

Tidings

OCT. 2015

Pastor's Reflections

Rev. Tim Hughes
Associate Pastor

"This hopeful notion that living is hidden within dying is surely enhanced by the visual glories of autumn... Does death possess a beauty that we – who fear death, who find it ugly and obscene – cannot see?"
- Parker Palmer

These autumn months fill me with such a strange mixture of joy and melancholy.

Everywhere you look, nature is showing off. A tree that was utterly unremarkable only weeks ago, is now as radiant as the burning bush. The air, so humid and heavy in the dog days of summer, is now crisp and clear in the October sky. It's enough to stop me in my tracks in the middle of a hurried errand, surprised once again by sheer and unexpected beauty.

Inevitably, my mind has a tendency to rush towards winter.

[continued on page 2](#) ➔



tim@browndowntown.org



[@TimRyanHughes](https://twitter.com/TimRyanHughes)



“City Love” Series to Feature Leaders Panel

Join us **October 25** as we kick off our monthly lunchtime speaker series, renamed *City Love: Challenges and Opportunities Facing Baltimore*, which will focus on the systemic challenges and opportunities facing Baltimore in the wake of the April uprising. The series takes place on the fourth Sunday each month following worship.

Our first guest is Senator Bill Ferguson, who will be joined by an impressive panel of Baltimore leaders to discuss the challenge of identifying, recruiting and supporting talented leaders to stand for elected office. Panelists will include James DeGraffenreidt, former CEO of Washington, Gas, and Electric, Tom Wilcox, Executive Director of the Baltimore Community Foundation, and Delegate Mary Washington, 43rd district.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this important conversation and engagement around Baltimore's future.

[Read more about the panelists on page 2](#) ➔

— INSIDE —

Stewardship: Commitment Sunday is November 1. See page 4.

Connecting with Kids for Three Decades at Brown See page 5.

Pejuhutazizi: Kickball, Family Time, Renewed Friendships. See page 6.

Music Notes. We introduce this year's soloists. See page 9.

Pastor's Reflections

Continued from Page 1

How many more weeks, I wonder, before these branches are bare and shivering in the wind? How much longer before every living thing seems to disappear into a permanent hibernation, desperate to avoid the bitter winter?

In his brief and beautiful book, "Let Your Life Speak," Parker Palmer explores the spiritual paradoxes of autumn. How strange, he writes, that the inevitable decline of autumn is also the planting of a million new

seeds? While it is easy to fixate on the surface level decay of the season – one final leaf making its sad descent to the ground – it is also possible to also appreciate the deeper work of winter. It is possible to glimpse and appreciate new life and new beginnings, dormant and developing underneath our feet.

It's in our nature, says Palmer, to resist the complexity of paradox. "We want light without darkness, the glories of spring and summer

without the demands of autumn and winter – and the Faustian bargains we make fail to sustain our lives."

Perhaps, rather than fixate on inevitable loss, we would do better to meditate on these autumn months as a complex spiritual guide. What in our life is dying – even in glorious, spectacular fashion? What change is coming that fills us with joy and fear and sadness? And what new life, what unexpected resurrection, may be dormant and developing, even so? ♦

"City Love" Series

Continued from Page 1

Senator Bill Ferguson:

Senator Ferguson made headlines in 2010 when, as a young public school teacher, he unseated one of Baltimore's longtime "machine" politicians in the 46th district with an impressive grassroots campaign that engaged new and young voters. Since then, Senator Ferguson has distinguished himself as a progressive, pragmatic voice looking for fresh ideas and talent to transform Baltimore for the better.



James DeGraffenreidt:

Mr. DeGraffenreidt is the former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of WGL Holdings, Inc., the parent company of Washington Gas. He also served as Chairman and CEO of Washington Gas, the natural gas utility serving over 1,000,000 customers in the Washington metropolitan area and surrounding region. He is currently a member of the Maryland State Board of Education.



Tom Wilcox:

Mr. Wilcox is the President and CEO of the Baltimore Community Foundation, a collection of more than 600 philanthropic funds. He is the lead voice for BCF's civic agenda, which currently encompasses significant investments in education and neighborhoods and coordinated efforts to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth in Greater Baltimore.



Delegate Mary Washington:

Dr. Washington has been a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, representing the 43rd district, since 2010. She currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families, and the Regional Revitalization Work Group. She earned a PhD and MA in Sociology from Johns Hopkins University and wrote her dissertation on the historical and social demography of the 19th and early 20th centuries, specializing in population statistics and the social and empirical construction of race, class and gender.





Youth group members take a break while hiking at Montreat last summer.

Youth News You Can Use

Sunday Night Live

4th Sundays, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Middle and high school youth meet for dinner, games and conversation about important topics around a theme. We split into middle and high school groups for a good portion of this time.

Leadership Breakfast

3rd Sundays, 9 a.m.

This breakfast takes place in the youth room for youth leaders and any interested senior high youth. Tim will lead a brief devotion and then we'll plan the upcoming month's events. The goal is to get more youth involved in leadership roles. No RSVP needed to attend.

Early Bird Bible Study

Friday, Oct. 23, 6:30 a.m.

This is a social experiment! Youth in 11th and 12th grades are invited to meet Tim at Roland Park Bagel (500 W. Cold Spring Lane) for breakfast and Bible Study before school. He dares you to show up (tell him if you are looking for a ride).

Progressive Dinner Christmas Party

Friday, December 11

Middle and high school students are invited to celebrate Christmas with a three-course dinner in three different homes, culminating in a White Elephant gift exchange. ♦

News of Note from the Session

A joint meeting of the Session and Trustees took place Aug. 30 to discuss recommendations to the Session from the Facilities Planning Team, and recommendations to the Session from the Trustees for repair of the South Tower.

Facilities Planning: Appointed by the session to make recommendations regarding medium and long-term facilities needs, the Facilities Planning Team met, gathered information on facility use, current needs, future projected needs and creative dreams from staff as well as hopes from tenants. Inaccessibility to all spaces contradicts a core mission of the church and limits the congregation's ability to use space fully.

South Tower: The Session voted to proceed with the Trustees' recommendations for repair of the South Tower, beginning in March 2016. Session is investigating all avenues for lowering costs and raising funds to pay for this six-figure expense.



For more information about these issues, contact Anne Heuisler, Clerk of the Session, at aheuisler@comcast.net.



For more information about these youth events, email Tim at Tim@browndowntown.org.

Stewardship: Commitment Sunday is November 1



Nick Imparato will share how he has personally given to the mission of the church as part of the “Minute for Mission” portion of worship this October.

Since 1870, Brown Memorial has been taking care of its flock and also taking action for the good of the city, the nation and the country. This year, our city experienced unrest due to a long history of racism, coupled with intentional poverty strategies from some of our fellow Baltimoreans. Before, throughout and after the unrest, BMPA remained an active voice, calling to the Lord and calling on our leaders to ensure justice and peace for everyone in our city.

What will it take to continue the work of our church in the city, nation and world? It will take our stewardship – the activity of being responsible for something. We have to be responsible for the continued ability of our church to seek the welfare of the city for this year and the years to come.

Please consider making a financial pledge to Brown Memorial ahead of Stewardship Celebration **Sunday, Nov. 1**. You can make a pledge by filling out a pledge card, pledging online through CCB, or emailing

Sharon Lucas, stewardship@brown-downtown.org.

Leading up to Stewardship Sunday, we will devote a portion of each Sunday worship in October to a “Minute for Mission” when members of BMPA will share how they’ve personally given to the mission of the church. One of these members will be Nick Imparato, who also shares his story here:

“I found my welfare in my mission through my work with the Zion Baptist youth group. The combination of our majority white youth group and their majority black youth group opened me up to a new community and taught me the strength of cross-cultural activism. For our youth group, it taught us to be better neighbors and engaged in our city. Our work throughout the Baltimore Uprising furthered these realizations, and helped us, as a youth group, become better citizens of Baltimore and better stewards of our gifts. Through being taught and teaching, we found our welfare.” ♦

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

- Jeremiah 29:7

Connecting with Kids for Three Decades at Brown

by Tom Waldron

It started with a casual question from a neighbor. “Do you want to go tutor?”

With her own children in school, Jigger Kratz accepted the offer and went to the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program. There she met Tasha, a 1st grader, and they began working together on reading. “Off I went and I loved it.”

The year was 1984.

Thirty-one years later, Jigger is still at it, never missing a year and once again this fall she will be serving as a volunteer tutor in the program. Over those three decades, she’s tutored more kids than she can count, working with some for a year, others for a couple of years.

The program, now in its 52nd year, provides one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing and other skills to children from three Baltimore City public schools.

Volunteers like Jigger are the program’s backbone. Each works with one or more children throughout the school year, providing a reliable adult presence in lives that are often unpredictable and difficult.

Jigger has learned how to work well with the kids she tutors. She realized that her first student, Tasha, arrived at the program without having any breakfast. “She was so hungry and couldn’t do any work,” she remembers. Jigger started bringing in a piece of fruit each week.

She recalls the students who had aha moments about the “magic e” (that turns preceding vowels from short to long) or the one whose eyes widened when she explained what math division is – “opposite of multiplication.” She’s helped coax shy kids into performing in short plays – after writing their own scripts. And she’s learned that sometimes what her tutee needs most is simply time and space to take a nap.

Jigger has contributed in many ways to the success of



In three decades, volunteer Jigger Kratz has never missed a year of tutoring.

the Tutoring Program. She has served on its advisory board and recruited a dozen new tutors, including several from her church, Emmanuel Episcopal.

And each year, she buys a bag full of Santa hats to give one to each kid; at Mother’s Day, she brings in flowering plants and soil to put in mugs for the kids to put together a plant to take home.

“The kids are proud of themselves for what they do for Mother’s Day,” she says.

The Tutoring Program, she says, plays a vital role. Baltimore has so many problems and there are no easy answers,” Jigger says. “This is something I can do that really has an impact on these children’s lives.”

Aside from the reading instruction, the program provides other key benefits – pride, confidence and satisfaction – key building blocks for any healthy child. “The program’s benefits are subtle in some ways. The testing doesn’t show everything the kids get out of it. It’s been exceedingly rewarding for me as well.” ♦



The Brown Memorial Tutoring Program is accepting volunteer tutors to work with a child during the school year – once a week for about 90 minutes. For more information about the program or volunteering, contact Director Martha Socolar through the church office: 410-523-1542.

Pejuhutazizi: Kickball, Family Time, Renewed Friendships

by Chrystie Adams, Co-Leader PFLC

The summer seems to have flown by and now all of us are back to our schedules of work, school, volunteering and many other things Brown members find themselves involved in. A little reflection might be good for all of us to “rev our engines” for all the business at this time of the year.

The Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp week (August 1 – 8) provided the staff and campers from Brown Memorial and Hunting Ridge with amazing memories. I'll share a few highlights:

- **Attending the Upper Sioux Wacipi (Powwow)** was a marvelous way to start our time in Minnesota. It was so good to see many of the youth that we have come to know as campers over the past year as they danced at the Wacipi. We also saw Fern Cloud and her adorable granddaughter, Mni (age 4) as they were a part of the Grand Entry. The powwow is a time and place of peace and joy and we were so glad to be there.

- **Youth and adult kickball games** in the growing dusk surrounded by the wide open spaces of the Upper Sioux Community. Our youth – Evan and Dever Cunningham, Yari and Karoon Armand, Liam McConnell, and Ella and Maggie Hernan (Hunting Ridge Presbyterian) - challenged the adults – Doug Adams,

Rachel Cunningham, Grace Peng, Mehran Armand, Don Peeples and Sharleen and Paul Hernan (Hunting Ridge) to a Sunday night game. Cheerleaders/referees were Julie Hanks, Chrystie Adams and Tunde Oyinloye. What an amazing amount of energy, fun and family bonding and the adults squeaked out a victory – 8 to 6!

- **A kickball rematch** was called for on Monday evening but the youth had reinforcements in the form of their Upper Sioux Community friends. Such laughter and shouts and fun and the youth won this one!!

- **Time with our dear friend, Fern Cloud**, as she shared with us about the Upper Sioux Community and the Dakota people so that we could continue to strengthen our understanding of our Dakota brothers and sisters.

- **A three-day learning camp** that was filled with activities such as Hands on Science, LEGO Robotics, GIS (Geographic Information



Denver Cunningham reads with a new friend at Pejuhutazizi.

Systems – map making), Story Time/Book Nook, Dakota Art and Culture – making of spirit horses, Math Games and lots of time for our Baltimore youth to learn and play with their Upper Sioux Community friends.

- **Family time for our Baltimore children and parents** that seems to be such a gift for everyone. The adults who were on staff without children have come to feel like adopted parents/grandparents. We enjoyed each other's company immensely and the time together feels very special. One of our Baltimore campers refers to our week at Pejuhutazizi as a “big sleep over.”

Year four of the Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp will be coming up for the summer of 2016. Perhaps some more of our Brown families will be called to go to camp together. ♦



Donor Recognition:

More insight on Audrey DeHoff

In the last issue of *The Tidings*, we featured the first in a series of articles to be published about donors to BMPA's endowment fund. The article featured John and Audrey DeHoff. The DeHoffs' son, Howard DeHoff, sent additional information about Audrey's involvement in the life of Brown, which we share here in his words:

Audrey Dunn DeHoff was the reason John DeHoff became a member at Brown Memorial. She was passionate about her Christian faith and found much solace throughout her life within the community of Brown Memorial.

Born in 1913, she was baptized at Brown Memorial soon thereafter. Of note, her parents, Mabel and Howard Dunn, were original members early in the history of Brown, and were married there by Pastor J. Ross Stevenson, on January 29, 1910. When Audrey graduated from Roland Park Country School in 1931, her classmates wrote of her, "You can always be sure of getting help from Audrey when you are in need of it."

Like John, she too was a "worker bee." For years, she managed a large household which included her moth-

er, her mother-in-law (two birds of different colors!), two children, and a dog (not to mention John) and did so on a rather tight budget. She managed the family finances and it was probably due to her financial fortitude that the money for the bequests to Brown were available toward the ends of their lives.

She had a beautiful singing voice and sang for many years (a soprano) in the choir when it was directed by Gene Belt. Like John, she also taught Sunday School. For many years, she led the annual Brown Memorial Blood Drive, which was an opportunity for her to put her well-honed social skills to work on behalf of the community.

Like John, she was remembered for her practicality and wit. She was not one to ponder long on the mysteries

of life and was guided by her faith more than by her sharp intellect. "We'll know when we get there!" was her answer to what lies beyond the death of the body. She loved a powerful, back-to-basics sermon and for that reason, we think, T. Guthrie Speers remained her most beloved pastor throughout her life.

Although she may have seemed "prim and proper" to others, there were many who knew her warmth and compassion towards those who were suffering in life. At the time of her death, she was the oldest living member of Brown Memorial Church. For her, Brown Memorial was a living symbol of faith and family guided by the love of Christ. She last took communion at Park Avenue when she was 94 years old. Before leaving the church that day, she lit a candle in memory of her mother. She deserves to be honored equally with her husband, John, for an unheralded life of service that ultimately led to establishing the T. Guthrie Speers and the John and Audrey DeHoff funds. ♦



*Building Our
Endowment*

Numerous individuals and families have made bequests and gifts of cash and stock to Brown Memorial to help build our endowment to where it is today.

Valued at approximately \$6 million, we have engaged the qualified individuals at Brown Advisory Group to manage a large portion our resources.



If you are interested in including BMPA in your own estate planning, please contact Financial Administrator, Sharon Lucas, slucas@browndowntown.org.



October Birthdays

10/01	Brantley Davis
10/04	Nicholas Forward
10/05	Adam Allen
10/05	Steve Willis
10/07	Katie Artes
10/07	Violet Noel Schanbacher
10/09	Bill Bishai
10/09	Jennifer Michael
10/11	Will Fletcher-Hill
10/11	Diane Schaming
10/12	Gayle Barney
10/12	Darin Crew
10/12	Amalie Nohe-Moren
10/14	Anne Holland
10/17	Cal Jackson
10/18	Paul Dagdigian
10/19	Hedley Abernethy
10/20	Hannah Murphy Buc
10/21	Julia Christen Luljak
10/21	Peter Christen Luljak
10/21	Matt McNabney
10/22	Jessica Campbell
10/23	Paul Fletcher-Hill
10/24	Yani Robinson
10/24	William S. Ryan
10/24	Caitlin Schneider
10/27	James Logan
10/28	Nadia Hensley
10/31	Julie Hanks



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.



Thinking About Becoming a Member of Brown?

Attend an inquirer class this month.

Andrew Foster Connors is leading inquirer classes in October for individuals who are interested in learning more about membership in Brown Memorial. The classes include an overview of Presbyterian history and theology, along with discussions about Brown Memorial's particular mission and justice commitments, worship approach and community focus. The class includes those who have already decided to join the church, as well as those simply wishing to learn more about Brown Memorial's philosophy of life and faith. All are welcome! ♦



Contact Andrew, andrew@browndowntown.org, for more information.



Classes will take place in Andrew's office, second floor of the Church House. Class schedule options:

Class 1 Option: A four-week series during the education hour, 9:45-10:30 a.m., each Sunday in October.

Class 2 Option: A single two-hour class following worship on Sunday, October 11.



Music Notes

We introduce this year's soloists.

by Michael Britt, Minister of Music

This season, we welcome three new members to our music staff - Norika Zehnder, soprano; Robert Feng, bass and Mary Maldarelli, director of handbells. The talent that they bring to us is a wonderful addition to all of our dedicated volunteers who are invaluable to our music ministry.

Norika Zehnder,

Soprano: Norika is currently a third-year BM Vocal Performance major at The Peabody Institute.



She previously lived in Evergreen, Colo., where she interned with the Evergreen Chorale and was able to perform with local organizations such as the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra and the Emmy-award winning Irish folk band "Colcannon."

Norika has participated in various vocal programs: Central City Opera and Colorado Springs Conservatory Summer Intensive, The Crittenden Opera Workshop in Washington, DC, and The Redwoods Opera Workshop in Mendocino, Calif.

In Baltimore she has performed in the Peabody Opera Department's productions of Britten's, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Poulenc's, *Dialogues des carmelites*, and Massenet's *Cendrillon*. Locally, Norika has received an honorable mention in the FMMC Sue Goetz Ross Student Competition for Voice, and 2nd place in the Shirley Rabb Winston Annual Voice Competition.

Robert Feng, Bass:

Robert is currently a second-year BM Vocal Performance major at The Peabody Institute. Before living in Baltimore, he sang with the Punahou School Chorale and earned the National Choral Award in 2014. He also interned with The Hawaii Opera Theatre and performed in Puccini's *Turandot* and Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*.



Robert has not only joined many vocal workshops such as the Ho'Olokahe Choral Festival, but has also interned at Hawaii Opera Theatre doing everything from coaching children to perform *The Magic Flute* to writing columns for Hawaii Opera Theatre's upcoming 2015-2016 season.

In Baltimore, Robert has performed in The Peabody Institute's productions of *Cendrillon*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and now *Papageno* as the main role. He has also performed with award winning composer Tony Small with Smithsonian and Artiste in his latest operetta *Qadar*. Robert will be performing with the BSO this October for the production of *Don Giovanni*.

Mary Maldarelli,

Director of

Handbells: Mary is currently a first year medical student studying at the University of Maryland School



of Medicine, and recently earned her Masters of Music in Sacred Music from the Catholic University of America.

While at Catholic University, Mary studied pipe organ with Dr. Jeremy Filsell. She began her organ studies as a recipient of the Potomac Organ Institute scholarship in high school, when she was awarded a year of lessons with Thomas Smith at the Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland. She continued her studies in pipe organ through the Peabody Institute with Dr. John Walker while pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Mary has studied English handbell ensemble, solo, and duet ringing under the direction of Anne Y. Schmidt, piano under the direction of Corey McVicar, soprano voice under the direction of Dr. Lori Lind, and conducting under the direction of Dr. Leo Nestor.



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*

Oct. 2-4: Youth Fall Retreat,
Skycroft Conference and Retreat Center

Oct. 3: All Church Retreat,
Skycroft Conference and Retreat Center

Oct. 4: Handbell Choir resumes
rehearsals, following worship,
Sanctuary Labyrinth

Sundays, Oct. 4-25: Inquirer
Class, 9:45 – 10:30 a.m., Church House
2nd Floor. [Details on page 8.](#)

Sunday Oct. 11: Inquirer Class,
Noon-2 p.m., Church House 2nd Floor.
[Details on page 8.](#)

Oct. 13: 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, to join
the ToT email list and suggest topics.

Oct. 18: Youth Leadership
Breakfast, 9-9:45 a.m., *Youth Room*
[Details on page 3.](#)

Oct. 23: Youth Early Bird Bible
Study, 6:30 a.m., *Roland Park Bagel, 500*
W. Cold Spring Ln.) [Details on page 3.](#)

Oct. 25: City Love Speaker
Series: Challenges and Opportunities
Facing Baltimore, following worship,
Assembly Room. [Details on page 1.](#)

Nov. 1: Stewardship Celebration
Sunday. Commit your pledge to BMPA
for 2016. [Details on page 4.](#)

Every Sunday, 9-9:45 a.m.:
Meditation Circle. Gather in the
Church House for a time of silence and
community. Contact June Fletcher-Hill,
fletcherhill@msn.com, 410-367-0995, to
be added to the *Meditation Circle*
email list.

Tiffany Series 10th Anniversary Season, 2015-2016 • DATES TO REMEMBER •

Nov. 22, 2015, 3 p.m.
Michael Britt, Organ-
ist. "From the Sublime
to the Ridiculous: An
Organ Concert
for All Ages" The concert
features works by Clifford
Demarest and Alfred Fedak, as well as a
showing of Laurel and Hardy's 1929 silent
film "Big Business" with Michael Britt's
original organ accompaniment.



April 3, 2016
Festival of LGBT Choirs
Choirs from Baltimore, Washington and
Delaware perform individually and to-
gether in different parts of the sanctuary.

April 24, 2016 Frederick
Swann, Organist. Frederick
Swann served as organist at Riv-
erside Church in New York City
(initially with Virgil Fox), at the
Crystal Cathedral in California
(where he also played the organ
on a weekly television show),
and at the First Congregational
Church of Los Angeles.

May, 15, 2016 Mozart's
"Solemn Vespers" Brown
Memorial's Chancel Choir and
soloists will perform Mozart's
"Solemn Vespers" with a cham-
ber orchestra and organ.

Tidings

Good News from Brown
Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church

1316 Park Avenue,
Baltimore, MD, 21217.
410.523.1542.
browndowntown.org.

Andrew Foster Connors,
Senior Pastor

Timothy Hughes,
Associate Pastor

Jennifer Michael,
Editor

Abby Jackson
Designer

Send article and photo con-
tributions for this publication
by the 10th of each month to
[jmichael@browndowntown.](mailto:jmichael@browndowntown.org)
org. Also send an email request
if you would like to be added
to the weekly e-newsletter, This
Week @ Brown.



BROWN
MEMORIAL
PARK AVENUE
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)