



**BROWN  
MEMORIAL  
PARK AVENUE**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

# Tidings

JAN/FEB 2017

## Pastor's Reflections

**Andrew Foster Connors**

Senior Pastor

**In Anne Tyler's *Saint Maybe*, the protagonist Ian is riddled with guilt over the role that he believes he played in the back-to-back deaths of his brother and sister-in-law, leaving their three children under the care of his aging parents.**

Somehow Ian, who is not a regular churchgoer, finds himself at "The Church of the Second Chance" confessing his sense of guilt and asking for forgiveness. After confessing his sin, Ian feels some relief—a feeling that he shares with the pastor after all the other parishioners have left the building.



"Don't you think I'm forgiven?"

"Goodness, no," Reverend Emmett said briskly.

"But. . . I thought that was kind of the point," Ian said. "I thought God forgives everything."

"He does," Reverend Emmett said. "But you can't just say, 'I'm sorry, God.' Why, anyone could do that much! You have to offer reparation—concrete, practical reparation, according to the rules of our church."

To Ian's horror and astonishment Rev. Emmett suggests that Ian drop out of college and get a job so that

[continued on page 2](#) ➔



## A Longtime Commitment

David Mock and Family's Contributions to the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program

by Tom Waldron

During the last school year, Tyion Matthews, then a 3rd grader at John Eager Howard Elementary School, enjoyed a rewarding routine. Taking part in the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program, Tyion was greeted each week by his tutor, longtime Brown Memorial member David Mock. Separated in age by more than 80 years, the two developed a warm relationship.

"We used to read books and do some work," Tyion said. "He used to get my snack and then we'd read *Sports Illustrated*. I felt excited working with him. He was nice and he taught me a lot."

For 20 years, that was the case as David served faithfully as a volunteer tutor in the program. This year, with mobility an issue, David has been unable to tutor.

[continued on page 3](#) ➔

## INSIDE

**Capital Fund Update.** Construction Team selects design/build firm. See page 6.

**Youth Organizing.** Brown's role in nurturing youth leaders. See page 8.

**Feed the Hungry.** Help us donate 20 casseroles a month. See page 10.

**Picture Page.** A look back at Christmas and Advent. See page 15.

## Pastor's Reflections

*Continued from Page 1*

he can take care of his brother's children.

*Saint Maybe* (or at least Rev. Emmett) insists that while forgiveness is free, it demands a lot from each of us. *Saint Maybe* suggests that the fantasy of freedom that first prevents Ian from even entertaining the idea that he might have a responsibility to his brother's children, is a fantasy that needs to be re-examined. The ties that bind us to each other might contain more meaning, joy and possibility than our individualist culture leads us to believe.

I thought about that fantasy while listening to participants at Turnaround Tuesday tell stories both about the second chances they had been given, but also about how hard it was to seize that second chance for all it is worth [read an update about BUILD's jobs and re-entry movement on page 7]. The event took me back to remarks made by Ron Peterson, the President of the Johns Hopkins Health System, to a room full of people with PhDs and MDs, and ex-offenders returning to work: everyone in that room, he told us, had at least one experience of a second chance. Recently, I've wondered if forgiveness might be one of the keys that unlocks a new way forward in the deep divisions that we face in our nation, from immigration to criminal justice reform to partisan intransigence.

As we approach the church's annual meeting on Jan. 22, I've also been thinking about the second chance that Brown Memorial has been given over the past 40 years. A succession of faithful leaders—clergy and lay—shepherded our community through life support and into

the possibility of a new day. Yet paradoxically, as I review many of their decisions, I see leaders who risked the life of the church for all the right things—justice and peace and community in the midst of a broken, divided, declining city. Their decision to put the life of the church in service of the community around them—a decision that is never made only once in history but is demanded by Christ again and again—continues to give the church new life.

Like Ian before his encounter with Rev. Emmett, the temptation is to think that our job is to somehow protect what those saints before us worked so hard to build—to seek to save our life by protecting it. But as Ian learns, our lives are best spent serving others. The key to our church's future is not in protecting what we've been given, but in giving our life for the sake of the world. That kind of Gospel living isn't easy, which is why we spend so much time in worship rehearsing it. Rehearsing our confession and forgiveness. Rehearsing our giving and sharing. Rehearsing our peace passing. Rehearsing our feast at the table.

May all that rehearsing prepare us for the true performance that happens each day when we enter the world's stage and step into the light. ♦

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## Don't Miss a Sermon

If you missed a Sunday sermon or want to revisit one, audio recordings are available at [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org). A social media sharing tool bar on the sermons web page makes it easy to share sermons with your social networks. You can also subscribe to our sermons on iTunes.

Andrew Foster Connors recently received a note from a friend in San Francisco who listened to his sermon from Nov. 13, the Sunday after the presidential election. She wrote, *"Thank you for your continued passion, wisdom and purposeful preaching. I have felt numb and definitely withdrawn this past week. On my way to work this morning, I needed help re-engaging. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Brown Downtown not only posts their sermons, but posts them promptly! I received the story of Stone Soup and the message that 'there is enough.'"*



Audio engineers Rick Thomas and Bud Graves record a Sunday service from the Sanctuary balcony.

## A Longtime Commitment

*Continued from Page 1*

“It was a wonderful thing to help educate kids who might not succeed without it,” David says of his years tutoring. “And I always learned more than they did!”

On Feb. 5, the church will host a celebration of the Tutoring Program after the worship service—and David Mock will be saluted during that event for his many years of service. Along with tutoring, he served for years on the program’s advisory board, offering support and helping coordinate the program’s relationship with the church.

“He inspired a lot of students,” says Martha Socolar, director of the Tutoring Program, which operates out of the third floor of the education building. “He was a wonderful male role model for students, and they loved him. He was such a knowledgeable, gentle soul who cared so much about the kids.”

David is far from the only member of the extended Mock family to get involved in the Tutoring Program. Indeed, an astonishing four generations of the family have offered their talents to help Baltimore City children improve their literacy.

Both of his parents—Clark and Margaret Mock—were tutors during the program’s early years after its founding in 1964. They were “absolutely faithful” volunteers, says Sally Robinson, who directed the program for a decade beginning in the mid-1970s.

David’s late wife Virginia, better known as Jinks, also tutored as did his daughter, Melissa Riorda, and grand-niece Olivia Babb. His sister, Lynette Anderson, tutored for years, another sister, Peggy Obrecht, recently began tutoring and Mary Obrecht, Peggy’s daughter-in-law, has tutored and recently joined the program’s Commission (board).


In addition, the Tutoring Program is fortunate to have two Mock endowment funds—one honoring David’s parents and one honoring Jinks—with the proceeds providing some



**David Mock and his tutee last year, Tyion Matthews, were 80 years apart in age but developed a warm relationship.**

of the support needed to operate the program.

“Our program is deeply grateful to David and the Mock family—for decades of support,” said Martha Socolar. “They have truly made a difference in the lives of many Baltimore children.” ♦

** If you are interested in volunteering with the Tutoring Program or making a financial contribution, contact Director Martha Socolar through the church office: 410-523-1542, ext. 17. And please make plans to attend the Feb. 5 celebration of the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program in the Assembly Room at 12:30 p.m. as we honor David Mock and the Mock Family.**



## Tutoring Program Christmas

The third floor of the Education Building was full of holiday cheer in December as all sessions of the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program celebrated Christmas with gift giving and singing of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." We pray that the Tutoring Program students experience many "aha" moments in the coming New Year.

# UPCOMING AT BROWN

For the most up-to-date calendar information, visit [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org)



## Our Jan. 15 Worship Moves to Madison Ave. Presbyterian, 10 a.m.

We are delving deeper into cross-neighborhood, One Baltimore work on Sunday, Jan. 15, by accepting an invitation from our closest Presbyterian neighbor, Madison Avenue Presbyterian (2110 Madison Avenue), to worship with them at 10 a.m. J. Herbert Nelson, the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be the guest preacher. Our shuttle service will operate from Mt. Royal Elementary to Madison Avenue. The Education Hour will not take place this day. *(Photo credit of J. Herbert Nelson: Eric O. Ledermann)*



## Annual Congregational Meeting & Staff Ignite Presentations Jan. 22

Following worship on Jan. 22, the congregation will vote on clergy terms of call and review the annual report, which will be sent electronically the week before and posted to CCB, Brown's internal website. Lunch will be served and donations are appreciated to help cover the cost. Childcare and other children's activities will take place on the 3rd floor of the Fellowship Building. The staff will also give abbreviated "Ignite" presentations on big picture trends in ministry and how they will impact life at Brown Memorial.



## Youth Sunday, Feb. 12

Increasing youth involvement and visibility in worship has been a goal at Brown for the past few years. Young people lead us in liturgy, music and service throughout the year, but on Feb. 12 our senior high youth will prepare and lead all aspects of worship, from selecting music and scripture to leading us in prayer and preaching. It is an inspiring snapshot of present and future of the church and you will not want to miss it.



## Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 28 Ash Wednesday Service, Mar. 1

Gather in the Assembly Room Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m., for pancakes and games for all ages. Then the next day, Ash Wednesday, Mar. 1, at 7:30 p.m., join us in the Sanctuary as we host the annual ecumenical service of worship with our brothers and sisters from Memorial Episcopal Church and Corpus Christi Church, featuring the combined choirs of all three churches.

More information will be forthcoming about other activities and worship services during this year's season of Lent. Find the most up-to-date information at [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org).

## News From Session

The following are recent session actions since the last *Tidings*:

- Authorized baptisms of Alexander Vilhelm Illum (Sept. 25); Helena June Boumgarden (Nov. 13).
- Heard a semi-annual update from Barbara Cook, Investment Committee chair. The Committee recommends the stewardship campaign make every attempt to increase giving to achieve our goals for maintaining the endowment.
- Heard from David Nyweide, Finance Committee chair, about plans for financing construction and conducting a financial review.
- Heard plans from Taylor Stewart, chair of the Stewardship Committee, for reducing/eliminating the gap between income and expenses.
- Heard from David Nyweide, session representative to the Tutoring Commission, that 70 tutors are serving 80 students. The Commission plans a celebration of David Mock, who has been involved with the program for many years.
- Approved Chrystie Adams' request to the Presbytery for \$1,500 for Eutaw-Marshburn programs.
- Julie Hanks gave a report about the history of the Cameroon mission and accepted the Global Mission Committee's recommendation to send individual Christmas cards and monthly updates from Brown Memorial.

Send questions about this information to Anne Heuisler, Clerk of Session, [ah Luisler@comcast.net](mailto:ah Luisler@comcast.net). Session minutes are kept in the church office and are available for perusal.



We welcomed youth fellow Chris Golden to our staff this month. He will help with planning our programming and supporting our volunteers.

## Introducing: Chris Golden, Youth Fellow

The Personnel Committee is excited to introduce Chris Golden, our new Youth Fellow, to the congregation.

### What is a Youth Fellow?

The Youth Fellow is a leader who will both deepen and expand our youth ministry at Brown Memorial. While Associate Pastor Tim Hughes will continue to lead our youth ministry, the Youth Fellow will play a significant role in planning programming and supporting volunteers. The Youth Fellow will work on a part-time basis to support existing ministries and work with Tim to imagine future opportunities.

### Information About Chris

Chris and his wife Kristin recently relocated to Laurel, Md., from Harrisburg, Pa. Chris graduated from Messiah College with a bachelor's degree in adventure education before earning his master of divinity from Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, Pa.

Chris has a passion for outdoor adventure activities and their potential for education, mentorship and spiritual formation. He has worked and volunteered with several worshipping communities in addition to leading wilderness expeditions.

"When I was a college student, I learned the value of having someone invest in me to encourage growth in faith and character," Chris writes. "Since then, I have desired to invest in people in the same way. I would like the opportunity to use my gifts and skills to invest in the young people at Brown Memorial to help them deepen their faith in and devotion to Christ."

Chris begins his fellowship in January. Tim will host small group gatherings to introduce him to the youth group and feel free to say hello during worship! ♦

# Capital Fund Update

The latest news on repairing the South Tower and renovating the Fellowship Building with \$1.2 million raised by the congregation.

by Betsy Nix

The Capital Construction Team—George Brown, David Nyweide, Erika Brockman, Charles Reichelt and Betsy Nix—have been busy this fall, searching for the design/build firm that we will work with over the next two years.

The design/build approach hires an architect and general contractor to work together to design and build the project. Hiring them is the first step in undertaking the renovation work in the Fellowship Hall and shoring up the South Tower.

With the help of Eric Echols, the committee developed an RFP, walked through the space with five design/build teams, reviewed submissions from four teams, and interviewed two



**The first fruits of the Capital Fund were installed in December—new Chancel stair rails will improve safety and accessibility within the Sanctuary.**

teams in person.

The stand-out among the proposals was Murphy & Dittenhafer (architect) and A.R. Marani (construction). You might recognize Marani from past attempts to start work on the South Tower. Not only did Murphy/Marani submit a strong proposal that had a detailed scope of work and the right experience for the job, their interview was superior in the way that they were prepared with ideas they had for the Fellowship Hall and a willingness to meet with key stakeholders at the church to ensure everyone's comfortable (enough) with the design before building.

The cost of the design proposal was also most competitive, even before we obtained a verbal agreement from Marani to reduce the firm's construc-

tion fee from 6 to 5 percent. Murphy/Marani's bid was \$147,475, but they offered to waive the pre-construction fee of \$10,000 if we didn't bid out the construction, giving a total cost for the design of \$137,475, and making it the lowest bid of the four proposals.

Murphy/Marani are eager to get started on the project, and their timeline begins with conversations with you. What is the best use of the space? What hopes do you have for the programming of the Fellowship Building? Look for these conversations in the new year.

The first fruits of the Capital Campaign are already in place. Stair rails were installed in the Chancel in November, a first step in making our facilities safer and more accessible. ♦

**BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"**

# Turnaround Tuesday Expands West

by Cheryl Finney



In response to the devastating effects of long-term disinvestment in West Baltimore, Turnaround Tuesday (TAT), a second chance jobs movement of Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), expanded from its base in East Baltimore to West Baltimore this September. Two years ago, TAT was born in response to a listening campaign on the streets of an East Baltimore BUILD church, Zion Baptist.

BUILD organizers and Zion church leaders heard over and over again that the number one issue for people was the inability to find work. Many of the people we spoke with were “returning” citizens, whose criminal background kept them from ever getting to an interview. BUILD leaders heard countless stories of people putting in hundreds of job applications with no response from employers, or being turned away after interviews once background checks were done. With few options, many people had lost hope of ever finding employment again.

Over the past two years, BUILD (Andrew Foster Connors is BUILD’s clergy co-chair) has responded to this issue through a growing jobs movement that incorporates job readiness training with leadership training. Our overall mission is to train “returning” and unemployed citizens to reenter the workforce and develop public relationships that lead them to act on issues that change their communities. By providing a community for participants to get “ready to work,” we are developing strong relationships as we identify and train new leaders. These leaders work with us to shift Baltimore’s hiring culture to employ returning citizens, and job creation strategies.

To date, more than 180 people have found work while participating in TAT training. After finding employment, many participant leaders return each Tuesday to support the work of preparing and encouraging others preparing for employment. This “reach back” and helping another find their way back to work is central to the development of the movement.

After spending the summer with organizers in Sandtown and Harlem Park, and meeting with pastors and community leaders all over the west side, we selected a second training site on Lafayette Avenue, less than one mile west of Brown Memorial.

We welcome anyone to join us as a participant or as a visitor on Tuesdays at either the east or west sites. **If you have interest in volunteering on one of the resource days or lending support by sharing possible employment leads, please contact: Cheryl Finney, [cfinney@comcast.net](mailto:cfinney@comcast.net).** ♦

## **TRAINING SITES: EVERY TUESDAY**

**EAST: 9-11 a.m. Zion Baptist Church  
1700 N. Caroline Street**

**WEST: 2-4 p.m. Macedonia Baptist Church  
718 W. Lafayette Avenue**

## **RESOURCE DAYS: WORK READINESS TRAINING**

*Volunteers help with: Resume writing, interview skills, online job application support, tutoring.*

**EAST: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Zion Baptist**

**WEST: Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Macedonia Baptist**

## BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"

# Baltimore Youth Organizing Project

Our Brown Memorial community has been an important partner in the creation of an exciting youth organizing initiative.

by Elizabeth Reichelt

In the wake of the Baltimore uprising in the spring of 2015, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake doubled the number of Youthworks (the City's youth jobs program) jobs from 4,000 to 8,000. With a very short time-line, the City and other community partners scrambled to create jobs to place the 4,000 additional youth.

Jubilee Arts, located in Sandtown-Winchester, responded to the call and agreed to hire 80 youth for a six-week summer mural painting project. Nora Howell, Jubilee's Program Director, faced the challenge of quickly putting together a jobs program that would keep 80 young people busy from 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday. While the bulk of the young people's time would be spent outside painting murals, Nora went in search of additional classes and training that could be delivered to students in the afternoon, when it would be too hot to be outside.

Nora turned to Tim Hughes, our Associate Pastor at Brown Memorial, Gwen Brown of BUILD, and Rebecca Nagle of the No Boundaries Coalition to see if they would be interested in teaching the youth about community organizing. When asked whether it was an appropriate way for Tim to spend a portion of his time during the summer of 2015, the Session of Brown Memorial was extremely supportive.

Tim, Gwen and Rebecca developed a youth training program to support the goal of creating public art in Sandtown-Winchester. On the first day, they taught 80 youth how to canvass door-to-door to gather feedback about the type of public art local residents would like to see. The youth hit the pavement, knocking on hundreds of doors and gathering information and ideas that they used to paint 11 murals that summer.

Tim, Gwen and Rebecca used the door-knocking experience to teach organizing principals and encourage



**Youth leaders came together regularly on Sunday afternoons during the school year to develop their organizing and leadership skills.**

the young people to think about telling their own stories, and using a listening campaign to develop their own youth agenda and build their own power.

After the six weeks, the leaders identified a core group of youth who seemed hungry for more leadership training. Tim, Gwen and Rebecca agreed that if they could raise sufficient funding, they would hire eight youth leaders to come together regularly on Sunday afternoons during the school year to develop their organizing and leadership skills. Tim, Gwen and Rebecca agreed to work as a team to support and train the youth leaders.

Sensing there would be strong support from Brown Memorial and the Presbytery of Baltimore, Tim committed to raising the necessary funding. His hunch was spot on. Of the \$7,000 raised, \$4,000 came directly from Brown through a combination of grant money from the



Tiffany Dream Fund, and individual donors. (The remainder was awarded through grants from the Presbytery). This seed money allowed the Baltimore Youth Organizing Project (BYOP) to become a reality.

During the fall of 2015 through spring 2016, the youth leaders conducted more than 200 individual meetings with young people in Sandtown. In January, BYOP organized its first youth lead action to ratify a youth agenda developed from information gathered in the meetings attended by 87 young people. The youth agenda included:

- **Youth Employment:** Increase Youth Works/Hire One budget by \$2 million to: Employ 1,000 youth year-round through private and public sector employers over four years. Create combined vocational skills certification/summer job program that teaches youth hard and soft skills that provides a pathway to a meaningful job.

- **After School/Community Schools:** Double the number of after school/community schools by increasing budget to \$8.2 million.

- **Recreation Centers:** Fully fund Destination Active Baltimore by programming \$136 million in the capital improvement budget over four years. Build or renovate 16 rec centers and four outdoor athletic facilities. Triple number of indoor pools (from three to nine). Expand program offerings and opening hours.

- **Training and Accountability:** Ensure all Baltimore City police officers are trained in developing relationships with the communities they police and hold police officers accountable to practicing constitutional and equitable policing.

The youth agenda became a key portion of BUILD's citywide agenda presented to the leading candidates for Baltimore City mayor at the March 13 mayoral accountability forum. Youth leader Samirah Franklin participated in every individual meeting that BUILD held with the candidates prior to the forum, and youth leader Avery Williams sat on the panel that asked questions directly to the candidates. Those of you who attended will recall that the youth were seated front and center at the forum, sitting up on the stage—sending a strong visual message to candidates that youth are an important part of our community. At the end of the day, every candidate agreed to

[continued on page 11](#) ➔



**BYOP youth participated in the March 2016 mayoral accountability forum, including youth leader Samirah Franklin who participated in every individual BUILD meeting with candidates prior to the forum.**

“The youth agenda became a key portion of BUILD's citywide agenda presented to the leading candidates for Baltimore City mayor at the March 13 mayoral accountability forum.”

## BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"

# Feeding the City's Hungry Through Our Daily Bread

by Karen Nelson

Every month you see a request for casseroles for Our Daily Bread in your email and church bulletin. Our congregation has promised to provide 20 casseroles each month to the Our Daily Bread program.

### What is Our Daily Bread?

Our Daily Bread is a program of Catholic Charities run in conjunction with a job training program and a short-term housing program for men recently released from jail, and is located across the street from the jail. Our Daily Bread serves a free, hot, midday meal seven days a week. A day hasn't been missed since 1981. Meals are served restaurant-style, with customers being served at small group tables, which also provides social contact. Five days a week they also serve breakfast to the aged or handicapped. Last year they served 250,000 meals. As an established program with good facilities and a staff of paid and volunteer workers, they provide a sensible conduit for other churches and organizations such as Brown Memorial to help provide for the hungry without having to set up a whole program. They depend on donations of casseroles provided by churches and organizations, donations from grocery stores and local farms, and from individuals, who sometimes just bring in a batch of peanut butter sandwiches. They also receive cash donations.

### Who Uses Our Daily Bread?

It is a "no questions asked" program, but employees have a pretty good idea. Many of those who come for food regularly are living on very small pensions or government programs such as disability, with little or no cooking facilities. Some are unemployed. Some are families with one minimum wage income that runs out before the end of the month. As Our Daily Bread puts it, they serve "those whose lives are burdened by the hardships of the human condition."



Karen Nelson, Cheryl Finney and Betsey Todd prepare a casserole for Our Daily Bread.

### How Can You Participate?

We would certainly welcome more people to provide casseroles. Church members and friends currently receive monthly emails that link to a sign-up chart to make casseroles and easy recipes. However, you don't have to wait for the email to sign-up. Visit Brown's internal website, CCB, and go to the "Needs" section under the Church Community Group. Recipes are also listed under the "Files" section of the Church Community Group.

Our Daily Bread pans and recipes are also available in the Narthex and Assembly Room. You can donate food as an individual—staples such as sugar and coffee are always appreciated, in addition to such things as sandwiches. Volunteers are welcome to help with serving and visiting with customers.

The Our Daily Bread website also contains additional information—<http://www.catholiccharities-md.org/our-daily-bread/>. Last, but not least, we would love to have anyone interested join our committee, which organizes and delivers the casseroles each month with a minimum of meetings in between. If you are interested, please speak to one of us on the committee: Evelyn Cogswell, Rachel Forward, or Karen Nelson. ♦

## Baltimore Youth Organizing Project

Continued from Page 9

support the youth agenda!

This summer, Tim, Gwen and Rebecca developed round two of youth organizing training at Jubilee Arts. But with a year of experience under their belts, it was a very different experience. The youth leaders from the previous year lead the training for 80 new young people and used concrete examples of how they learned to build their power, culminating with the mayor-elect committing to support their youth agenda.

This fall, another 10 people were hired out of the summer class and No Boundaries Coalition has hired Samirah Franklin to be the full-time youth organizer. Their focus now is preparing for another youth action in early 2017 to which they will invite Mayor Pugh to share

how she plans to fulfill the commitment she made to them in March 2016. Additionally, the youth were heavily involved in the Get Out the Vote effort for the area, including and surrounding Gilmor Homes during the general election, resulting in an increase in voter turnout from 257 in the last election to more than 1,100 voters!

They have also been learning about the consent decree currently being negotiated between the Department of Justice and the City and its impact on police accountability in West Baltimore. Tim envisions opportunities for the youth of Brown Memorial to be involved in the work of BYOP. Stay tuned for more news from these impressive young leaders. ♦

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## Thank You Note

Following the shooting that occurred on June 17, 2015 at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC, Brown Memorial sent a donation in response. We recently received this thank you note from Emanuel's pastor, Rev. Eric Manning:

*"On behalf of the officers and members of Emanuel A.M.E. Church, I would like to thank you for the generous donation sent to Mother Emanuel after the horrific tragedy at our church. Your unselfishness during such an appalling time in our history was truly astounding!"*

*Your act of benevolence was greatly appreciated. I want to take this opportunity, albeit belated, to express our sincere gratitude for your blessings. I hope you will continue to keep our church members (the families of the Mother Emanuel Nine victims and survivors) in your hearts and prayers - as we continue to deal with the June 17, 2015 tragedy.*

*With the encouragement of friends, especially like you, we will be able to continue to move forward with grace. May you continue to be richly blessed, not just for your donation, but for the spirit of love and goodwill shown by this gift."*

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## Welcome New Members!

From left: Kelly and Darrell Glaser; Children - Wolfe and Greta (infant); Roberta (Robbie) Heath; Christine and Omar Calderon - Children are Matias, Lucas, Marcos; Lynn Heller and Tom Inglesby - Children are Ben, Luke, Clair; Jeremy and Mary Meghan; Infant Daughter - Lena; Perry Williams (not pictured). Stay tuned for the March/April issue of the *Tidings* to learn more about these new members.



## December Birthdays

- 12/01 Lynda Burton
- 12/01 Nicholas Imperato
- 12/02 Evangeline B. Lozada
- 12/02 Beau Setty
- 12/03 Cheryl Finney
- 12/03 Tony Saudek
- 12/04 Michaela Murphy Buc
- 12/04 Adam McNabney
- 12/05 Eloise Jennings Crew
- 12/05 Alexandra Mihalski
- 12/05 Jenny Williams
- 12/07 Warren Grayson
- 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 Augie Brown
- 12/16 Nate Hubler
- 12/16 Chip Riegel Morgan
- 12/16 Henry Taylor
- 12/17 Harry Hinkle
- 12/17 SueJeanne Koh-Parsons
- 12/18 Nicki Artes
- 12/18 Caroline Cross
- 12/18 Stephanie Shapiro
- 12/19 Richard Proctor
- 12/19 Jair Williams
- 12/20 Gillian Babb
- 12/21 Sam J. Kelly, III
- 12/22 Judith Arnold
- 12/22 Michelle Logan
- 12/22 Narka K. Ryan
- 12/23 Lorna 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 Emily Stanton
- 12/30 Ruth Brennan Taylor
- 12/31 Phyllis McIntosh

# MUSIC NOTES

## New Voices in the Chancel Choir



### Christopher J. Hartung, Bass Section Leader

Christopher Hartung, a lyric bass-baritone, is a Bachelor of Music student at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he studies with Dr. Stanley Cornett. Christopher previously attended the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University where he studied with Dr. Lawrence Indik. This upcoming spring Christopher can be seen portraying the role of “Bartolo” in Mozart’s “Le Nozze di Figaro” with the Peabody Opera Department. Mr. Hartung is eager to see where his career path will take him and is beyond grateful for the blessings God has sent his way.



### Christina Calamaio, Alto Soloist

Mezzo Soprano Christina Calamaio is a former NATS Boston competition winner and semi-finalist in the Classical Singer Audition Corps. She performed the role of Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, and was heralded a “Particular Standout” (*Boston Globe*). Her other roles: Ruggierin Alcina, Thisbe in *La Cenerentola*, third Lady in *The Magic Flute*, Octavian in Lowell House Opera’s *Der Rosenkavalier*, Mother Jeanne in Boston Opera Collaborative’s *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and *Der Komponist* in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Opera in *The Ozarks*. From 2007-15 she performed in the ensemble at Boston Lyric Opera. ♦



### Silent Film and Organ Concert March 10

Enjoy a screening of the 1921 silent film, “The Three Musketeers” starring Douglas Fairbanks, on Friday, March 10, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Minister of Music Michael Britt will provide

live, improvised organ accompaniment on our historic 1931 Skinner organ. Admission is by suggested donation at the door—\$15 for adults, \$10 for students/seniors, and \$25 for families. All proceeds benefit our Capital Fund renovations. Thank you to all who attended Michael's first silent film/concert in November, which raised more than \$300 for the Capital Fund.

# TIFFANY SERIES NEWS

In the words of Shirley Parry, Tiffany Committee Chair, the November organ concert in honor of John Walker was a "true musical love fest." The event featured an all-star line-up of organists who paid tribute to John, Brown's Minister of Music *Emeritus*. Keep a look out for an article in the February issue of the *American Organist Magazine* about how the concert was a unique occasion that brought multiple past and present Presidents of the American Guild of Organists together under one roof.



## January Birthdays

- 1/01 Fred Lazarus
- 01/02 Deborah Baer Reed
- 01/03 John Warmath
- 01/04 Emily Burton
- 01/05 Elden Schneider
- 01/08 Devon Smith
- 01/09 Yari Armand
- 01/09 Felix Mota-Larson
- 01/09 Rebecca Thomson
- 01/10 Nathan Arnold
- 01/10 Katie Shaw
- 01/12 Lizzie Mills
- 01/12 Nellie Mills
- 01/13 Emily Bishai
- 01/13 Richard Cook
- 01/13 Hadicha Murat-bekova
- 01/14 Taylor Branch
- 01/17 Elena Kirkpatrick
- 01/18 James Forward
- 01/19 Elizabeth Cavallon
- 01/20 Zakiyah Grayson
- 01/20 Michael Hughes
- 01/22 Chrystie Adams
- 01/23 Horace Liang
- 01/24 Charles McManus
- 01/25 David Bielenberg
- 01/27 Rebecca Adams
- 01/28 Charles Reichelt
- 01/29 Lucas Calderon
- 01/30 Ben Anderson
- 01/31 Maya Goldsby-Allen

### Next Tiffany Series Event: Panel Discussion

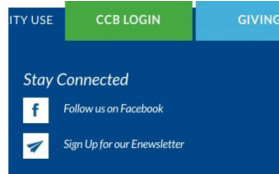
The next Tiffany event for the 2016/17 season will be a discussion on the intersection of the LGBTQ community and faith, featuring a panel of religious leaders from different faiths. The discussion will focus on: building acceptance for those struggling with sexuality and faith; cultivating inclusive congregations; and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and what it means to the religious community. At press time, the event was planned for mid- to late-March, with more details to be finalized. Visit [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org) for the latest information.

# CCB Tip: Remembering Logins

by Rachel Cunningham

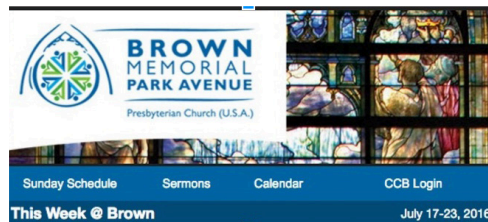
Do you ever find yourself thinking, “I bet I could find that information on CCB if only I could remember my login information.” You’re not alone. We hear that a lot and want to help. We suggest adding CCB to your browser bookmarks bar. Take it one step further and tell your browser to remember your password and you’re all set. Not sure how to do that? Just follow these simple steps.

**1. Access the CCB login page from either our [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org) homepage or our weekly *This Week @ Brown* email blast.**



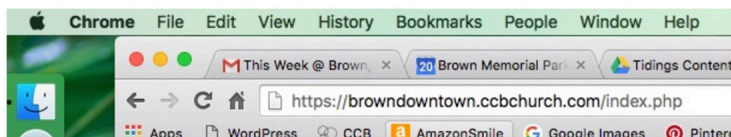
*Bottom Right Corner of Homepage*

*Right Side of TW@B Header*



**2. Clicking either link will take you directly to the CCB login page.** If you’ve forgotten your username or password, click the *Forgot username or password?* link under the login button. If you have been set up in the system, which most folks have been, then you will receive an email to reset your login information. If you are not in the system, email our communications manager, Jennifer Michael ([jmichael@browndowntown.org](mailto:jmichael@browndowntown.org)) to be added.

Once you have logged into CCB, click on the *Bookmarks* link at the top of



your screen. Select *Bookmark This Page* and the CCB login page will now become one of your bookmarks so that anytime you want to access information in CCB, you can by clicking on the CCB bookmark. Note, most browsers will default to the url address for the Bookmark name but you can always shorten it if you’d like.

**3. If you have lots of different passwords we suggest telling your browser to save your password for this site.**

If you’ve uploaded your photo to CCB, let a member of the Brown staff know and we’ll send you one of our new Brown Memorial t-shirts.

*This article is part of a reoccurring series about how to use our internal church website, *Creating Connections at Brown, or CCB.* ♦*



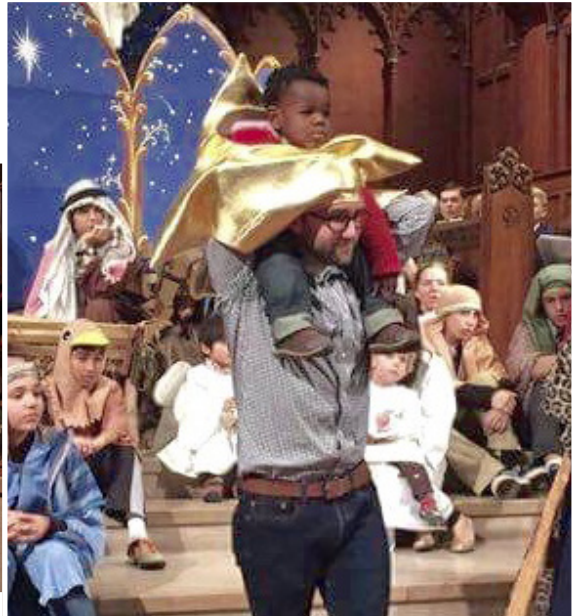
## February Birthdays

02/03	Sarah B. Buikema
02/03	Charles Yates
02/04	Anthony Crooms
02/04	June Fletcher-Hill
02/05	Annie Bishai
02/05	Emily Brown
02/07	Benjamin Hand
02/07	Jonna Lazarus
02/07	Dave Miller
02/08	Barbara Christen
02/10	Lila McNabney
02/11	Robert Smith
02/12	Bob Babb
02/13	Tom Hall
02/14	Wallace Anderson
02/14	Patrick Francis
02/14	Allan Riorda
02/17	Ben Inglesby
02/17	Joseph Reichelt
02/17	Caroline Tracy
02/18	Christy Macy
02/19	Kensi Veatch
02/20	Oscar Bachvaroff
02/21	Henry Floyd Crew
02/22	Brian Schanbacher
02/22	Kathryn Wagner
02/23	Jake Cheseldine
02/24	Monica Lemmon
02/24	Phineas Schanbacher
02/25	Susan Rogers
02/25	Charles Wagandt
02/26	Steve St. Angelo
02/28	David Nyweide

**If you wish to have your birthday listed in the *Tidings*, please contact Sharon Holley, church secretary, 410-523-1542, [Sharon@browndowntown.org](mailto:Sharon@browndowntown.org).**

# PICTURE PAGE

A look back at Advent and Christmas





# BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City  
and the World*

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
**Meditation Circle, 9:45 a.m.**  
**Education Hour, 9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship, 11 a.m.**

## TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS

Keep your phone number *and phone carrier information* up-to-date in CCB to receive text messages about last minute worship or activity schedule changes due to inclement weather or other emergencies.

## Every Sunday, "MOTHRRA"

**Meditation on the Hill Reading Alcoholics Anonymous**, 6 p.m. Church House parlor. A meditation/AA big book study style meeting open to anyone regardless if identifying as an alcoholic.

## Every Wednesday, Bible Study,

10:30-11:30 a.m. Church House. All are welcome to join in discussion of the lectionary text for the coming Sunday.

## Every Thursday, Prayer Service,

5:30-6:15 p.m. A time of prayer, worship and community in the Sanctuary.

## Every Thursday, Meditation on

**the Hill**, 5:30 p.m. Church House Parlor. An open Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

## Jan. 10, Theology on Tap,

7:30-9:30 p.m. Tavern on the Hill, 900 Cathedral St. Casual discussion on theological topics. This month's topic: Worship: "Sing to the Lord a New Song," led by Minister of Music Michael Britt. Contact Chip at cmorganriegel@gmail.com for more info.

## Jan. 15, Worship at Madison Ave.

**Presbyterian**, 10 a.m. *See details pg. 4*

## Jan. 19 & Feb. 16, Prayer Shawl,

1-3 p.m. Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls for those in need.

January's gathering is at Carol Graves' home, and February is at Diane Ross' home. Contact Diane at rossinbalt@verizon.net for more information.

**Jan. 22, Annual Meeting**, Following worship. *See details on page 4.*

## Jan. 22 & Feb. 26, Ignite Talks,

Noon-1:30, Assembly Room. In January, staff will present on the latest trends in ministry. For February, topics are TBA.

## Jan. 22 & Feb. 26, Sunday Night

**Live!**, 5:30-8 p.m. Assembly Room. Middle and high school youth gather to enjoy dinner and discuss a topic related to God, the Bible or current events.

## Jan. 27-29, Youth Winter Retreat,

Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA. This annual winter weekend will include skiing, snow tubing and a water park.

## Feb. 5, Tutoring Program Celebration

**of Service**, 12:30 p.m., Assembly Room. David Mock will be honored for his contributions. All are invited.

## Feb. 12, Youth Sunday,

11 a.m. *See details on page 4.*

## Feb. 12, Community Potluck,

12:30 p.m. Assembly Room. Continue the feast of communion. Bring a dish to share with old friends and new.

## Feb. 28, Fat Tuesday Pancake Sup-

**per**, 6-8 p.m. *See details on page 4.*

## Mar. 1, Ash Wednesday Tri-

**Church Service of Worship**, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary. *See details on page 4.*

## Mar. 10, Silent Film & Organ Con-

**cert**, 7:30 p.m. *See details on page 12.*

# 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*

*Have an idea for something to include in the Tidings? Email Jennifer Michael, jmichael@browndowntown.org. Due dates this year: Feb. 10 (Mar./April issue), April 10 (May/June issue), July 10 (Aug/Sept issue), Sept. 11 (Oct./Nov.).*

*Sign up for our e-newsletter, This Week @ Brown, on the home page at browndowntown.org.*



*"Like" us on Facebook:  
BrowndowntownBaltimore*



**BROWN  
MEMORIAL  
PARK AVENUE**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)