



**BROWN
MEMORIAL
PARK AVENUE**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Tidings

NOV./DEC. 2015

Pastor's Reflections

Rev. Andrew Foster Connors

Senior Pastor

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. The run-up has none of the frenzied pre-Christmas rigmarole. There are no end of the year deadlines to be met. And the purpose of the holiday bridges the sacred and the secular effortlessly. Thankfulness is a universal human experience. It is also at the center of the Christian faith. Even the most uncertain of Christians knows enough to give God thanks. Parents who consider themselves unqualified in most things religious, nonetheless find themselves teaching their children how to thank God before going to bed at night. Of all the virtues that grow from faith, gratitude needs little explanation.



When I was winding my way through the questions that led me away from the Christian faith – questions that would ultimately

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Advent 2015: People, Get Ready!

Two thousand years ago, a man named John the Baptist took the ancient words of the prophet Isaiah and cried them out from the wilderness: “Prepare the way for the Lord!” Fifty years ago, a man named Curtis Mayfield took the ancient words of John the Baptist and adopted them for his Gospel-tinged classic, “People, Get Ready.” Today, we return once again to the well-worn rituals of Advent, a season of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. We’ll hear ancient stories and add our own. We’ll sing familiar songs and contribute our own verse. We’ll take this central story of our tradition and locate it in our own time and place - Baltimore, 2015. Above all, we’ll prepare for the One whose name is Love.

This year, how will you prepare the way?

[Read more about this season's Advent activities at Brown on pages 3-4.](#) ↪

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Pastor's Reflections

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lead me back, I was surprised to find that gratitude occupied such a central place in Presbyterian theology and practice. I had been raised in a branch of the Christian faith that taught that God's saving power was conditional on my acceptance of Jesus as Lord. If I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, then I would be saved. The motivation for faith was as straightforward as going to college to get a higher paying job, or joining a fraternity to enter a more elite set of friends. You suffered through the experience to achieve something greater for yourself in the long run, a cost benefit calculation I had learned from an early age.

But Presbyterian theology taught otherwise. Grace was not something that God issued like a reward to the best students in the class. Grace was a gift – given to the undeserving, freely and without any cost-benefit analysis on God's part. Grace was pure gift, plain and simple. Faith

wasn't a prerequisite for God's love and generosity, it was the obvious response to God's beneficence. In fact, the whole of the Christian life could be described as the practice of gratitude – the obvious human response to a generous, loving God.

Some of the most central parts of our worship experience are geared toward the development of this kind of gratitude. When we announce the assurance of God's forgiveness, the whole congregation responds in song: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases! God's mercies never come to an end." Following the proclamation of God's Word in the sermon, we respond with affirmations of our faith and "calls to commitment." We gather around a table with bread and wine, responding to the grace of God's invitation. In fact, the word "Eucharist," often used to describe the sacrament of communion, literally means "thanksgiving."

Anne Lamott says that some of

the most genuine forms of gratitude arise out of grace found amid the most searing kinds of domestic pain. "It unfolds, and you experience it, and it is so horrible and endless that you could almost give up a dozen times. But grace can be the experience of a second wind, when even though what you want is clarity and resolution, what you get is stamina and poignancy and the strength to hang on. Through the most ordinary things—books, for instance, or a postcard, or eyes or hands – life is transformed" ("Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers," by Anne Lamott © 2012 Riverhead Books).

"If the only prayer you said was thank you," Meister Eckhart said, "that would be enough." I think I agree. God knows I have plenty to be thankful for. Most of us do. Life at its root is gift. The gift of a gracious, loving God. ♦

Pejuhutazizi Reunion

Attention all former Pejuhutazizi summer learning camp participants:

We are welcoming Dakota art and culture teachers, Fern Cloud and Karen Odden, to Baltimore and Brown Memorial Nov. 12-16.



One of the highlights of their visit will be a Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp potluck at the home of Chrystie and Doug Adams, Sunday Nov. 15, 3-8 p.m. All PFLC staff and campers from 2013, 2014 and 2015 are invited.

Fern and Karen's trip will also include sightseeing with Chrystie, Julie Hanks and Don Peeples on Nov. 13, and attending the Presbytery of Baltimore gathering and signing of the Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps partnership renewal on Nov. 14, followed by pizza and a movie that night (watching "Smoke Signals") at the Adams' home. On Sunday Nov. 15, Fern and Karen will work with the middle school Sunday School class and attend worship.

Please join us in giving them a warm welcome.





Advent Activities and Events

Advent Wreath Making

Sunday, Nov. 29

Please join us in the Assembly Room before (9-9:45 a.m.) and after worship for this long time tradition. Wreaths, greens and candles are all provided. If you have clippers or gardening gloves we recommend bringing them along. A \$10 per wreath donation is appreciated to help us cover our costs. As in years past, we will also have devotional materials and spiritual practice ideas available to enhance your Advent experience.

Midweek Worship

Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 - 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Each week of Advent, we'll deepen our spiritual practice with a short and simple Wednesday evening service with space for silence, Scripture, and a reflection from a member of the congregation. Each service will end with communion.



Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 20 - 11 a.m.

In keeping with our City Love theme this year, the Christmas pageant will be set in Baltimore City. In addition to the usual Nativity scene, you can expect extra Bawlmer magic and roles for anyone who wants to be involved. We are casting adults, youth and children.

- Minimum memorization is required.
- Intergenerational open to everyone
- Rehearsals for adults and youth during education hour **Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20**
- Rehearsals for children during the education hour **Dec. 13, 20**
- Possible Children's Choir role **Dates and times TBD**

Sign up with Tim Hughes by Nov. 29 if you are interested in participating.

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Thursday, Dec. 24 - 5:30 p.m.

A candlelight service retelling the Christmas story interspersed with favorite carols sung by the Chancel Choir, soloists and congregation. The prelude begins at 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Service of Prayer

Thursday, Dec. 31, 6:00 p.m.

A contemplative service of spoken and sung prayer, with readings and moments of silence interspersed.

Advent Activities

Continued from Page 3

Sundays After Christmas

Dec. 27 & Jan. 3, 11:00 a.m. Worship

The Meditation Circle and Education Hour will not take place these Sundays, but will return on Sunday, Jan. 10.

Youth Activities:

Middle School Greens Cutting & Capture the Flag Party

Saturday, Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., the Finney Home
All 6th-8th graders are invited to this annual party at 1115 Hollins Lane, which has two phases. Phase 1: Clip greens for Advent wreaths and church decorations. Phase 2: Capture the flag and hot chocolate. *RSVP with Tim or Cheryl Finney.*

Progressive Youth Dinner: Friday, Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m.

We'll visit three homes for a three-course dinner, concluding with a White Elephant Gift exchange (maximum gift value: \$10). Invited to attend are 6th-12th graders and all youth leaders. *More information coming soon.*

Youth Winter Weekend: Jan. 29-31, 2016

Middle and high school youth will return to Masanetta for our Annual Winter Weekend. We'll play games, explore a theme and worship together in addition to a day filled with skiing, snow tubing and waterpark opportunities. Cost - \$150. Scholarship funds are available. ♦

Christmas is Coming to Eutaw-Marshburn

by Sandra Fink and Susan Saudek

It is great to see parents organizing on behalf of their children - the parent committee at Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary has asked us to help them raise funds for wonderful enrichment programs that the school budget doesn't include, such as visits to museums, visits to the symphony, a day at a nature preserve, visits by young audience performers to the school and monthly events to honor students with perfect attendance.

To raise these funds, they have planned a Winter Wonderland for Friday Dec. 4. It will include a photo booth with Santa, and a Santa's workshop where parents can shop (at very reduced prices) for Christmas toys, home furnishings, warm winter coats and jackets, baked goods and more.

Here is where WE come in. Would you contribute a new toy for a child 6 to 12 years old? Would you donate any gently used winter coats, jackets, gloves/ boots/ scarves for either children or adults? All of these items will be offered for sale at a fraction of their original cost, making the joy of Christmas affordable.

We will have boxes at the back of the church to re-



ceive all gifts. **The boxes will be there from Nov. 1-29. Many thanks in advance.** We are thankful for all of you and also for our school parent involvement. ♦

New Weekly Prayer Service to Begin in January

Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.,
in the Sanctuary



As you move from the busyness of your day into your evening activities, you are invited to take some time to step apart from that busyness and join others in prayer. A prayer service every Thursday evening, 5:30-6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary, will become a regular part of the weekly worship schedule and is open to all.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. *Matthew 18: 20*

In the simple act of praying together—joining together to raise our minds and hearts to God—community is strengthened. Sitting in a circle, saying aloud or holding in silence the prayers of our own hearts, of our community and of the world, we feel closer to one another and to God.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18*

Within a liturgical framework, we will bring forth spoken and silent prayers from the church's ongoing prayer list, from prayer request cards, and from the deepest parts of our hearts.

... for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. *Romans 8: 26*

Our very intention to sit in prayer for each other and for the needs of the world helps us to hear one another and to be heard.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. *Philippians 4:6*

We will promote a community of prayer that honors requests for confidentiality as, together, we lift up our cares and needs, cry out for all who suffer, ask for relief from the pain and injustice of the world, and give thanks. ♦

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- *Philippians 4:6*

 All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this new prayer ministry and worship opportunity. If you have questions or want more information, please talk with anyone of us: Rachel Cunningham, Fred Cogswell, June Fletcher-Hill, Julie Hanks, Laura Urban, or Jenny Williams, or email Rachel at rachel@browndowntown.org.

Report from El Salvador

Susan Saudek shares with us the following report and photos: Our sister parish, Maria Madre de los Pobres, gathered in community for the annual "Analysis of Our Reality."

It is a wonderful forum for naming the good and the bad in the world, in their country and in their community of La Chacra. Everyone then gets a chance to give suggestions on how the church can respond, and finally a chance to celebrate community over a good lunch. Loved seeing the faces of so many good friends. ♦



Help Alleviate Hunger in Baltimore

Looking for a place where you can contribute to alleviating hunger in the City? Or prepare the unemployed to find jobs? Several such opportunities were raised at a recent urban witness group meeting in the context of learning about The Maryland Food Bank and its Food Works program that trains food workers and places them in jobs.

Laura Urban led a discussion of these programs and the link with hands-on food distribution in venues such as the Samaritan Community, where Sandra and Roger Fink add to the food available by weekly collecting car loads of donated food from Whole Foods for the food pantry shelves. These Brown members, as well as Beth Goldsby-Allen, a member of the Samaritan's Board, and Karen Nelson, one of three members who oversee Our Daily Bread casserole contributions, can help you find a place where your time and talent can benefit the hungry and help prepare the unemployed find jobs. ♦

 **On November 16 the group's focus will be on finding jobs for ex-offenders, a discussion to be led by Cheryl Finney. For more information about the meeting and how to get involved with the programs mentioned above, email Lynda Burton at lburton1@jhmi.edu.**

Brown Memorial Tutoring: Supporting Literacy with Skills, Compassion and Generosity

by Lisa Hoffberger

If you have ever studied Latin, you certainly will recall practicing declensions. Mastering them is essential for cracking the code needed to read and speak the language.

The English language has its own code, but can you remember cracking that code? For most, it happens naturally, so the methodology may not have been obvious. You may recall learning letters, both by name and symbol, as well as deciphering long from short vowels, but what about closed syllables or diphthongs or digraphs, and r-controlled words? Hmm.

Each week, on the third floor of the church's education building, volunteers with the Brown Memorial Tutoring program tutor Baltimore City children in English – children for whom reading does not come naturally. Trained in the systematic, multisensory approach of the famed Dr. Samuel Orton and Ms. Anna Gillingham, tutors use Orton-Gillingham-based lesson plans that follow a proven sequence of teaching sounds, symbols, blending, segmenting, and “syl/lab/i/ca/tion” in a way that these students can digest the skills needed to read, spell and write.

Understanding the “code” of the English written language is critical to achieving literacy. The code is the correspondence of a picture or symbol (i.e., letters) to an actual sound. Think again about your reading instruction. Of course we remember learning that there are 26 letters in the alphabet, 21 consonants and five vowels. Because language acquisition occurs naturally for most, many are not aware that there are 44 sounds to learn in the English language, and that the names of the letters may sound very different from the actual sound that each letter represents. The letter “x,” for example, is pronounced /ex/, but the sound it represents is /ks/.

It's easy for the majority of kids whose reading is on track developmentally. But for at-risk students and children with language-based learning issues, such as those struggling with speech, dyslexia, dys-



Tutoring Program Wish List

Tutors. Tutors are needed on Mondays and Thursdays.

Supplies: whiteboard markers, whiteboard cleaner, large paper clips, copy paper, lined pads of paper, #2 pencils and magic markers.

Music: Volunteers are needed to play and showcase musical instruments during circle time.

Children's book authors or illustrators: Come in and share your book with the children during circle time.

Financial donations: Money is being raised to purchase tables and chairs that fit elementary-sized students.

Brown Memorial Tutoring

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graphia, slow processing or behavior issues, the process is far from fluid, and they often find themselves falling further and further behind, unable to catch up without proper intervention.

Beginning readers must master certain skills, most basically that letters are pictures of sounds in words and written words are made up of symbols of sounds. They must blend sounds to read words, segment sounds in order to spell words and understand that the “code” can have wide variation. Fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and written expression also must be developed to become a good reader.

All of the students in the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program are behind grade-level in reading, putting them at severe risk of failure in school. The mission of 70-some remarkable tutors is to teach the code,

one-on-one, targeting the specific levels and needs for each child. Following expert guidance from the program’s paid staff, tutors use a plethora of resources: games, exercises, worksheets and an impressive library of books. It’s fun; we “play” games, but we are not “playing around.”

For more than five decades, Brown Memorial has been committed to helping struggling Baltimore City school children “build their skills, regain their confidence and succeed in school.” Recently, the Tutoring Program embarked on its annual fund drive. As everyone looks forward to the holiday giving seasons, we hope the Tutoring Program might be on your list, so that Brown Memorial can not only continue to provide this wonderful service, but expand its impact in the church’s needy neighboring communities.

Consider supporting literacy this year-end. You might call it hol/i/day giv/ing with a mis/sion! Either way, it’s sure to feel good. ♦

All Church Retreat and Youth Retreat: A Look Back

All the bluster of alleged superstorm Joaquin didn’t stop a great group of folks from Brown Memorial from going on retreat the first weekend in October. Thirty youth and adults spent the weekend playing and singing and talking about the grace of limitation. They were joined by many more adults and children for a Saturday full of small groups, games, hiking, paintball and worship that culminated in a square dance.



Save the date for next year’s retreat - Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016.



PHOTOS BY JIM VEATCH



Donor Recognition:

The Barry and David Evans Fund

by Phyllis McIntosh

I first came to Brown Memorial in 1978 to sing in the choir and was captivated by the excellence of the music program under Eugene Belt. Although I had been raised in a minister's family and had sung in churches as an adult, I had moved away from organized religion. I came to realize, however, that the social justice and spiritual journeying ethos of Brown meshed perfectly with my own, and I became a member in 1979.

Over the years I became deeply involved with all aspects of church life, beginning with serving on the committee that dealt with what became the amicable split of Brown Memorial Park Avenue from its offspring, Brown Memorial Woodbrook. My commitments included serving on Session, joining the first delegation to our sister parish in El Salvador in 1986, chairing two "Vision" committees, leading the worship committee to institute inclusive language at Brown, chairing the search committee that led to calling Roger Gench as pastor here in 1990, working with BUILD and the initial Eutaw Marshburn effort, and singing as soprano soloist for several years. I also had the great good fortune to marry Gene Belt and cherished our happy years together until his death in 2001.

In 1994, I established the Barry and David Evans Fund for urban ministry in honor of my parents. Ordained as a minister in the Congregational Church (later the United Church of Christ), my father, David Evans, was the son of a Welsh coal miner who emigrated to this country to work in

the mines of Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he died in a mine explosion while David was boy.

With no financial support from the mining company, which even deprived my father's family of company housing, the elder brother Elwin quit school to support the family. David eventually earned a scholarship to Hiram College, and after graduation, to Union Seminary in New York City. There he met and married Barry Evans, who at the time was working on a PhD in economics at Columbia University.

My mother chose that field of study to try to understand the forces behind the Great Depression. Her father had been a salesman and regional manager for a shoe company that couldn't survive the economic times, which resulted in the disaster of her father taking his own life so that his wife and two daughters could benefit from his life insurance policy. Barry, who had entered Vassar on scholarship at the time, was devastated but eventually continued her schooling, knowing that her father had made that sacrifice so she could.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHYLLIS MCINTOSH

This family history—a history of America at the time—deeply affected my siblings and me and colored our exposure to social injustices the family witnessed and worked against as we moved around the country to different pastorates. In California it was the Japanese, in Colorado the Mexican migrant workers, in Oklahoma the African Americans.

The full impact of those wrongs came to a head in Tulsa, where my father was pastor of the Fellowship Congregational Church in the mid to late '50s. He was active in Christian-Jewish relations and helped establish the first integrated church camp in that area. He welcomed an African American couple who wanted to join the church in 1959, but his invitation met with hostility and split the church. Although he "won" a vote of confidence, our family had to move to a new parish in St. Louis.

The accumulation of such experiences led me to engage in social justice issues at Brown Memorial, which in turn led to my decision to establish the fund in honor of my parents. ♦



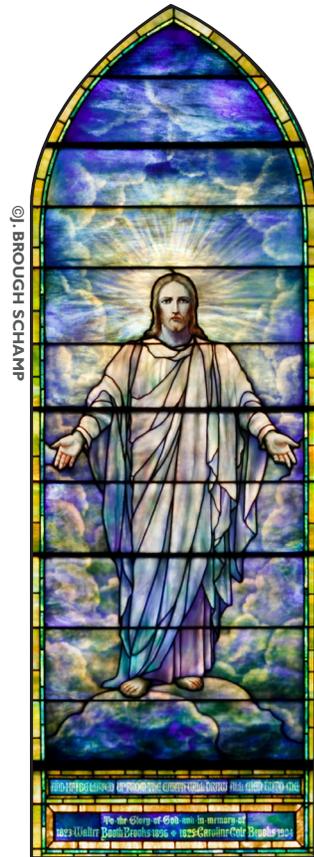
November Birthdays

- 11/01 Anne Heusler
- 11/02 Andrew Hughes
- 11/05 David Mock
- 11/05 Alex Reichelt
- 11/07 Barbara Cook
- 11/09 Miranda Hall
- 11/10 Lily Shields
- 11/12 Kate Foster Connors
- 11/13 Warner Brockman
- 11/14 Jonathan Hensley
- 11/14 David Luljak
- 11/16 Betsy Nix
- 11/16 David T. Urban
- 11/17 Jamie Cunningham
- 11/18 Jason Murphy Buc
- 11/18 Shirley Parry
- 11/18 Bert Schmickel
- 11/19 Luther A. Clark
- 11/19 Willard Graves
- 11/19 John Walker
- 11/20 Kevin Cross
- 11/20 Bonnie Schneider
- 11/20 Jennifer Rakowski
- 11/24 Patrick Riorda
- 11/25 Deborah Richardson
- 11/26 Peter Jackson
- 11/29 Eva Simone Neblo McNabney
- 11/29 Carolina Mills

 **Note:** If you wish to have your birthday listed in *The Tidings*, please contact Sharon Holley, church secretary, at 410-523-1542, or via e-mail at Sharon@browndowntown.org.

What's the Tiffany Mission Dream Fund?

by David Nyweide



The new Tiffany Mission Dream Fund was recently established and is a novel approach to distributing proceeds from Tiffany Series events. Proceeds above speaker or performer costs have traditionally been divvied up equally between the Global Mission and Urban Witness committees.

To try something new, the Tiffany Mission Dream Fund was started to empower the congregation to use Tiffany Series proceeds for projects or programs reflecting the church's mission of social justice in action. The Tiffany Mission Dream Fund is intended to be for projects or programs that may or may not be part of Brown's existing or new mission-related activities.

A total of \$3,500 was available from 2015 to fund one or more recipients of any age. Applications were submitted to a Session subcommittee in October; they will be reviewed with the awardee(s) announced in December. A year's worth of funding will be available to the awardee(s) in January 2016. Each recipient will give a presentation on the fruits of their funded project or program at the end of 2016. ♦



Tiffany Series Concert, Nov. 22, 3 p.m.

This month's Tiffany Series concert will feature our own Michael Britt, Minister of Music, on the Skinner organ in a performance titled, "From the Sublime to the Ridiculous: An Organ Concert for All Ages."

In addition to works by Clifford Demarest and Alfred Fedak, the concert features a showing of Laurel and Hardy's 1929 silent film "Big Business" on a large screen in the front of the church, together with Michael's original organ accompaniment. A musical tribute to "The Wizard of Oz" is also on the program.





December Birthdays

- 12/01 Lynda Burton
- 12/01 Nicholas Imparato
- 12/02 Evangeline B. Lozada
- 12/03 Cheryl Finney
- 12/03 Tony Saudek
- 12/04 Michaela Murphy Buc
- 12/04 Adam Steel Neblo McNabney
- 12/05 Eloise Jennings Crew
- 12/05 Alexandra Mihalski
- 12/05 Jenny Williams
- 12/07 J. Courtland Robinson
- 12/07 Brough Schamp
- 12/08 Nancyellen Brennan
- 12/10 Viviane B. Thorpe
- 12/11 Cal Buikema
- 12/11 Katie Rhodes
- 12/11 Sally S. Robinson
- 12/11 Samuel Todd
- 12/11 Andy Zabel
- 12/13 Stewart Finney
- 12/13 Barbara Veldhuizen
- 12/15 Auggie Brown
- 12/16 Nate Hubler
- 12/16 Chip Riegel Morgan
- 12/16 Henry Taylor
- 12/17 Harry Hinkle
- 12/18 Nicki Artes
- 12/18 Caroline Cross
- 12/18 Stephanie Shapiro
- 12/19 Jair Williams
- 12/20 Gillian Babb
- 12/21 Sam J. Kelly, III
- 12/22 Judith Arnold
- 12/22 Narka K. Ryan
- 12/23 June Carr
- 12/25 Robert Gorham
- 12/25 Kelsie Riegel Morgan
- 12/25 Matthew-Daniel Stremba
- 12/27 Juliette Goodwin
- 12/29 Macy Branch
- 12/29 Rachel Cunningham
- 12/30 Ruth Brennan Taylor
- 12/31 Phyllis McIntosh

Find Out How You Can Help Grow the Endowment

Information seminar to be scheduled soon

by Barbara Cook, Chair, Investment Committee

There are many reasons I treasure having found Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. It is a church that is truly “alive at work in the world.” It is a spiritual place; a renewing place. The staff is dynamic, visionary and compassionate, and the congregation is thoughtful and diverse.

I stand with a long tradition of Baltimoreans who have found Brown to be a spiritual home. Many of these previous congregants contributed to the Endowment Fund with proceeds from their estate. Due to their forethought and generosity, today, Brown’s endowment fund holds assets of \$5.7 million from many families and individuals, including these named funds:

- Anna Russel Rogers Education Fund
- Audrey and John DeHoff Fund
- Barry and David Evans Urban Ministry Fund
- Clark L. Mock Fund for Remedial Reading
- Estate of Mary Walker
- Gene Belt Memorial Music Fund
- Gillian M. Brent Memorial Music Fund
- Josephine and George Finney Fund for Education and Tutoring
- Lewis Kay Fund
- Lila Amsel Tutorial Endowment
- Lynette M. Anderson Memorial Garden Fund
- Margaret E. Holliday Endowment Fund
- Margaret L. Hopkins Fund
- Mary and Carl Taylor Mission Funds
- Miriam Andrus Church Mission Fund
- Neighborhood Assistance Fund *Anonymous*
- Pollit-Morrison Fund
- Richard B. Price Music Fund
- T. Guthrie Speers Fund for Social Ministry
- Virginia S. Mock Memorial Tutoring Fund

This past year, Brown’s Investment Committee, with the support of Session, engaged Brown Advisory to provide professional investment management to the Endowment Fund. Session, and ultimately the entire congregation, directs the use of the proceeds of the Endowment Fund to enrich the congregation’s and community’s work of mission, music, tutoring and general operations. These proceeds provide the congregation an important cushion that allows us to continue to be a witness to justice and reconciliation in Baltimore and beyond.

We invite you to consider how you might help to continue to expand the endowment in the years to come. The Investment Committee will host a seminar after the start of the new year to provide information on how individuals and couples can plan a gift now to benefit the church from their estate. Brown Advisory has offered to help lead the seminar and educate us on planned giving options. ♦



If you are interested in attending this informational session, please email me at bawijobe5@gmail.com. We look forward to providing this opportunity to our congregation and hope that you will attend.

Heard Around Brown...

We were privileged this fall to host a number of distinguished local leaders who held conversations with members and friends of Brown Memorial about the challenges facing Baltimore following the unrest of last spring. These guests included Congressman Elijah Cummings, who spoke for the opening of this season's Tiffany Series, and Senator Bill Ferguson, who led a panel discussion for the kick-off of the monthly City Love speaker series.

These leaders shared inspirational stories and impassioned calls for action. They also thanked Brown and its members for our mission work in the city. Here are a few quotes we recorded:

"The people in this room are change agents," Congressman Cummings said. "Thank you for sticking with Baltimore. So many people have said they want to leave but...we are part of a great city and we should never forget that. Give yourselves a hand. You clap for the Ravens, but you need to clap for our city too."



Senator Ferguson said "One person will never, ever make a difference. We need folks who are unbelievably visionary."

He also said, "I think we are at one of the most important times that has faced our city in generations. Because the world saw us, this is the point where we can say we can radically change the game. This is our moment, and with you we will make the most of it." ♦



Music Notes

Eutaw-Marshburn Choir Starts the Year Strong

by Michael Britt, Minister of Music

The Eutaw-Marshburn Choir began its fourth season on Oct. 14. One of the most staggering differences is the number of children who have decided to participate. Our first year, we began with seven students. This year, our first rehearsal brought in 30-plus with more to come.

The choir under the direction of Chrystie Adams and myself rehearses once a week after school. Each week consists of a 40-minute rehearsal on Wednesdays followed by a snack and homework help until 4:15 p.m. Obviously, this would not be possible without the invaluable assistance from members at Brown Memorial. Lynda Burton, Carol and Bud Graves and Don Peoples graciously give of their time to assist students with their math, English and social studies assignments, as well as the chores needed to set up and clean up. This year, Elden and Bonnie Schneider have joined the ranks.

The choir has a number of performances scheduled, including programs at Eutaw-Marshburn and two concerts at Memorial Apartments, as well as their yearly performance at Sunday worship at Brown Memorial.

If you would like to assist at rehearsals, please contact me at the music office at 410.523.1542 #16, or michael@browndowntown.org. You may also contact Chrystie Adams at cladams22@verizon.net.

Finally, both Chrystie and myself would like to thank The Urban Witness Committee for their generous financial support. ♦



For more information on Music News, contact Michael at 410-523-1542, Ext. 16, or michael@browndowntown.org.



BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City
and the World*

Nov. 13 & Dec. 11: Feasting in Faith, 6:30-9 p.m.. Join us for a potluck meal and conversation on a faith topic of interest to the group. *Email rachel@browndowntown.org for locations, topics and to RSVP.*

Nov. 15, Dec. 20: Youth Leadership Breakfast, 9-9:45 a.m. Church House A monthly leadership and planning meeting for high school youth and adult mentors. *Email tim@browndowntown.org for information. RSVPs are helpful.*

Nov. 19, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Noon-2 p.m. Home of Carol Graves, 220 Chancery Rd., 410-366-4662. Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls for those in need. Soup will be served. Others invited to bring sides. *For general Prayer Shawl Ministry questions, contact Diane Ross, 410-532-6417.*

Nov. 22: City Love Speaker Series: Challenges and Opportunities Facing Baltimore, Noon-1:30 p.m.. This month's lunchtime event in the Assembly Room will feature a panel of education experts from Brown Memorial's congregation. They will delve deeper into the basic issues confronting the public education system, with a special eye towards the talented leaders in our midst, and the role that the church and wider faith community can play in the future.

Nov. 22: Tiffany Series, 3 p.m., Michael Britt on organ. *Details on page 10.*

Nov. 22: Sunday Night Live! 4-7 p.m. (approx.) Middle and high school students are invited to meet at Brown earlier than usual to head to Helping Up Mission, a faith-based support center for people who struggle with addiction and homelessness. We'll serve dinner and eat with guests.

Nov. 28: Middle School Greens Cutting & Capture the Flag Party, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. *Details on page 4.*

Nov. 29: Advent Wreath Making, 9-9:45 a.m. and after worship. *Details on page 3.*

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23: Midweek Worship, 6:00-6:45pm. *Details on page 3.*

Dec. 8: Theology on Tap, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tavern on the Hill, 900 Cathedral St. Explore different theological topics each month in a casual Baltimore bar setting. *Email Chip and Kelsie Riegel, kelsie.riegelmorgan@gmail.com for information.*

Dec. 11: Progressive Youth Dinner, 6- 9 p.m. *Details on page 4.*

Dec. 13: Community Potluck Join us as we continue the feast of communion over a potluck lunch in the Assembly Room following worship.

Dec. 17, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1-3 p.m. Home of Mary Jane Sokol, 6030 Hunt Ridge Rd. Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls for those in need. Lunch will not be served at this meeting. *For general Prayer Shawl Ministry questions, contact Diane Ross, 410-532-6417.*

Dec. 20: Annual Christmas Pageant, 11 a.m. *Details on page 3.*

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, 5:30 p.m. *Details on page 3.*

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m. *Details on page 3.*

Dec. 27, Jan 3: No Meditation Circle or Education Hour.

SAVE THE DATE

Jan. 24: Annual Congregational Meeting, Noon-2 p.m., Assembly Room

Jan. 29-31: Youth Winter Weekend. *Details on page 4.*

Tidings

Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church

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