



Tidings

MAR/APRIL 2016

Turnaround Tuesday: A Jobs Movement led by BUILD

by Cheryl Finney

“Who me, you think I am a leader?”... “You have to understand, after I got out, it was the incarceration of my mind that was the hardest thing to break free”... “For me, this has been a place where people who made mistakes, and paid for them, are forgiven, and allowed to become the best they can be”... “I dream of having an impact on my neighborhood”... “I am Baltimore!”

-Voices from Turnaround Tuesday, BUILD’s jobs movement

Anyone who needs clarity on the desire of “returning citizens” to work or to make a positive impact on their city needs to come to Turnaround Tuesday and do one thing – listen.

The impact of Baltimore’s mass incarceration is devastating. It is in plain sight every Tuesday morning in the basement of Zion Baptist Church where for the past two years returning citizens and those not yet earning a living wage have packed a room to seek work

Surprisingly, it is not the promise of a job alone that brings them here, but the recognition that they are invited back to a civic life. There

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Pastor’s Reflections Easter 2016: Resurrecting Faith in God's Power

Andrew Foster Connors, Senior Pastor

Very little changed on Easter Day. Maybe it’s shocking to hear a pastor say that, but when you consider the events as recorded in scripture, very little changed. The Roman Empire did not suddenly crumble on Easter Day. The religious establishment did not make a U-turn. The economic policies that drew divisions and distinctions galloped on. Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female continued to define the basic categories of people of the day. Very little changed on Easter Day.

Perhaps it’s shocking to read that from a pastor since our entire faith hinges on something extraordinary happening on Easter Day: “Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!” But I think this disconnect between the event



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City Love. Hear from citizens who are turning their lives around. See page 5.

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Brown's History Archive. An index of its contents is a click away. See page 8.

Pastor's Reflections

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of resurrection and the same old world is profoundly good news for us in this time. We celebrate Easter on March 27, exactly one month prior to the one-year anniversary of the Baltimore unrest. In the wake of that April 27, 2015 event, many of us labored countless hours in our work and/or volunteer lives to dig in deeper. We were and are committed to working for, voting for, striving for the One Baltimore that we all want to overcome the many Baltimores that define our community, and many like it across the nation.

Unlike the year after the resurrection of Jesus, there are some fairly significant changes that will have taken place in our community. Some of our business leaders have stepped up to announce new local hiring initiatives and goals. Philanthropists made sure more youth than ever had summer jobs. Police leadership has undertaken the most significant retraining of police that has taken place in the last 40 years. And some neighborhood leaders have crossed their own boundaries to try to build a better city together.

But reading the Easter story, I am convinced that the most significant transformation that occurred as a result of Jesus' rise from the grave was in the lives of his followers. The

resurrection event gave birth to a new faith in the power of God to lead them outside of their ethnic and cultural lanes, to guide them to speak truth in public and private spaces, and to keep their fear at bay when announcing radical news that requires change from everyone. The miracles that occurred after the resurrection event – healing of people who were discounted, community that crossed the normal divisions, hope that is not dependent on external circumstance – came from a small group of people whose experience of the resurrection unleashed a different kind of fearless living.

What's amazing to me is that, with the exception of a few women, none of the disciples experienced the resurrection event. It was told to them as a story, one that changed their lives forever. May that story come to us this year as fresh as the first Easter, unleashing a different kind of fearless living in each of us, a fearless living that flows from God's tenacious love for our world. ♦



andrew@browndowntown.org



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

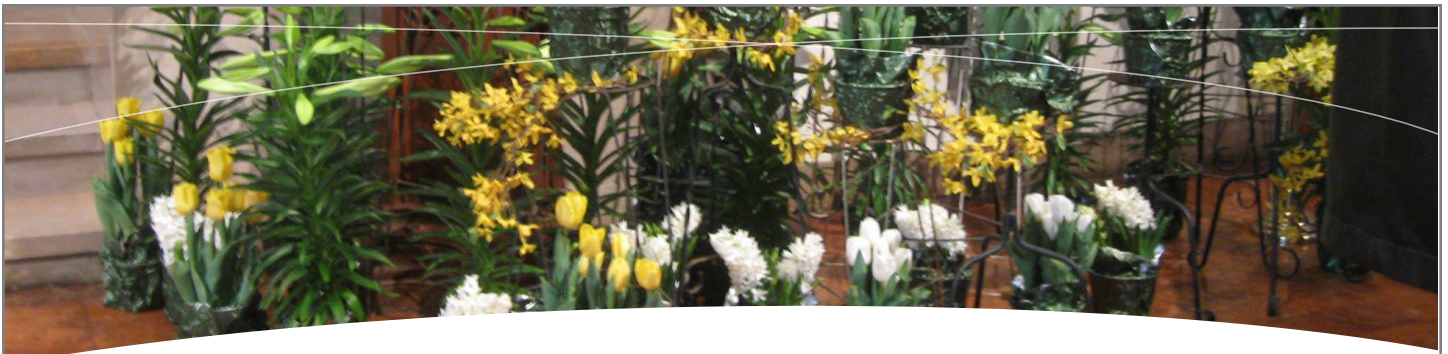


PHOTO BY JULIE HANKS

Thank You Lenten Lunch Volunteers!

For seven Wednesdays in a row, Brown is opening its doors to the faith community for a noontime Lenten worship service and lunch. The lunches have been attended by as many as 80 people. A hardworking team, led by Barbara Francis, has made it happen. We thank all those who have helped so far, which are too many to list. To help with the remaining lunches, email Barbara: barbarafrancis1312@gmail.com

Pictured at the first Ash Wednesday lunch, from left: June Fletcher-Hill, Buffy Illum, Sue Galusha Bobango, Rachel Clark, Barbara Francis, Don Peoples, Dianne Ross and Patrick Francis.



Holy Week Activities & Worship Services

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 20

We gather with our friends from Corpus Christi Catholic Church and Memorial Episcopal Church for an annual neighborhood Palm Procession. Meet in the park on Park Avenue just north of McMechen Street at the fountain at 9:45 a.m. Our traditional education hour will not take place this Sunday, instead enjoy a special coffee hour after the parade. Worship is at 11:00 a.m.

"Palm Sunday" Night Live

Sunday, March 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Our monthly gathering for middle and high school youth will focus on the Passion. Why do we call the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Passion? How does it relate to what we are passionate about in our own lives? Join us for dinner, games and conversation.

Taize Prayer Service

Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m.

A service of prayer featuring music from the Taize community and periods of silence.

Maunday Thursday

March 24, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

A simple meal of soup, salad and bread is served at 5:30, followed by

a contemplative worship experience. Communion is served. There is no charge for this meal but we do need volunteers to help provide the meal. Share your favorite soup, salad or bread with the congregation. Choir rehearsal will begin at 7:30 p.m. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available for this service upon request. Please contact Rachel Cunningham if you can help with the meal or would like childcare. So that we may have an approximate head count, RSVP by March 22 to rachel@browndowntown.org, or (410)523-1542 Ext. 14.

Good Friday

March 25, 7:30 p.m.

The Good Friday Tenebrae service is an opportunity to sit with the growing darkness of Jesus' arrest, condemnation and execution. The word "tenebrae" is Latin for darkness or shadows, and this is reflected in a service which progresses from dim light to total darkness amid prayer, music and waiting for the light of Easter Sunday. (Note: the darkness of this service may be unsettling to some young children.)

Easter Decorating

Saturday, March 26

10 a.m.-Noon

Join us to decorate the Sanctuary in preparation for Easter and turn our "sacred space" into a spring garden. Many hands make the job go faster.

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 27, 6:30 a.m.

Join us for a sunrise service in partnership with Light Street Presbyterian Church in Federal Hill. The sight of daylight breaking over Baltimore City is a spectacular backdrop to a simple service of witness to Christ's resurrection, including songs, liturgy, prayers and good news. Breakfast at Miss Shirley's will follow.

Easter

Sunday, March 27, 11 a.m.

We joyfully celebrate the resurrection in community. Education hour will not take place on Easter Sunday but will resume the following week. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available. Communion is served. ♦

 **For information, call 410-523-1542, or email info@browndowntown.org.**

Turnaround Tuesday

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is a seismic shift in the room when they realize they are the ones being consulted about changing the city's hiring culture.

Raw despair slowly moves towards palpable hope as a forgotten people listen and relate to one another, discover common interests around jobs, safety, and the right to vote, and begin to experience the power of a relational collective that embraces their voice. Move them into action, and they are unrelenting in their passion, accountability, and patience to keep coming back. They recognize it is both personal and bigger than them.


Turnaround Tuesday, a BUILD initiative, is an unusual jobs program that pairs leadership development with workforce readiness. It has captured the spirit of hundreds of returning citizens and BUILD members as they turnaround their thinking on what it takes to reverse the effects of mass incarceration in this city.

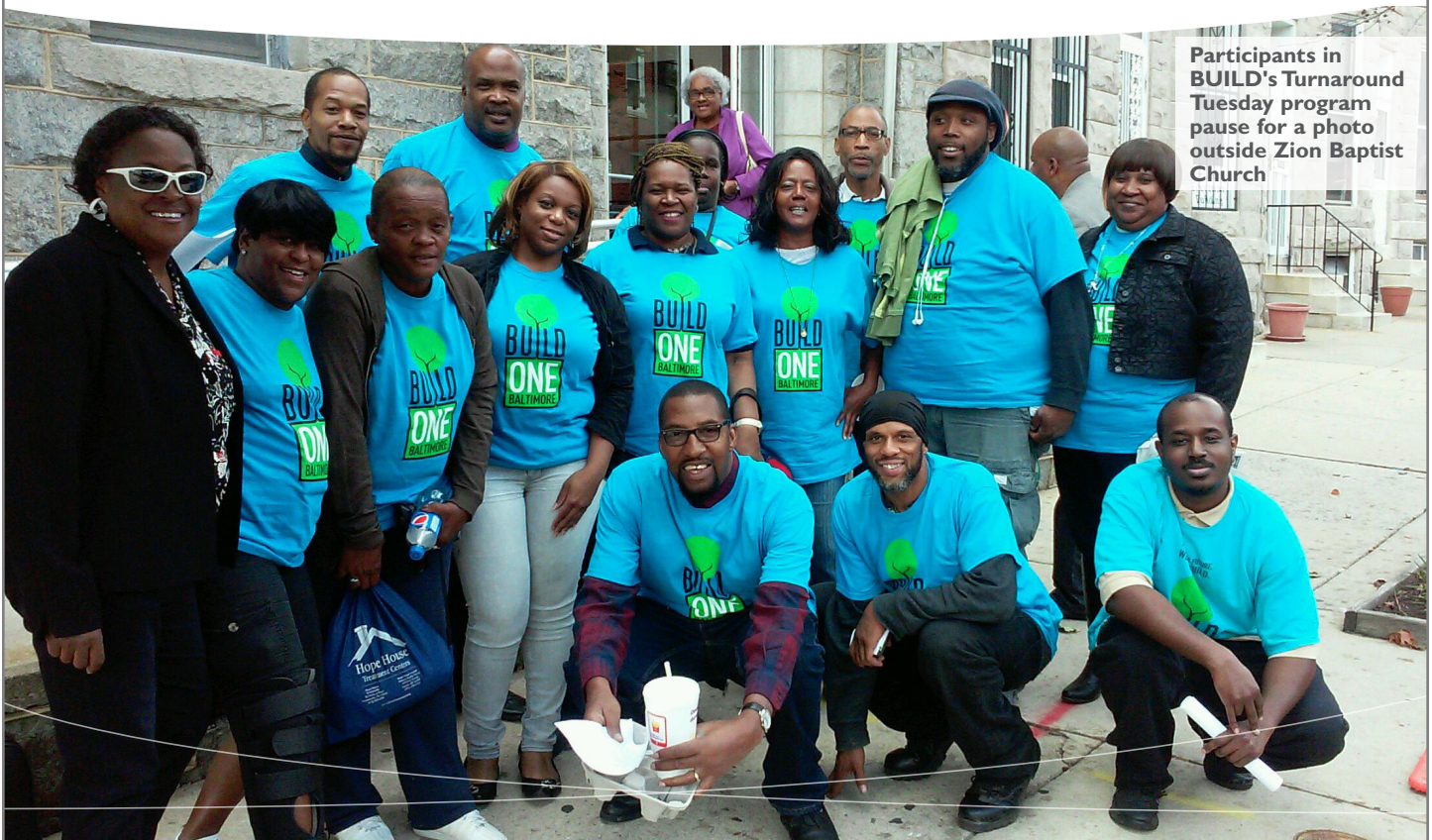
Turnaround Tuesday leaders who take their personal stories of lives deeply affected by incarceration and make them public, are challenging institutional leaders and creating the political will for leaders to shift institutional policies that are barriers to work for these citizens

With 102 participants hired since joining the Turnaround Tuesday community, an 84 percent retention rate at 6 months, and the creation of 375 new jobs resulting from this one campaign, momentum is shifting but it needs to be embraced by a much larger community to impact a city.

Throughout April, Turnaround Tuesday participants welcome BUILD members and guests to any Tuesday morning session to observe or participate. In May, volunteers will be trained to provide assistance with resumes, interviewing, career counseling and post-employment job coaching.

Volunteer opportunities include days/evenings, in addition to Tuesday mornings. Additionally, if you know an employer BUILD should meet, please contact us. ♦

 **Turnaround Tuesday details: 9-11 a.m., every Tuesday, Zion Baptist, 1700 N. Caroline Street. For more information, contact Cheryl Finney, cfinney@comcast.net, 410-608-3302 (cell).**



April City Love Speaker Series

Hear from "courageous" citizens on Sunday, April 24

by Andrew Foster Connors

“In the era of colorblindness, it is no longer socially permissible to use race, explicitly, as a justification for discrimination, exclusion, and social contempt. So we don’t. Rather than rely on race, we use our criminal justice system to label people of color ‘criminals’ and then engage in all the practices we supposedly left behind. Today it is perfectly legal to discriminate against criminals in nearly all the ways that it was once legal to discriminate against African Americans. Once you’re labeled a felon, the old forms of discrimination—employment discrimination, housing discrimination, denial of the right to vote, denial of educational opportunity, denial of food stamps and other public benefits, and exclusion from jury service—are suddenly legal. As a criminal, you have scarcely more rights, and arguably less respect, than a black man living in Alabama at the height of Jim Crow. We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.”

– Michelle Alexander, “The New Jim Crow”

The United States incarcerates a larger percentage of its black population than South Africa did at the height of apartheid. Those statistics have come to the fore with solid scholarship from Michelle Alexander and others alongside the Black Lives Matter movement and the incidents of police misconduct from Ferguson to Baltimore. But what can our city do about it? Beyond the important policy debates at the national level, how can Baltimore shift the pipeline away from prison and into jobs that pay a decent wage?

Join participants from Turnaround Tuesday on Sunday, April 24, immediately after worship, for our final “City Love” educational event of the church year. Hear from returning citizens about the ingredients they found important and necessary to turn their lives around. Hear from police officers committed to changing our city about the steps they are taking to go “behind the wall” of prison and

prepare inmates for a life of work instead of a life of crime. Hear from business leaders who have taken a risk on returning citizens about what they need to support people entering the workforce for the first time and what other community leaders can do to expand their efforts.

Michelle Alexander says in “The New Jim Crow” that the “vast gulf [that] exists between “criminals” and those of us who have never served time in prison is a fiction created by the racial ideology that birthed mass incarceration, namely that there is something fundamentally wrong and morally inferior about ‘them.’ The reality, though, is that all of us have done wrong.”

Come and learn from courageous citizens who are living across that divide toward a future that we continue to dream for our city. ♦



Tiffany Series Concerts

LGBT Choral Celebration April 3

Acclaimed Organist Frederick Swann, April 24

by Shirley Parry and David Bielenberg

The Tiffany Series is proud to present an LGBT Choral Celebration on Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 pm. Three outstanding and diverse ensembles will perform: Baltimore's New Wave Singers, Washington's Potomac Fever, and Philadelphia's SheWho. Everyone is invited!

In this spectacular concert the groups will perform individually and then come together to sing several works as a mass chorus. You won't want to miss this very special opportunity to hear three of the Mid-Atlantic region's best LGBT choral ensembles in one unique performance.

LGBT Choral Groups

The New Wave Singers just celebrated its 30th year as a musical community of LGBT[S] people in Baltimore. Directed by Adam C. Koch, this very popular 40-member group gives two major concerts a year and performs choral works ranging from contemporary pieces, spirituals, folk and classical music to jazz.

Potomac Fever is the 14-voice a cappella close harmony ensemble of the much larger Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, whose mission is to delight audiences and champion gay equality with robust artistry, fun and surprise. Potomac Fever's songs are varied within the "close harmony" genre, and sometimes include vocal percussion, the lush chords of Stephen Sondheim, or the intentional (and striking) discords of Imogen Heap. Potomac Fever has sung at both the White House and Vice President's residence; their last White House performance was on the very day that the Supreme Court ruled on marriage equality.

SheWho is a feminist women's vocal ensemble from Philadelphia that for 15 years has sung songs celebrating women, expressing diverse experiences of spirit and promoting social change and justice. (The name "SheWho" comes from Judy Grahn's poems evoking a goddess/female figure.) This 14-member group has performed at women's festivals, as part



**Top: Potomac Fever
Bottom: Frederick Swann**

of the Bryn Mawr Twilight Concert Series, and throughout the Philadelphia area. Their first CD was nominated for an OUTMUSIC award for Outstanding New Recording by Chorus or Choir. A reception follows the concert.

Frederick Swann

The Tiffany Series' second event in April will be a recital by Frederick Swann, one of the truly legendary organists of

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Tiffany Series

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the time, on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m.

Swann's program has special resonance for Brown Memorial. In addition to works by composers J.S. Bach, César Franck, Healey Willan and Seth Bingham, he will play "Invocation" by Richard Ross, Brown's organist and choirmaster for many years following Virgil Fox's tenure at the church.

Swann also has a strong connection with Virgil Fox himself: he worked with and ultimately succeeded the celebrated organist at the Riverside Church in New York City, serving as organist and director of music at Riverside from 1966 to 1982. Subsequently, Swann held a similar post at the Crystal Cathedral in California. During his 16 years there, millions of people in more than 165 countries saw and heard him play the organ on televised weekly services. He is currently Artist-in-Residence at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in

Palm Desert, Calif.

Frederick Swann has presented recitals worldwide; recent European tours included special appearances at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and Passau Cathedral in Germany. He played at Brown Memorial in May 2009, accompanying the Chancel Choir's performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

Swann served as president of the American Guild of Organists from 2002-2008. ♦

Tickets for both concerts (\$15; students \$5) are available on Brown's website (browndowntown.org), in the Assembly Room after worship, and at the door. Parking and shuttle service available. For information, email: TiffanySeries.BrownMemorial@gmail.com.

Session News & Notes

Highlights from the Session's actions in December and January:

- Authorized observances of the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper in 2016 for the second Sunday of each month, Easter Sunday, the All-Church Retreat, the Youth Retreat, World Communion Sunday, and pastoral visitation of home-bound members; authorized the youth to serve the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper at Youth Sunday, 2016.
- Elected Anne Heuisler clerk for 2016.
- Elected David Nyweide treasurer for 2016.
- Met with the diaconate to hear faith statements of church officers elected for 2016 and voted to sustain their nominations.



- Approved Lisa Hoffberger to chair the tutoring commission, succeeding Tom Waldron, whose service was commended.
- Commended Deb Baer for her service on the tutoring commission.
- Approved church budget for 2016. Made calls to assist the stewardship campaign.
- Accepted the recommendations of the personnel committee for Pastoral Terms of Call Changes 2016, which were presented at the annual meeting.
- Advised in planning capital campaign.
- Scheduled a Session retreat that took place on Feb. 13 at the Center.
- Approved trustees' request for funds for leak repair to sewer and water lines.
- Commended the service of rotating elders Andy Imparato and Andy Johnston and youth elders Nick Imparato and Olivia Liang.

Contact, Anne Heuisler, ahuisler@comcast.net, Clerk of the Session, for information or questions.

Report from the History Committee

A catalogue of Brown's history archive is now on CCB.

by Karen Nelson

Do you know what is in the church archives? Would you be interested to know that James Rouse was an active member here for many years? Or that Brown Memorial once owned the structure across the alley (now a private home) and used it to run a community center serving soldiers during WWII, and neighborhood youth during the postwar period of social change? Or that member Jay Andrus supported the still-existing Danavand women's college in Iran before their revolution?

These tidbits and many more are to be found in the records and archives of this church. What is more, you can see what these archives contain from the comfort of your own computer by viewing the catalogue of the archives on Brown Memorial's internal website, Creating Connections at Brown, or CCB. Login to browndowntown.org, click on "CCB Login" at the bottom of the homepage. Once logged into CCB, go to the "Church Community Group," click on "Files" at the top of the page, and you will see the History Archive and Records Guide" listed.

Brown Memorial Park Avenue (and our sister church, Woodbrook), will be 150 years old in 2020. The symbiosis of clergy and congregation trying to discern and follow the leading of Christ over these years is recorded in the official records of the church such as Session minutes, but is enriched by the various unofficial records, such as the letters, committee reports, newspaper articles, book chapters, obituaries, fliers and photographs that make up most of the content of our archives. These records of our past help us understand who we are and where we are headed today.

The archives, as they now exist, began as several boxes of such unofficial materials saved in our church closets. In 2009, Lay Associate, Sally Robinson, enlisted several people to sort, organize, store and catalogue these materials. We did so, creating a structure in which these, and additional materials as received, could be stored and located.

The system is not perfect – we are not trained archivists,



Do these faces look familiar? Many old photos exist in the church archive that are available for browsing.

and time is always limited. What is in the archives is what has been brought to us. We know not all parts of church life are represented. If you have materials you think are missing, we would welcome copies of them. But we realize the richness of what we already have, and are delighted to have it more available to the congregation.

If you find an item of interest as you browse the listing of the contents of the archives, you will still have to come down to the church to see it. You are welcome to look at materials in the back room of the church house, but they should stay there. Ask Sharon Holley, our church secretary, to make a copy for you of something you want.

If you have questions, or are interested in this history and would like to be a part of our committee, we would love to talk to you. We could use help better housing and mounting materials, as well as adding new materials and cataloguing them.

In particular, we are at an exciting point in time with regard to capturing and storing the ongoing life and communications of the congregation electronically. We would love to have committee members more capable in this area than are the existing members of this committee, who are: Julie Hanks, Karen Nelson and Sally Robinson. ♦

Youth News You Can Use



The middle and high school youth enjoyed skiing, snow tubing and games during the annual Youth Winter Weekend in Massanetta, VA, Jan. 29-31.

Sunday, March 13: Youth Pre-Event (2:45 p.m.) and BUILD Mayoral Action (4 p.m.)

2,000 members of BUILD will gather on March 13 to hold candidates for mayor accountable to a vision of a city with jobs, a city for youth and a city that's safe. The main event begins at 4 p.m. but young people ages 14-24 are invited to a pre-event with food, stories, and a teaching on the youth agenda during the action. The Youth Pre-Event will begin at 2:45 p.m. at Coppin State. Brown Memorial youth have committed to bringing 15 young people. More information coming soon!

Sundays, March 20 & March. 27: No Sunday School, but we will have...

March 20: "Palm Sunday" Night Live, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Our monthly gathering for middle and high school youth will focus on the Passion. Why do we call the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Passion? How does it relate to what we are passionate about in our own lives? Join us for dinner, games and conversation.

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunrise Service & Miss Shirley's, 6:30 a.m.

After last year's success, we are bringing back this simple service of the Resurrection with stringed instruments, Scripture, and a sunrise on the top of Federal Hill. There's plenty of time for breakfast at Miss Shirley's before the

11 a.m. service at Brown. All ages welcome! Let Tim know if you'd like to be involved or are looking for a ride.

April 17: Youth Sunday

Worship will be lead entirely by our high school students, following weeks of discussion and preparation. Youth, please set aside Friday, April 15, from 5-7p.m., for a full rehearsal of the service.

April 24: Sunday Night Live!, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Our monthly youth gathering returns, this time featuring some special guests: a group of Salvadoran young people who live in Baltimore City. We'll talk about life in Central America, the immigrant experience in Baltimore, and how we can be better neighbors. All 6th-12th graders are welcome.



Talk with Tim (tim@browndowntown.org) for more information.

CCB Tip of the Month: Finding a Group

by Rachel Cunningham

When new members join the church, Andrew always charges them with finding someplace to get involved to become connected to the community. I've also heard many folks say it's really hard to know how to get involved or where to learn about the different places to connect with others. These statements are almost always followed by comments like "It wasn't until so and so invited me to x that I became involved."

Personal invitations are always a wonderful way to help folks find their place in the community but we also hope our new public website and our internal website – CCB – will provide greater opportunity for individual exploration and connection.

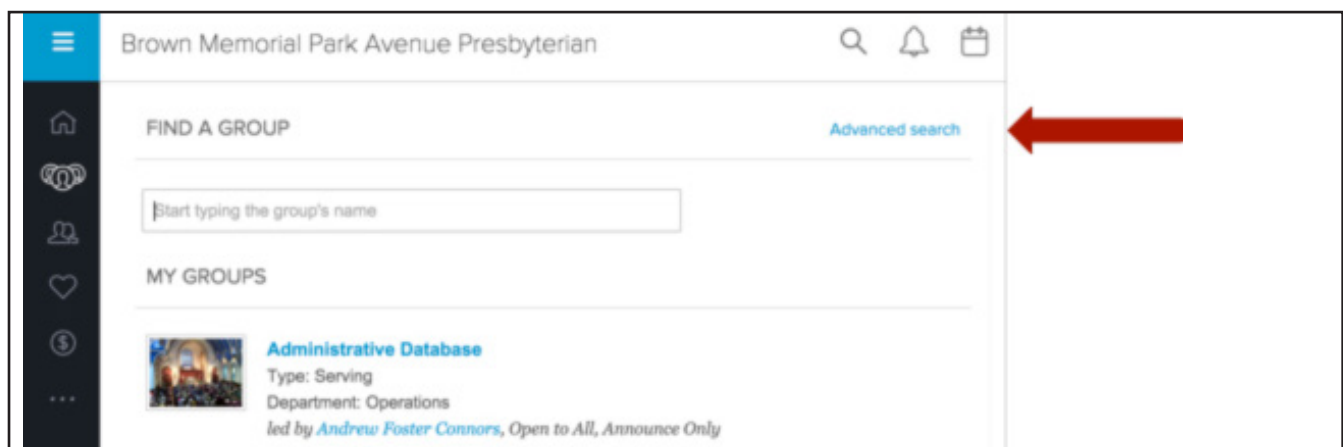
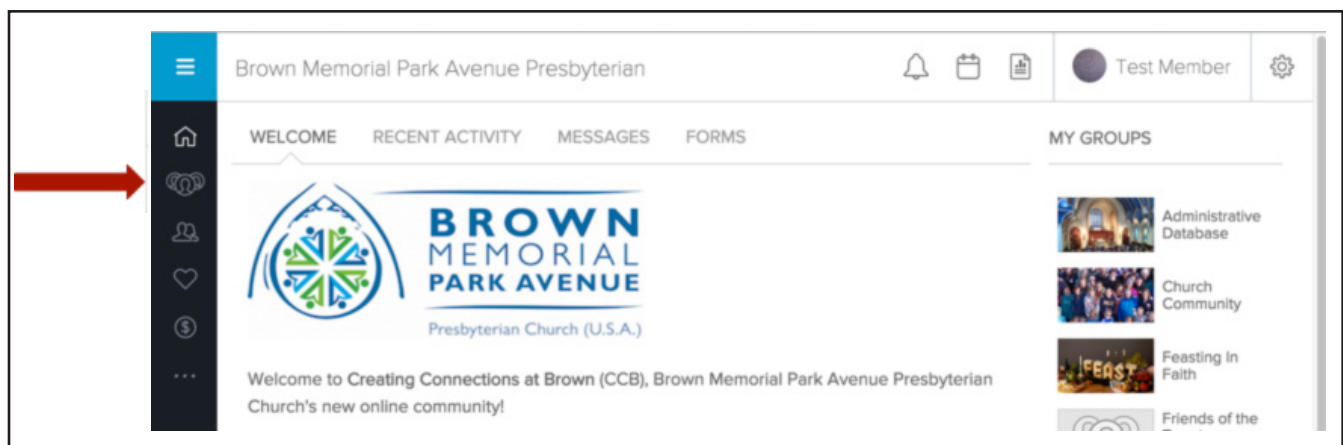
Before I get to this issue's CCB Tip on how to use CCB to find a group that interests you, I want to back up a bit and make sure everyone knows how to login to CCB

because that will be your first step in accessing the many groups found in CCB. So push through any initial hesitancy to learn yet another login and read on.

Logging into CCB

To login, click on the green CCB Login button at the bottom of our public website homepage: www.browndowntown.org to access the CCB Login Page. If you think you

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CCB Tip: Finding a Group

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have a username and password but don't remember, click on the Forgot Password or Username link and follow the instructions. If it is your first time logging in, click the Sign Up link and follow the instructions. Please be aware this is not an automatic sign up and requires staff to complete the steps. We thank you for your patience.


You've got your username and password, now what?

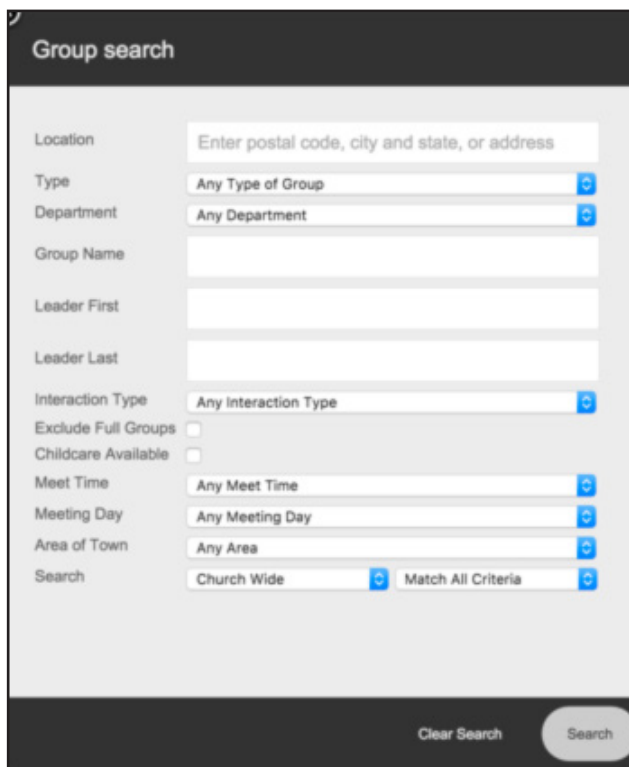
Follow the instructions above to login to CCB. The CCB Home Page will appear. The groups you participate in are listed under your profile name and will appear with or without a group photo depending on the number of groups you are involved in. Most users will at least see Administrative Database and Church Community. To find other groups that might interest you click on the Groups link below the house symbol in the left column of your Home Page.

A search window will appear, if you know the name

of the group you are looking for simply type it into the search bar and you will be directed to that group's Group Page. Group pages give a description of the group and other pertinent information like when and where they meet and who the group leaders are. A link allows you to either join or request to join the group.

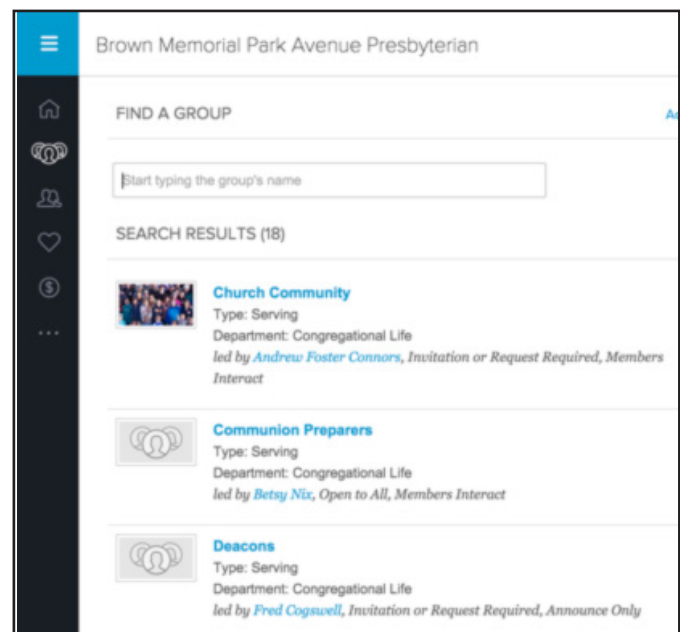
If unsure of a group name or you simply want to browse existing groups, click the Advanced Search link. A Group Search window allows you to select search parameters. I suggest searching by Type or Department or both. After setting parameters, all groups matching your search criteria will appear. Click the group names to learn more about each. Happy searching and connecting!

 **Watch for more tips on how to get the most out of CCB in future Tidings and, as always, if you have questions, call or email Rachel Cunningham, 410-523-1542 Ext. 14, rachel@browndowntown.org.**



The screenshot shows a 'Group search' form with the following fields and options:

- Location: Enter postal code, city and state, or address
- Type: Any Type of Group (dropdown)
- Department: Any Department (dropdown)
- Group Name: (text input)
- Leader First: (text input)
- Leader Last: (text input)
- Interaction Type: Any Interaction Type (dropdown)
- Exclude Full Groups:
- Childcare Available:
- Meet Time: Any Meet Time (dropdown)
- Meeting Day: Any Meeting Day (dropdown)
- Area of Town: Any Area (dropdown)
- Search: Church Wide (dropdown) | Match All Criteria (dropdown)
- Buttons: Clear Search, Search



The screenshot shows search results for 'Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian'. The results are as follows:

- Church Community**
Type: Serving
Department: Congregational Life
led by Andrew Foster Connors, Invitation or Request Required, Members Interact
- Communion Preparers**
Type: Serving
Department: Congregational Life
led by Betsy Nix, Open to All, Members Interact
- Deacons**
Type: Serving
Department: Congregational Life
led by Fred Cogswell, Invitation or Request Required, Announce Only

Tutoring Corner:

Helping Baltimore's Children Together

by Tom Waldron

The Brown Memorial Tutoring Program has been a partner with Mt. Royal Elementary/Middle School for decades. During all of those years, volunteer tutors at the program have provided one-on-one tutoring to students from the school who make the two-block walk to the church each week.

That partnership is as strong as ever thanks to Mt. Royal's energetic principal, Job Grotzky, who has led the school for the past three years. Mr. Grotzky was pleased to find out about the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program when he got the job at Mt. Royal and considers the program an enormous asset to the school.

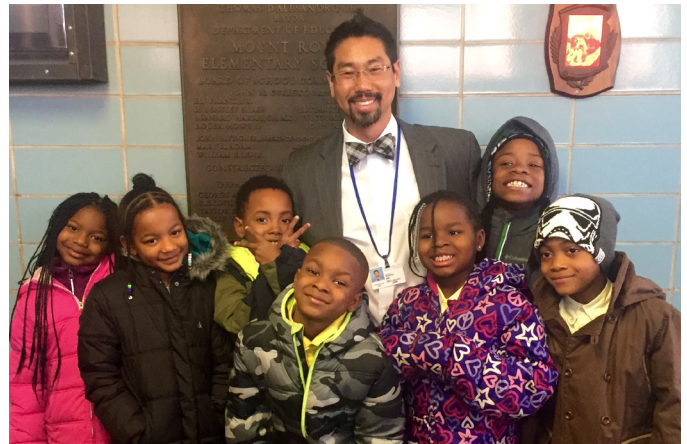
"Overall it's just been amazing," Mr. Grotzky says of the tutoring program. "It's an extension of our work and a true partnership. We share the same mission for helping our students, and we have the same vision for where we want our students to end up."

Mr. Grotzky became an educator after nine years of playing sax in a Midwestern-based rock and roll band called Domestic Problems ("Dave Matthews Band meets Blues Traveler and Rusted Root," he says.) Eventually, members of the band moved into new careers.

With a mother who was a special education teacher for 42 years and a father who was a state and local school system administrator, Mr. Grotzky gravitated to teaching. After a decade in other Baltimore City schools, he took over at Mt. Royal.

Mt. Royal, like nearly all Baltimore schools, has an extremely high number of students living in low-income families. These students often need extra supports and attention to succeed in school, and the tutoring program helps meet that need. About 50 Mt. Royal students receive tutoring from Brown Memorial, and a large majority show important literacy gains each year. "You can clearly see growth with the students," Mr. Grotzky says.

But he also appreciates another benefit the program brings to students – a consistent adult presence that allows



Job Grotzky, principal of Mt. Royal Elementary School, calls the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program a "dream come true."


children to develop a trusting relationship. And the fact that tutors work with the same child for an entire year – and sometimes multiple years – is enormously valuable.

"We always say we want volunteers, but we want the right volunteers," he says. "With Brown Memorial, you get the right kind of tutors who have the right experience. And our kids just love that nurturing. All of the tutors have that nurturing quality, which is really important.

"The core goal is to bring them up in reading, but that social consistency is a huge benefit," Mr. Grotzky says. "If you had tutors who turned over it wouldn't be as successful. There's the trust factor where kids can open up to tutors."

Maintaining the partnership with the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program is part of Mr. Grotzky's commitment to expanding ties with the community around the school.

"As a principal, it's like a dream come true," Mr. Grotzky says. "Even if we purchased a program like this, some may not be as successful. It's a great program, and I'm ecstatic and very humble that we get to be the recipients." ♦

 **For more information about the program or volunteering, contact Director Martha Socolar through the church office: 410-523-1542.**

Donor Recognition: The Mary Taylor Daniels Fund

by Phyllis McIntosh

Everywhere she went—and she went all over the world—Mary Daniels Taylor integrated herself into the lives of people isolated in poverty and illiteracy. Throughout their lives, she and her husband, Dr. Carl E. Taylor, had enormous impact on the communities they visited.

But Mary was no tag-along wife. She was a force in her own right, helping to transform lives no matter what risks her work imposed on her. At the age of 30, for instance, she led Muslim women and children out of India on horseback during the bloody partition of the Punjab, braving Hindu mobs and fighting in the streets.

“Even if I had wanted to, there is no way I could have stopped her,” Carl confessed. “No one ever had any control over Mary. She was going to do what she thought was right at all times. All we could hope is that she would do it as safely as possible.”

The daughter of a carpenter and a teacher, Mary went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh, followed by a master’s at Boston University, with a focus on remedial reading and learning disabilities. After she and Carl married, they served 11 years as missionaries, mostly in India, where she put her education

to work, beginning, for instance, a nursery/kindergarten and teaching social sciences and child psychology at Christian Medical College.

After returning to the United States in the 1950s, while Carl made his mark in public health at Harvard and then Johns Hopkins, Mary taught disadvantaged children in Boston and Baltimore, eventually joining what is now Towson University to train teachers for work in the inner city. She led volunteers to teach reading and writing to boys in the state’s juvenile justice system and served for years as president of Maryland’s UNICEF chapter. During breaks, Mary joined Carl on long stints overseas in India, Nepal, Indonesia, China and Iraq, working with war refugees in makeshift schools and clinics.

“She was wedded to the idea that every child had a right to an education,” said Billy Hauserman, former dean of Towson’s School of Education. “She is an example of someone who spent her life doing the thing that ran deepest in her, and it brought great joy into her life and the lives of all who knew her.”

Mary and Carl joined Brown Memorial in the 1960s, attracted by its work in social justice and civil rights. She served on the Session and as a deacon for many years, but made

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BETSY TAYLOR


She was wedded to the idea that every child had a right to an education.

— Billy Hauserman,
former dean
of Towson
University’s
School of
Education



March Birthdays

- 03/04 Susan Schindler
- 03/06 Ryan Artes
- 03/07 Rosa Clare Brown
- 03/07 Edna Watts
- 03/08 Aidan Connors
- 03/11 Dianne Ross
- 03/12 Scott Lemmon
- 03/13 Joanne Egan
- 03/14 Lucy Hand
- 03/14 Ken Mills
- 03/15 Robbie Blinkoff
- 03/15 Ellen Edrington
- 03/15 Liam McConnell
- 03/15 Don Peeples
- 03/16 Jonathan Barnes
- 03/17 Chel Cavallon
- 03/19 Martha Bishai
- 03/20 Nicholas Reed
- 03/21 Ellison Warmath
- 03/22 Melissa Riorda
- 03/23 Ben Bobango
- 03/23 Nell Robinson
- 03/23 Stephen Ruckman
- 03/23 Sarah Seipp-Williams
- 03/26 Kenna Mitchell
- 03/26 Carol Newill
- 03/26 Sarah Ramirez Cross
- 03/26 Rick Thomas
- 03/27 Olivia Liang
- 03/29 Erin Anderson
- 03/29 Olivia Babb

 **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.

Donor Recognition

Continued from Page 13

her strongest and most lasting mark in 1963 when she started the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program, one of the longest-running and most effective volunteer remedial reading programs in the country.

She spread joy as well. With all her achievements and high moral purpose, Mary's streak of mischievous playfulness attracted children to her. Who could forget her children's sermons that enlivened worship at Brown? With whimsy and color, they involved the children in improvisational dramas that introduced nug-


gets of spiritual understanding.

The Taylor's legacy continues to enrich others through the church mission work. They established the Mary and Carl Taylor Funds, which support global mission, and after Mary's death in 2001, her family established The Mary Daniels Taylor Fund that supports the Mbengwi Presbyterian School in Cameroon, helping to elevate it to a "Center of Excellence." No better tribute could be made to honor Mary's lifelong accomplishments and continue Brown Memorial's endeavors in mission. ♦

Brown's Year in Review

Take a look at our recently published 2015 Annual Report to get a full picture of Brown Memorial's finances and highlights from our day-to-day church life last year. The report can be downloaded from the church website at browndowntown.org/newsletter/.



 For the most up-to-date information about all activities and services at Brown, visit browndowntown.org and click on "Sign up for our E-newsletter" at the bottom of the homepage to receive *This Week @ Brown* in your email inbox.



April Birthdays

- 04/03 Drew Johnston
- 04/03 Ruskin Nohe-Moren
- 04/03 Kitty Ward
- 04/05 Andy Johnston
- 04/06 Hannah Bobango
- 04/06 Shannon Bobango
- 04/06 James Schuman
- 04/07 George Bareford
- 04/07 Liz Bowie Fesperman
- 04/07 Jacob Schindler
- 04/07 Xandr Zabel
- 04/08 Rachel Aaron
- 04/08 Larry Fletcher-Hill
- 04/09 James H. Williams
- 04/11 Sarah Egan
- 04/11 William Egan
- 04/11 Lucille McCarthy
- 04/11 Jeanne Thomas
- 04/12 Ernest Imhoff
- 04/12 Grace Todd
- 04/13 James Wagner Cavallon
- 04/15 Annika Brockman
- 04/15 Karoon Peng Armand
- 04/17 Kathy Graning
- 04/18 Dever Cunningham
- 04/19 Barbara Cates
- 04/19 Anna Schindler
- 04/20 Mary Mashburn
- 04/22 Greta Finney
- 04/23 Michelle Zabel
- 04/24 Ethan Franctovich
- 04/24 Gareth Reiman
- 04/24 Ben Waldron
- 04/25 Reddy Finney
- 04/25 Clementine Hensley
- 04/25 Amy Schmickel
- 04/26 Chloe Cheseldine
- 04/26 Kenna Emerick
- 04/27 Andrew Foster Connors
- 04/29 Freddie Courpas
- 04/29 Susan Saudek
- 04/29 Jean Savina
- 04/29 David Schmickel
- 04/30 Katherine Egan

Music Notes

Brown on the Forefront of Music Commissions

by Michael Britt, Minister of Music



interpret Psalm 98: verse 1, quite literally: “O sing to the Lord a NEW song,…”

I have no doubt we should preserve and embrace the great wealth of hymnody, as well as choral and instrumental works, that have inspired our faith for centuries. This is certainly put into practice at Brown Memorial during Sunday worship. However, for decades, my passion has extended to promoting the talents of “Contemporary” composers, whose compositions have also greatly enhanced the repertoire of our congregations, choirs and instrumentalists.

I am proud to say Brown Memorial has played an important role in promoting new music for worship. During the past three years, our church has commissioned six choral anthems and a hymn by locally and nationally known composers. Three new organ works have had their “premiere” at Brown Memorial. Several of these have already been published and are making their way into the repertoire of choirs and organists throughout the country. A new choral work by Alice Rebecca Jones Trout (Baltimore native and renowned pianist/accompanist) will be premiered by our Chancel Choir in May. Additional works for our Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir are also in the making...details forthcoming!

My sincerest thanks goes out to this congregation and to our music ministers for not only supporting this endeavor, but for learning and embracing this repertoire that we can truly call our own.... and... share with the world.

Compositions Commissioned by Brown Memorial

Choral:

“The New Creation” – Marvin Mills

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” – David Schelat

“The Heavens Delight” – Gwyneth Walker

“I am the Vine” – Alfred V. Fedak

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You” – Alfred V. Fedak

“Phos Hilaron” (O Gladsome Light) – Alice Rebecca Jones Trout

Hymn:

“God of Color, God of Light” – Wayne L. Wold

Organ (commissioned by Michael Britt, premiered at Brown):

“Organ Sonata” – David Schelat

“Scherzo” – Alfred V. Fedak

“In Memoriam” – Alfred V. Fedak



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*

NEW: Prayer Service every Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Bring forth spoken and silent prayers from the church's ongoing prayer list.

Every Sunday, 9 -9:30, Meditation Circle, Church House. A time of silence and community.

Wednesdays, March 2, 9, and 16, Tri-Church Education Series - "Hospitality in an Age of Terror," Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Service 7-8:30 p.m. Memorial Episcopal. *View the Calendar page at browndowntown.org for more information.*

Wednesdays, through March 23, Ecumenical Worship Services, Noon, Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian. *View the Calendar page at browndowntown.org for more information.*

Mar. 6 & 13, Inquirer's Class, 9:45-10:30 a.m., pastor's office, Church House. Learn about becoming a church member.

Mar. 11, Feasting in Faith, 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a potluck dinner at a member's home. Will discuss the book, "John: The Gospel of Light & Life." *Contact: Rachel, rachel@browndowntown.org.*

Mar. 13 & Apr. 10, Community Potluck, Noon, Assembly Room. Continue the feast of communion with us.

Mar. 13, BUILD Mayoral Action Candidate Accountability Assembly, 4-6 p.m., **Youth Pre-Event**, 2:45 p.m. Coppin State, James Weldon Johnson Auditorium. RSVP libbylongino@gmail.com. *More info: browndowntown.org.*

Mar. 15 & Apr. 12, Theology on Tap, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tavern on the Hill, 900 Cathedral St. Explore theological topics in a casual setting. *Contact: Chip and Kelsie Riegel, kelsie.riegelmorgan@gmail.com.*

Mar. 20 & Apr. 24, Sunday Night Live, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Middle and high school youth gather in the Church Assembly Room for dinner, games and conversation about things that matter.

Mar. 20, Palm Sunday, Procession 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. *See details on page 3.*

Mar. 22, Taize Prayer Service, 7 p.m. *See details on page 3.*

Mar. 24, Maundy Thursday, 5:30-7:15 p.m. *See details on page 3.*

Mar. 25, Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m. *See details on page 3.*

Mar. 26, Easter Decorating, 10 a.m.-Noon. *See details on page 3.*

Mar. 27, Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. *See details on page 3.*

Mar. 27, Easter Sunday, 11 a.m. *See details on page 3.*

Mar. 31 & Apr. 21, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1-3 p.m., Home of Dianne Ross, March 31. Home of Carol Graves, April 21. Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls for those in need. *Contact Dianne Ross, rossinbalt@verizon.net.*

Apr. 3, Tiffany Series: LGBT Choral Groups, 3 p.m. *See details on page 6.*

Apr. 17, Youth Sunday. *See details on page 9.*

Apr. 24, City Love Lunch Series, Following worship. *See details on page 5.*

Apr. 24, Tiffany Series: Federick Swann, Organist, 3 p.m. *See details on page 6.*

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

The Tidings is now published bimonthly. Due dates for article submissions this year are Feb. 10 (March/April issue), April 11 (May/June issue), June 10 (July/Aug. issue), Aug. 10 (Sept./Oct. issue), Oct. 10 (Nov./Dec. issue) and Dec. 12 (Jan./Feb 2017 issue). Please send articles, photos and content ideas to Jennifer Michael, jmichael@browndowntown.org.

