget the rest. Why "we feel most comfortable when things are certain, but we feel most alive when they're not." And why our most cherished memories are clustered into a brief period during our youth. The basic premise is that many of the defining moments in our lives are the result of accident or luck—but why would we leave our most meaningful, memorable moments to chance when we can create them?

My thought on reading this book at the beginning of the year is simply to start in a place that might help the reader to intentionally design a better year ahead for themselves and those around them.

THANK YOU

- Susie Lawrence and Jane Rodkey for organizing the Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale.
- The Baust Church Bakers for all their hard work making the Cookies and Candy.
- All of those who decorated the church for Christmas, especially to Chris Raver for setting up the Christmas tree and the Nativity in front of the church.



FUNDRAISING REPORT

2021 was another difficult year to have fundraisers with the mandates and restrictions. But we had some very successful fundraisers.

Our sales for Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards was \$5,000 with a profit of \$750. We don't think of the poinsettias as a "money maker" but we had a profit of \$190 from the sales.

Another successful Cookie and Candy Sale. Not quite as many orders as last year but it didn't seem that way to our bakers and cooks. Our profit was \$3000.

Some excerpts from emails I got after the sale :

"Hi Sandy. I wanted to thank you and the other church members for doing the cookie sale. It was so organized and easy to order and pick up. The cookies are absolutely delicious, I wish I had ordered more. It's a lot of work but please know it was very appreciated".

Sharon

"Hi Sandy- just wanted to say that the cookies were really beautiful this year. Loved how they were packaged so nicely also. Thank you for this opportunity every Christmas. I love serving them for the holidays".

Darlene



MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2021

YEAR TO DATE

Income:	\$ 10,719.47	\$130,515.92
Expenses:	\$ 10,988.92	\$ 97,660.38
Balance:	\$ (269.45)	\$32,855.54

Capital Fund

2020 Carryover:		\$34,784.51
2021 Donation/Fundraiser	\$ 200.00	\$17,458.24
Transfer from Mem. Fund	\$	\$ 0
Expenditures:	\$ 1,003.83	\$11,848.04
Remaining Balance:	\$ (803.83)	\$40,394.71

Memorial Funds

Begin. Balance 01/01/21		\$55,775.09
2021 Donations:	\$	11,840.00
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$	2,318.24
Balance:	\$	\$65,296.85

2021 Mission Trip

<u>Fund Carryover from 2020</u>		\$ 2,500.56
Donations & Fundraisers:	\$	\$ 0
Trip Expenses:	\$	\$
Balance:	\$	\$2,500.56

SOCK Designated Funds

Beginning Balance 1-1-21		\$ 775.02
Income 2021	\$	\$ 1,576.00
School donations	\$	\$ 0
Balance:	\$	\$ 2,351.02

General Fund income includes \$20,000 inherited Funds

Reminders:

January 9 – Winter Communion

When mailing items to the church you may use P.O. Box 44, Taneytown, MD 21787.



JANUARY



13 – Sandra Gross
13 – Sharon Jordan
15 – Heather Rodkey

17 – Brent Grove
19 – Dave Robinson
26 – Joyce Harrison

8 – Sharon & Skeeter Dull



"Pastor Jeff and Cathy wish to thank the congregation for Christmas cards and other niceties extended to them during the Christmas season. May God bless you richly and may you have a very Happy New Year!"

"I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for the thoughtful gift card I received for Christmas. With my back issues, Bob or my daughter fixes all our meals. It will be nice to treat him to a nice meal that he doesn't have to help prepare. Again, thank you very much."

Helen Miller

ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO HELEN MILLER BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 17TH.