

BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP

Wayne and Pauline Reisberg first joined the **Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCWC)** through an invitation from Rev. Gail Ennis of Grace UMC. Their initial project took place in Lutherville, followed by work in trailer parks and homes across Woodlawn, Randallstown, Reisterstown, and Lochern. The team built handicap ramps, painted interiors and exteriors, and cleaned yards, rooms, and buildings. A key part of the camp experience was the nightly fellowship dinners and Friday evening worship, which helped to create lasting friendships among team members and homeowners, aged 50 to 105. Faithful participants included Jay Spaulding, Galen Miller, Rich Englar, Bill Ellis, and Susan Farnum, along with her grandchildren. BCCWC remains a recipient of the Missions Auction proceeds from Ward's Chapel. The camp also honors the memory of Jay Spaulding for his dedicated service.

STEPHEN MINISTRY is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations by equipping and empowering lay caregivers, Stephen Ministers, who are called to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

The Stephen Ministry program at Ward's began after two of our members (Wayne & Pauline Reisberg) were trained as leaders at the 2013 national training conference in Florida. Usually, a person trains as a Stephen Minister by Stephen Leaders first and then can decide to become a Stephen Leader themselves. In our case we had to train ourselves and our first candidates for Stephen Ministers at the same time.

We started with two SM candidates plus ourselves the first year. Until 2020, we had trained eight people to be caregivers to care receivers in the congregation and/or the community. Candidates may be struggling through a difficult time experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis. The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential. Men are matched with men and women with women.

Supervision was monthly by the Pastor and the Stephen Leaders meeting with the Stephen Ministers. Lay people nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others. People who are hurting have a compassionate companion, a caring Christian friend who provides emotional and spiritual support.

There is additional support for grieving families. A set of four "Journeying through Grief" books are given or sent, reaching out with care at four crucial points during the grieving process, providing helpful, timely information while helping the person feel valued and remember.

THE FUTURE OF WARD'S CHAPEL

In 2024, we are incredibly proud of the long and rich history of Ward's Chapel, a church that has not only connected its members but has also reached out to serve the community. From missions in Western Maryland to Baltimore County, and by supporting various organizations, Ward's Chapel has been a beacon of outreach and ministry. Yet, these efforts only scratch the surface of the depth of our church's work.

As we celebrate our 230th anniversary, Ward's Chapel is looking toward the future with enthusiasm. Through participation in the Congregational Vitality program, a leadership group now meets regularly to explore new ideas to invigorate our congregation. In 2024, we successfully remodeled our worship space, enhancing it with new audio and video capabilities to better connect with the community and members who are homebound due to mobility issues.

Our mission continues through Ward's Chapel Preschool, the monthly food pantry, mission funding programs, Heifer International, and the quarterly community outreach program, A Table Church. Our annual yard sale, auction, and cookie bake remain cherished traditions. With new hope, a fresh vision, and revitalized leadership, Ward's Chapel embarks on a new chapter of ministry, ready to embrace the next 230 years of service and spiritual growth.

Visit our web site for more information about opportunities for service, fellowship, worship and programs for preschoolers, children, youth, and adults of all ages. www.wardschapel.org

**Ward's Chapel UMC**
Celebrating 230 Years



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October 27, 2024
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship
10:00 a.m.

The Church Gathers

Prelude & Processional
Bringing In the Light of Christ
Greeting:

Colton Remmers
Pastor Steven Cho

*Gathering Hymn: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH57

*Call to Worship: (*responsive*)

One: Almighty God: you built your church on the rock of human faith and trust;
we praise you for Jesus Christ, the foundation and cornerstone of all we believe.

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: For the faith of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Hagar, and Jacob;
and for Moses and Miriam who led your people out of slavery,
and established the Law in their hearts;

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: For the prophets who listened for your Word
and called your people back from disobedience
and from the worship of human-made gods;

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: For those who foretold the coming of your Son Jesus Christ,
and prepared the way for his birth:

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: For Mary and Joseph who taught him to love you
and trained him in synagogue and Temple to serve you;

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: For Christ, our Savior, who loved us and gave himself for us on the cross;

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: For the apostles and martyrs of the church,
who gave their lives that we, in our day,
might receive the good news of grace and forgiveness:

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: For John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Susanna Wesley, Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge,
Francis Asbury who labored mightily to spread Scriptural holiness over this land.

Many: We praise you, O God.

One: Be with us, their children and revive their work among us,
that, inspired by the same faith and upheld by the same grace in Word and Sacrament,
we may share in the great mission which you have set before us.

Many: O Lord, please hear us.

One: Save us, Creator, from living in the past and from resting on the work of others.
Let us find a new beginning and a new vision;
that we may know our task in this place and this world today.

Many: Amen.

(Adapted from "Services and Resources for Worship On Historic Occasions," The Commission on Archives and History, The United Methodist Church, 1979)

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

**Gracious and Loving God,
you saw fit to bring people to this land over 200 years ago**

Sunday School Activities and Service Projects:

- **Baltimore County Humane Society:** Created dog toys, made treats, and collected supplies and food.
- **Flying Duck Farm Horse Sanctuary (Randallstown):** Baked and sold cupcakes at church, donating proceeds, and worked on farm cleanup.
- **Shepherd's Staff (Westminster):** Packed senior bags for Christmas and assembled Easter baskets for children.
- **Operation Christmas Child:** Packed shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse.
- **Board of Child Care:** Sent monthly birthday cards, collected mittens at Christmas, and wrapped gifts for residents.
- **WC Food Pantry:** Monthly assembly of grocery bags.
- **Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday:** Organized a canned food drive.
- **Additional Projects:** Made blankets for adults and infants, created Valentine cards for Arden Courts residents, hosted family Advent and Lent activities, Easter egg hunts, baked and delivered treats for local fire-fighters, cleaned church grounds and chairs, and collected donations for local missions such as The Dove House and Westminster Missions, as well as school supplies.

STAR FELLOWSHIP & LIBERTY GOOD TIMERS CLUB

The **Star Fellowship** was formed nearly two decades ago after separating from the United Methodist Women. This group of women meets monthly to share meals, exchange stories, and support each other through fellowship. They also organize small fundraisers that benefit local non-profit organizations, including the Susanna Wesley House, Night of Peace Family Shelter, Inc., and the Board of Child Care. Their commitment to community service has remained strong throughout the years.

The **Liberty Good Timers** began as the "Liberty Golden Age" club in 1985 when Baltimore County took over all senior centers. To maintain financial independence, the group became self-sustaining, initially meeting at St. James Lutheran Church in Rockdale. After relocating to Wards Chapel UMC in 2004, the club continues to thrive with 16 members. Shirley Tucker, the oldest living member, has been a part of the group for many years, and the club remains dedicated to fellowship and serving seniors in the community.

Camp HOPE (Christian Appalachian Mountain Project Helping Other People Enthusiastically)

Ward's Chapel's involvement with Camp HOPE was initiated by Wayne and Pauline Reisberg in 1988, with encouragement from Pastor Olin Herndon and Beulah Mae Feezer. The first team had three youth participants, and as the program grew, multiple teams worked at various sites. The teams performed tasks such as painting houses, repairing porches, siding, and building handicap ramps. They also developed caregiving skills by listening to homeowners' stories.

Youth from many families have participated, including the Reisberg, Gill, and Sellman families, among many others. Evening activities such as volleyball, capture the flag, and youth-led worship sessions provided opportunities for leadership development. High school graduates have returned as assistant and team leaders. Parents have also supported the program, with some even taking on leadership roles. Camp HOPE Sunday has become a cherished tradition, allowing participants to share their experiences and personal growth. The program honors the memory of Brent Miller and Stephen Showman.

WCUMC VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION TEAM

The **WCUMC Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team** was led by Wayne and Pauline Reisberg after completing VIM Leadership training. They organized numerous mission trips to support communities in need, including Cumberland, Manidokan Camp, and flood relief efforts in Maryland, the Carolinas, and beyond. They partnered with Christ UMC and Wesley Freedom UMC to provide aid in West Virginia, Hurricane Katrina-affected areas, and regions along the Mississippi River impacted by flooding. The team developed skills in drywalling, including demolition, replacement, and spackling, while forging lasting friendships with fellow Christian volunteers. The mission work honors the memory of Robert Wayne Feezer, Sue Turner, Virginia Dettmer, and Jay Spaulding for their significant contributions to the mission efforts. In addition to hands-on mission work, the VIM team also organized flood bucket collections, initially on an as-needed basis and later expanding to monthly collections to support emergency cleanup efforts.

ON OUR OWN (1922- Present)

In 1922, under Rev. Frank Y. Jagers, the church became an independent station in the Baltimore Circuit. A member provided the land and building for a parsonage. Dr Jagers became our first pastor and served for four years during which Ward's Chapel organized an orchestra directed by Mr. Walter Gries. The orchestra performed at religious and community events until 1932. Rev. Seymour arrived in 1924 and served Ward's until 1931.

During his term, the congregation completed a campaign to add stained-glass windows to replace the multi-paned windows and shutters. The stained-glass windows replaced windows in the sanctuary and first floor fellowship hall & Sunday School room. A separate pamphlet was published and an updated version is available.

In 1928, Ward's Chapel began its long-term support of the Strawbridge Boys Home in Sykesville by serving an annual supper on Methodist Day. This commitment continues today through our support of the former Board of Child Care, now known as Everstand.

In 1941, Rev. Clarence Knapp arranged the installation of a pre-owned pipe organ. This necessitated the building of the organ tower to the rear of the sanctuary. The tower also included our first bathrooms.

In 1944, a group of Trustees bought twelve acres. In 1946, the Ward's Chapel Cemetery Association was formed to provide perpetual care.

In 1946, because of overcrowding in the Sunday School space, the ladies of the church organized a Tom Thumb Wedding to raise funds for a new two-story addition with a fellowship area in the basement and four Sunday School rooms on the ground level.

In 1955, Ward's Chapel was recognized as the Rural Church of the Year by the Baltimore Conference in recognition of rapid growth of our church and Sunday School membership under the leadership of pastors Beall and Sampselle.

In 1958, the young adult BYKOTA (Be Ye Kind One to Another) group decided to make a Memorial Plot in the cemetery for men killed in active military service. This was done by enclosing the area with stone pillars and chain.

In 1976, Ward's built a Fellowship Hall to accommodate large events like the Sweetheart Banquet, 70+ Dinner, and the Roast Beef Supper.

In 1980, under the leadership of Pastor Dave Looney, we met the request of young parents for a preschool.

In 1987, the Heritage Fund was established to provide for future construction needs at Ward's Chapel.

In 1998, an elevator was placed on the side of the church, near the small parking lot.

In 2013, the Stephen Ministry program at Ward's began after two of our members (Wayne & Pauline Reisberg) were trained as leaders at the 2013 national training conference in Florida. We started with two SM candidates plus ourselves the first year.

In 2014, following years of strategic planning, Ward's felt the need to modernize our electrical and heating and cooling systems. This also provided additional office space, space for fellowship near the sanctuary and greater accessibility via an indoor elevator.

CURRENT MINISTRIES

This updated summary highlights Wards Chapel's history from 1996 to 2024, celebrating its 230th anniversary since its founding in 1794. The following sections provide a glimpse into the church's vibrant community, focusing on its mission work, fellowship, and service through various programs and ministries over the years.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES UP TO 2024

The mission of the Sunday School is to nurture Christian faith, build a supportive community, and equip people of all ages to live as Christian disciples in their daily lives. This mission is fulfilled through active Bible study, fostering fellowship, and participating in meaningful service projects.

and to sustain them until the present age.

You raised up John Wesley, Frances Asbury, Robert Strawbridge, John Goucher and others to proclaim anew the gift of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

By that same faith, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us carry on the message of your love and grace to a new generation, running the race that has been set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

Grant us strength for the journey.

Correct our faith where it strays from the path.

And remind us, that despite our differences, we are united as One. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Offering Our Gifts to the Lord

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

*Presentation & Response: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH95

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message:

Ron Weller

Choral Anthem:

"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"
(Words by Edward Hopper, music by John E. Gould)

Ward's Chapel Choir

*Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 & Matthew 16:18

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message:

Letters from Our Heroes
John Wesley
Robert Strawbridge
Frances Asbury
John Goucher

Rev. Dr. Steven (Sunghwan) Cho

Greeting:

District Superintendent Ann LaPrade

Presentation and Reading of Letters:

from Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
from Pastor Don Burgard

Acknowledgement of Honored Guests

Strawbridge Shrine Association

Presentation of the Gift:

Mary Buzby, President of the Strawbridge Shrine Association

Holy Communion:

***We practice an open table—
ALL are welcome to come.
(Gluten-free option is available.)***

Church Anniversary Communion Liturgy

Invitation: (***responsive***)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(In unison)

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
 always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
 Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth,
 God of Abraham and Sarah,
 God of Ruth and David,
 God of the priests and the prophets,
 God of Mary and Joseph,
 God of the apostles and martyrs,
 God of our mothers and fathers,
 God of John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Robert Strawbridge, Francis Asbury and John Goucher
 God of the pastors who have served this congregation
 and all those who have entered our doors,
 God of our children to all generations:
 You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
 and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day
 when justice shall roll down like waters
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
 when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war anymore.
 From the dust of a new nation you raised up a people with a passion for justice, mercy, and piety.
 And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of you glory.
 Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Institution of the Holy Communion

Pastor Steven Cho

Jesus took the everyday, common loaf of bread,
 lifted it, gave thanks to God, and blessed it.
 He broke the bread, offered it to the disciples, saying:
 “Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me.”

And after the meal was over, Jesus took the cup,
 gave thanks to God, blessed it, and offered it to the disciples, saying:
 “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
 Poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this in remembrance of me.”

Prayer of Consecration

Pastor Steven Cho

Sharing Holy Communion Elements

Sending Forth

*Closing Hymn: “Forward Through the Ages ” UMH555

*Taking the Light of Christ into the World Colton Remmers

*Benediction: District Superintendent Ann LaPrade

*Postlude

Announcements

* If you are able, please stand.

- Hymns & prayers designated with FWS are found in the small black hymnal, *The Faith We Sing*.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF WARDS CHAPEL’S HISTORY (1794-1922)

The congregation of Ward’s Chapel traces its roots to the early days of Methodism, possibly predating its formal recognition as a preaching place in Conference records. Its origins are likely linked to the work of Robert Strawbridge, who frequently traveled the Liberty Road, which passed near his home in present-day Carroll County. The road led through the area around Ward’s Chapel and connected to key locations like Joppa and Elkridge Landing.

Francis Asbury, an important figure in early Methodism, also had strong ties to the area. He visited nearby Reisterstown in 1777 and contributed to the formation of Methodist Societies, including one at the home of Joshua Owings in Owings Mills. Joshua Owings and Cornelius Howard, both significant figures in the early Methodist movement, were vestrymen at St. Thomas Church. Additionally, the Rev. John Coleman, a parish rector, was active in the Methodist movement, traveling and preaching with Asbury before the 1784 separation of Methodism from the Church of England. Richard Owings, Joshua’s son and the first American-born Methodist preacher, is believed to have married Rachael Ward, further connecting the Ward family to the early development of Methodism at Ward’s Chapel.

In 1790, Rev. William Colbert, a circuit rider, preached at Ward’s Chapel, and the first official preaching appointment was recorded in 1794 at John Ward’s home. In 1802, with the straightening of Liberty Road, Robert Ward built the New Tavern, where the congregation held class meetings and monthly preaching. A significant camp meeting in 1814, held on John Ward’s land, helped grow the congregation. As the group expanded, plans for a dedicated meeting house began, and in 1843, Robert and Mary Ward deeded land for the construction of Ward’s Chapel, officially incorporated later that year.

In 1844-1845, the first Ward’s Chapel building was constructed, a small log structure built by dedicated members using donated logs. While no pictures of the original chapel exist, a rectangular outline on the west lawn of the current church likely marks its location. Some members recall a gravel path leading from Liberty Road to the site. Tradition suggests the chapel had a shed roof and was served by circuit ministers Rev. William Hank and Rev. R.H.W. Brent. The church was dedicated by Bishop Beverly Waugh in the summer of 1845.

For 25 years, the log church served the congregation until, after the Civil War, a larger stone building in the Greek Revival style was planned. A building committee selected John Butts as the builder, and stone was quarried from local farms and transported by ox-carts. The new church, completed in 1870, bears the construction date on a stone in its south gable.

The new Ward’s Chapel building was dedicated on May 30, 1871, with religious services led by Rev. T.M. Eddy and Rev. W.R. Davis. A notice in the Baltimore Sun announced the event, and subscriptions collected on the dedication day amounted to \$1,706. Despite the post-Civil War economic difficulties, the total cost of the new building was \$7,000, a significant investment for the time.

Ward’s Chapel, part of the historic Baltimore Circuit, saw many prominent ministers, including William Watters and John F. Goucher. In 1922, under Rev. Frank Y. Jagers, the church became an independent station, with land donated for a parsonage.