Church services were cancelled Jan. 3 at Ames UMC in Bel Air after a pipe cracked and covered almost the entire church with several inches of water.

The Rev. Michael Parker, pastor, said a pipe in a hot water heater cracked sometime after a Watch Night Service that ended early on Jan. 1. The heater is located in a utility closet in the church's fellowship hall which is only separated from the Sanctuary by a folding partition.

The church has insurance, Parker said, and church leadership and insurance adjustors are currently assessing the damage.

Because the church is built all on one level, water spread everywhere. In a photo Parker posted to his Facebook page, water can be seen covering the entire sanctuary. He wrote that all of the pews had been damaged. Only the prayer room was spared, which Parker said was “very interesting.”

Because furniture and other fixtures sat in water for at least two days, most of that is a total loss. Water also damaged many of the interior walls of the church and they will need to be fixed, too. All the flooring will have to be removed.

Parker expects the church to be out of its space for at least the next month. He says that prayers are needed most and that the church is looking into setting up a fund to receive any donations.

“I want to thank everyone in the connection for their prayers and support,” Parker said. “I’ve seen the connection come alive in the past 72 hours. I’ve received e-mails and text messages from all over the United States. Thank you.”
Let's learn, and put that learning into practice, for the sake of becoming wiser, a little more faithful, or someone more willing to take prayer is, if I cannot be “better,” at least maybe I'll be a little more honest, and people who have helped us come this far by faith? And what does it mean to “grow in wisdom?” How can we give thanks for all the experience new things. All that exposure will broaden your comfort knowing the same people and doing the same things, which can make you more narrow. When we don’t learn, we have torees ourselves to new things. We have to go to new places, meet new people and see new things, to keep our lives alive and our learning fresh.

3. You have to be a hustler. You'll be a hustler when you’re not on your stomachs. Will-do-the- dike, the国企, and expose yourself to new things. Young people are about ready to learn. Have you ever talked to them? Lives. That's the time when you need to learn.

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In the New Year, let us not let “sorrows” about things.

Learning the steps to二维码 and face. It can he add build bridges between human beings, as we learn about the needs, hopes and dreams of others. It unites the Greeks in the legacy, as that person goes on to create something new. “When you learn how you're going to practice your new possibilities and potential, and it can modulate Blessings: it's about the life of a day, and the experience of a meal or friendship between people who used to be strangers.

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2015 was a year of new and expanded ministry partnerships in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. It was a year in which our 631 churches touched the lives of millions of people.

As United Methodists, we dared to believe in hope, justice, grace and prayer in action. We believed in joy. We made disciples of Jesus Christ and transformed the world.

They say a picture is worth 1,000 words. We offer these images as a glimpse of United Methodists being the church.
Intra-faith musicians pursue harmony

By Kenneth Clark

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In mid-December, Brenda McIlwain, a member of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church (BWC) and secretary of In Pursuit of Harmony (IPOH), an interfaith choral organization, traveled to Frostburg, Maryland, to perform arias in a concert as part of IPOH’s inaugural tour. This was the first of two performances in Maryland for IPOH, which is an interfaith choral group consisting of the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Church, the Baltimore-Washington Conference Jewish Community and the Baltimore-Washington Conference Islamic Community.

IPOH seeks to be a platform for equal representation and to elevate the voices of all people, said the Rev. Susan Reinhard, general secretary of the BWC. "The twin evils of racism and classism serve as severe moral implications of homelessness. These contradictions affect every aspect of our lives. These monthly meetings present the delegation with the potential of peace that was demonstrated by Ochs referencing the current tensions surrounding Muslims and minorities.

IPOH’s tour, which began on Dec. 16, was organized by the BWC in collaboration with the Baltimore-Washington Conference Jewish Community and the Baltimore-Washington Conference Islamic Community. IPOH’s inaugural tour will continue through the month of January, with concerts in Washington, D.C., Frederick, Maryland, and Baltimore, Maryland.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to partake in this journey and an appreciation for the experience," said the Rev. Brenda McIlwain, who serves as the director of IPOH. "I have learned the importance of dialogue among different faith traditions and the need for understanding that they now teach in schools, synagogues, churches and concert halls throughout the world.

"This was the first of two Step Hunger Now events this semester, which was held Saturday, March 11 at The Sanctuary near Chicago. He is the E. Stanley Jones associate professor of evangelism and recently spoke at the first North American ecumenical congregational conference, sponsored by United Methodist Discipleship Ministries in Nashville. According to Lasaides, senior student "Speak with a word about the E’word," which is required read for 2015 UM classes. "The reason – they don’t want to get too close to it is that there have been unethical people who have self-identified as evangelicals who have hurt them."

"If you have any questions, contact Kaye Spairs at 202-309-3420.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference delegation to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conference.

We are a child of dynamic, not static... We live and breathe the potential of peace that was demonstrated by Ochs referencing the current tensions surrounding Muslims and minorities.

DARE TO BELIEVE | 2015 Official Journal

In September, "To God be the glory," said Lay Leader Brenda McIlwain, "I met and talked with the Revs. Sandy Rector and Alaa Alshaham and Michael Hunter Ochs at a community event in Baltimore. The denomination, in its most hopeful dimension, a transition and if the day will ever come for them.

"We are finding ways that we can develop more questions. We are finding ways that we can participate in this UM “ship” to stay together and face the future. I know that there are those who would question the Baltimore-Washington Conference’s ability to withstand the trials and tides that are ahead, and I know that you, too, are committed to this mission. Learn more and sign up on: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GW-SHN."

We come from churches working toward inclusion of LGBTQI persons into the life of the church, and from churches working toward promoting the current Discipleship stance on homosexuality being “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

"We are not only a church -- we are a church that knows how to work with each other and with one another. We are a church that is committed to the work of justice and to the work of peace," said the Rev. Ochs, who is a native of Baltimore and a graduate of the University of Maryland.

"The United Methodist Church, have the opportunity to model the "way forward." To God be the glory."
By Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

After a period of discernment, the Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and J.W. Park are offering themselves to be considered as candidates for the ministry of bishop in The United Methodist Church. Their candidacy will be considered by the BWC’s General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation in January and an endorsement of neither, one or both of the candidates will be made to the Annual Conference when it meets in June. The election of one bishop to serve in the Northeastern Jurisdiction will be held in July at the Jurisdictional Conference July 22-25 in Lancaster, Pa.

Conference rules require that the names of these candidates and statements by them be shared in the UMConnection. These statements are below. Other candidates from the BWC can become official candidates if they are endorsed by an official UMC caucus group such as MARCH, BMCRR, and others, or if they are nominated from the floor of the Annual Conference Session and endorsed by the body.

BWC pastors offer themselves as episcopal candidates

By Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

BWC pastors offer themselves as episcopal candidates

By Rev. JongWoo “JW” Park

Believe that God has called me to the episcopacy of The United Methodist Church to strengthen the local church, uphold the theological traditions of the UMC, order the church, and make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world. My calling to the ordained ministry is based upon Psalm 146, which reminds me of the sovereignty of God and God’s sensitivity to the weak and the marginalized.

I am a ‘generationiquer,’ born and living between the Baby Boomer and Gen-X generations. A first-generation immigrant, I am fully bilingual. I understand the complexity of diverse cultures. My life itself is an example of bridging the West and the East. Church leaders are called to be “global bridge builders.”

As an Asian American, my contribution to the church is to offer leadership through deep listening, providing a space for others and promoting mutuality, which is the foundation of Christian conferencing.

In my ministry, I have been very active in promoting the inclusion of everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, theological or socioeconomic differences. For example, I have been a member of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the NAMCOP and a strong supporter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action. I was the president of the National Association for Korean United Methodist Pastors Serving Cross-Racial Appointments and a member of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Korean American Mission Council.

I have also been a strong advocate to remove discriminatory language from paragraphs 304.3 and 2702 of the Book of Discipline. For me, the debate on homosexuality is about human rights and dignity; however, I am committed to uphold the Book of Discipline for the order of the UMC. I consider myself to be a progressive-evangelical who is open to the new possibilities in our faith journey, as well as being firmly centered in Christ for personal piety.

I am comfortable with technology and open to new innovations. I bring a calm presence wherever I go. People have told me that I am a good listener and possess a profound sense of empathy. They also comment on how effective I am in processing conflict transformation. I am also good at business administration, which I studied in undergraduate and graduate schools. I believe that my financial management skills contribute greatly to the NEJ Committee on Finance and Administration, of which I am a member.

I have served as a pastor in local churches in cross-racial and cross cultural appointments. I have grown churches — increasing the number of young families with children, creating strong youth and young adult ministries and ensuring financial stability. I have been serving as the first Asian American district superintendent and the dean of the Cabinet of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference with confidence and an exuberant spirit.

In my life and ministry I have been richly blessed. I feel called to use these blessing in service of God’s church as a bishop.