

THE TIDINGS

JULY/AUGUST 2015



GOOD NEWS FROM

BROWN MEMORIAL
PARK AVENUE 
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ALIVE IN THE CITY AND THE WORLD
www.brownmemorialparkavenue.org

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PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

BY REV. ANDREW FOSTER CONNORS, SENIOR PASTOR
andrew@browndowntown.org

"Our communications needs are not being met." While I can't quote this phrase as coming word for word from Ellen Carter Cooper, I know she's said something equivalent and often for many years. As a new member several years ago, Ellen was impressed with the energy and vitality of her new home and felt that we did not do a good job of sharing all of that activity with each other, much less with the rest of the world. *The Tidings*, our regular publication had been managed, ably, by Melissa Riorda and Carol Graves who were ready to free up some time and hand over the publication to someone else.



Ellen stepped up to the plate and quickly recruited another gifted Brown Memorialite, Laura McConnell. Ellen brought her extensive writing background (English professor extraordinaire!), her sophisticated organizational skills, and her vision alongside Laura's design prowess, to develop a publication that rivals any other church newsletter in the country. (I can say that since I read a lot of them!) Under Ellen's leadership the publication developed a regular, monthly schedule, imposed deadlines to make the articles timely for communicating upcoming events, and featured new columns such as "Ask the Pastor" and spotlights on members of the congregation. The addition of a color copier in our office made Laura's design and photos engaging, appealing, and interesting to an expanding readership.

Ellen and Laura shared their gifts but also saw that our communications needs were deeper than the monthly publication was able to address. Ellen lifted up the broader communications needs to the congregation on multiple occasions. Her voice, along with others, is a big reason why the Session requested a professional communications audit recently. The findings reinforced Ellen and Laura's sentiments. Brown Memorial had a lot going on, technology had opened up a vast new world of communications possibilities, and it was unlikely the church could take advantage of those possibilities solely on the basis of volunteers.

When our communications manager was brought on board last August, Jennifer Michael began addressing the two most critical needs on our communications audit – the addition of a church database/online community and the redevelopment of our website. Although we knew that Jennifer would eventually expand her responsibilities toward developing a holistic communications strategy that included all of our tools, we also knew that *The Tidings* was going so well, it could stay on the bottom of Jennifer's priority list. Ellen and Laura were gracious in

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SESSION UPDATE

• New members: The session met on Sunday, June 7th, to hear faith statements of new members. Seven new members were received by the congregation during the worship service later that morning.

Nathan Robert Arnold
Kathryn Fanus Arnold
Ashley Erin Boumgarden
John Hamilton Boumgarden
Gregory Alan Brightbill
Rees Allen Richardson
Andrew Madison Winters

- Deaths recorded by the clerk:
- Delores Taylor Jones, long-time soprano soloist, on June 14, 2015.
- Margaret Clippinger, mother of Lynn Clippinger, on June 15, 2015.
- Tutoring Commission: Elders Deb Baer and David Nyweide represent the session on the Tutoring Commission. Deb reported that recent tests have shown how much students are benefiting. Fifty-five percent of the students in the program advanced over one grade level in reading.
- Investment Committee: Elder Barbara Cook

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

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continuing to carry the load despite the fact that both had busy lives and some increased demands on their time.

The September issue will mark the transition of responsibility of *The Tidings* to Jennifer. While both Ellen and Laura know that Jennifer hopes to continue to call on them for their support, they also know they've earned a healthy break. I hope you will join me in thanking both of them, personally, for many years of great work. Although I can't say for sure how our communications work will continue to evolve and grow in the coming months and years, one thing's for certain – that work will be built on the strong foundation of people like Carol, Melissa, Ellen, and Laura, who have given their time, energy, and vision freely to God's mission through the church, for the benefit of us all.

reported that the committee is planning to offer estate planning workshops at the church.

• Shuttle Service: Trustee Co-Chair Page Campbell requested the session's authorization to renew the contract with Miller Transportation to provide weekly shuttle service from the elementary school parking lot to and from the church. The session approved renewal for another year.

• Congregation goals 2015 forward: Pastor Andrew Foster Connors and the staff are working on revision of the congregation goals for session approval.

The next session meeting will be on Tuesday, July 21st, at 7 p.m. in the Church House

If anyone in the congregation would like more information about any of these issues, I welcome questions.

Anne Heuisler
Clerk of the Session

A Special Message from the Editor

Dear Readers and Contributors,

This issue of *The Tidings* is the last one where I will have sole responsibility for writing and editing as I have had for each issue. It has been a distinct pleasure to highlight the people and events of this awesome place, Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. I thank all who have helped in this effort these last few years to publish and distribute the newsletter in print and online: Rachel Cunningham, Carol Graves, Sharon Holley, Laura McConnell, and Melissa Riorda. A huge chunk of gratitude rests on the head of Andrew Foster Connors for his unwavering support (and lack of censorship).

Blessings to all! Welcome Jennifer Michael, Communications Manager, as the new writer/editor!

Peace,
Ellen Carter Cooper

BROWN MEMORIAL IN ACTION WITH BUILD

BUILD EDUCATION ISSUE TEAM UPDATE Budget Teach In

The BUILD Education Issue Team organized a Baltimore City Schools' budget teach-in on Thursday June 25th. Barbara Francis, Elizabeth Reichelt and Taylor Stewart helped organize and facilitate the evening. Susan Saudek, Karen Nelson and Erika Brockman participated in the event.



Understanding that a budget is a reflection of an organization's values and priorities, the Education Issue Team is committed to helping parents, teachers and community members understand their local school budget, as well as the portion of funding that is retained by the district office. After sharing an overview of the budget content and process, we listened as participants shared questions and concerns, including:

- a desire for principals and school communities to have more say over the types of support that central office provides with their share of the student-facing funding so that it is responsive to the specific needs of the kids at each school.
- a clear accounting of where the money in Baltimore City Schools is going to prepare to advocate for our students' dollars at every the city and state level.
- concern with the district not sharing the move to a tiered autonomy system and a desire for more knowledge about what that means for schools and kids in each level.
- clarity on the strategy for layoffs and the amount of money it saved the district.
- a clear vision and goals for our schools and a budget that aligns with those goals.

Ultimately, many of the things we were hearing were about the desire to be in an open, collaborative process with City Schools because we all care about our schools and our kids. There is general agreement that the system as designed is not meant to encourage collaboration. However, we aren't going to be stopped by the current design of the system, we are going to redesign it. If you are interested in this work, please contact Elizabeth, Taylor or Barbara.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PRINCIPAL SELECTION PROCESS AT EMES

The Eutaw-Marshburn school community was saddened to learn that Principal Hewitt, who has been principal of EMES for the past 4 years is leaving Baltimore to pursue career opportunities in Atlanta. They were also deeply concerned when they heard that the decision regarding the

next principal would be made by Dr. Thornton, City Schools Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Linda Chen, City Schools Chief Academic Officer (CAO), without any input from the school community. Susan Saudek, who has been volunteering at EMES for the past 15 years, reached out to Elizabeth Reichelt, BUILD Education Team co-chair, with her concerns. They both agreed community input is critical to ensure the CEO and CAO make a wise choice in selecting the next principal. Susan quickly assembled a team who could describe the needs and priorities of the school. Meanwhile, Elizabeth and Andrew Foster Connors, BUILD clergy co-chair, leveraged their relationships at City Schools to procure a meeting with key decision makers. On Friday June 26th, Elizabeth, Susan, EMES parent Denise Reid, community partner Brother Imhotep, and Rev. William Calhoun from Trinity Baptist Church met with Ms. Chen and Chief of Staff Naomi Gubernick to describe the progress EMES has made as a result of Principal Hewitt's leadership and the needs of the school going forward in terms of academics, climate, social and emotional support, and parent engagement. In addition to securing support of Ms. Chen and Ms. Gubernick, they learned that a team of teachers, parents, volunteers, and community partners will participate in the candidate interview and selection process. We are hopeful that the next principal at EMES will have a clear understanding of the community's needs and priorities and will be able to continue the progress begun by Principal Hewitt. We are also grateful for the relationships we have cultivated in our local community and in BUILD so that we can ensure community involvement in the decisions that directly affect our children.

BUILD TURNAROUND TUESDAY JOBS MOVEMENT

"People want to work", was a refrain heard during BUILD's over 5000 person citywide listening campaign in early 2014 where jobs was identified as the number one issue. Around the same time, a BUILD member institution, Zion Baptist Church, in response to an increase in crime in its neighborhood began talking to residents who repeatedly stated they could not find work since many of them had been incarcerated. Thus began a small group ministry gathering returning citizens (ex-offenders) on Tuesday mornings, along with BUILD organizers and leaders to develop relationships with participants and hear their stories around the challenges of getting employed in Baltimore. Recognizing that the crime problem is closely associated with the lack of jobs, a Jobs First Movement to make neighborhoods safe was born, called Turnaround Tuesdays (TAT).

With a mission to reorganize the hiring culture in Baltimore to provide training tied to jobs and

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BMPA TUTORING PROGRAM PROVIDES YEAR-ROUND IMPACT

Another year of tutoring came to a memorable close with the end-of-year celebration honoring students enrolled in the 51st session of Brown Memorial's renowned tutoring program. Students, their families and their tutors gathered at the church for a meal and lively, educational entertainment. Each student was presented a certificate, a gift book and the 2015 yearbook, featuring writing from all 76 students in the

program this past school year.

Fun and learning don't stop in summer for our students, however. As part of a larger book gifting program designed to teach students the enjoyment of reading, to promote the value of books and to build up one's library, each child will receive four books sprinkled throughout the summer. Through summer reading, students are encouraged to practice their

skills and explore new ideas and cultures while staying in touch with their tutor during educational downtime. The students love the side benefit of receiving mail!

The year-round book program is an essential attribute of the BMPA Tutoring Program. Each year, all students receive close to 10 gift books customized by individual interests and reading levels. These books plus others—either borrowed from the tutoring program's rich library or from outside sources—are noted with pride by each student on his or her reading list. The impact will make your heart swell! Come and see for yourself. Contact Program Director Martha Socolar at 410-523-1542, ext. 17.



BROWN MEMORIAL IN ACTION WITH BUILD

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ultimately improving public safety, TAT gives special emphasis on employing returning citizens. Partnerships with Ray Lewis, the Baltimore City Police Department, Jericho, Humanim, TRF Development Partners, Johns Hopkins Medicine and University, Jumpstart, Lifebridge, and Baltimore City Community College have begun to improve the job opportunities for Turnaround Tuesday participants. New relationships are being developed with University of Maryland Medical Systems, Medstar, Kennedy Krieger, Mercy, Bon Secours, SAK, and others to broaden the impact of the program.

Although a few of these institutions were hiring some returning citizens, BUILD has worked with senior hiring managers to be involved in relational hiring. This has brought an urgency to this issue to think even bigger. Johns Hopkins has been in the forefront of this partnership in hiring the largest percentage of the 60 people from TAT who have gained employment thus far.

Cheryl Finney and Patti Flowers-Coulson are members of the jobs leadership team working with committed leaders at Zion Baptist Church to continue to grow this movement. Kathryn Newhall and Anne

Heusler have attended and offered support with resume building and job applications. Cheryl Finney is developing a mentorship program connecting newly employed Turnaround Tuesday members with BUILD faith community members to increase the likelihood of job retention. Anyone who has interest in doing this work is welcome to join us.

What defines this movement from other "Job training programs" is it is a relational movement, where participants come every Tuesday for many months, have frequent individual meetings with leaders, are known to the community, and receive leadership training as well as basic job readiness skills. A group of 15 leaders has emerged over the past year and they are beginning to lead on the jobs team and on other issues, including the recent actions in Annapolis to increase educational funding.

Finding their voice, learning to act for change in Baltimore in a disciplined and effective manner makes Turnaround Tuesdays more than connecting people to work. It is developing a new base of citizen leaders who are discovering their ability to act for good in the world truly matters.

See related photos from the BUILD One Baltimore Rally photo highlights, page 5.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BUILD ONE BALTIMORE RALLY JUNE 22



Members and friends of B.U.I.L.D. gathered June 22 at St. Peter Claver Church in West Baltimore for a rally to garner support for the BUILD One Baltimore campaign. Top Left: Johns Hopkins President and Keynote Speaker for the evening Ron Daniels signs a pledge card in support of the campaign. Center: Ron Daniels and BMDA Senior Pastor Andrew Foster Connors speak during the rally. Top Right and Lower Left: Other speakers included Parent Leader Takira Robinson of Child First and Ex-offender William Glover-Bey of the Turnaround Tuesday initiative. Lower Right: The crowd is enthusiastic and included a strong showing from BMDA.

Photos by Susan Saudek

A STately MARYLANDER

By ELLEN CARTER COOPER

Her roots are firmly planted in Pylesville, Maryland where her family settled over 200 years ago. Anne Heuisler has spent the majority of her days somewhere in this state whose motto is “Fatti Maschii, Parole Femine” (“Manly deeds, womanly words”).

Anne was quite involved in extracurricular activities throughout her days in the Pylesville Public Schools. She



Anne Heuisler

developed her lifelong interest in the written word as she developed into a voracious reader. Additionally, she played the piano and violin. This talented young lady was a member of the school chorus. Also, picture this: Anne played the French horn in the school’s marching band.

After her varied high school experience, Anne trekked to another part of Maryland to attend Hood College in Frederick.

It proved to be a significant stop on

her life’s journey. In her sophomore year, she was persuaded to go on a blind date. Anne’s “date”, Phil, introduced her to the world of jazz music and foreign movies. They used to travel

from Frederick to Baltimore’s Pennsylvania Avenue to hear legendary stars, such as Lionel Hampton, George Shearing, and Dizzy Gillespie.

Not long after she received her degree from Hood College, Anne traveled to Towson where she taught mathematics for two years. She also married Phil. Later, since the school system would not allow obviously pregnant teachers to teach high school students in those days, Anne left the classroom to raise their three children: Liz (California), Jeannette (Lutherville), and Pete (Minnesota).

Once her children were older, Anne decided to return to teaching. She was employed this time as an English teacher at Roland Park Country School. During her 29 years at the school, she taught Nicole Parker (acclaimed actress) and Martha Bishai (BMPA member living in South Africa).

While her children were growing up, Anne took them to Second Presbyterian for Sunday School and Confirmation classes. In 2002, Anne read a newspaper article about the renovation of Brown Memorial’s Tiffany windows. After she visited the church, she was deeply impressed by the windows and the music. In 2003, this lifelong Marylander joined BMPA.

Here at Brown, Anne has served as a deacon and an elder. Presently, she is an active elder, Clerk of the Session, and a member of BUILD’s Turn Around Tuesday program. After her husband passed, Anne taught writing at Stevenson University. She retired at the end of this spring semester which gives her more time to satisfy her reading appetite. Her favorite books are *To the Lighthouse* and *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison.

The friendliness, intelligence, and the energy of Brown’s members continues to impress Anne. Her hopes are bolstered by the church’s involvement in the effort to improve the lives of all of the city’s residents. This warm, friendly lady summed up her participation in this area in this manner: “I have lived a segregated life and have been trying to atone for it ever since.”

SOARING EAGLES LEARNING CAMP 2015

IF I WERE A SOARING EAGLE, I WOULD FLY...

To New York and Africa, and Georgia and Atlanta, and New Jersey and China.

To Texas and see the animals like horses.

To the harbor so I can get on a dragon boat, and I would eat pizza and ice cream.

To the beach so I can chill.

To New York to see “Annie.”

Until I see an airplane and get into the airplane and turn into a human again and go to New York.

To Hollywood to become an eagle star.

To a nature preserve to view the beauty in nature untouched by human contact.

To Seattle to see Russell Wilson, and Justin

Forsett, and Cam Newton.

To Africa to see lions, leopards, and giraffes.

To South America to see an eagle.

To New York and China. To the ocean.

To San Diego.

To a basketball court and take the ball.

To the beach to see the dolphins and turtles.

To the beach to see the ocean and go to the pool and to get a hat.

If I were a soaring eagle, I would touch the sky. If I were a soaring eagle, I would catch the wind with my wings, and ride the wind to heaven

– an SELC teacher
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SOARING EAGLES LEARNING CAMP 2015

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IF MY FRIEND WAS SAD, I WOULD....

Take my friend to the park. Take my friend to the playground. Take my friend to the Inner Harbor.

Make funny faces. Make jokes. Take him on a field trip to Six Flags. Play football and eat.

Give her ice cream and make funny faces, and give her my bike so she can be happy.

Make her happy, give her a smile, or give her something, or talk about it. I would make funny faces and give her books.

Talk to him. Play games. Take him to a restaurant and buy food and dessert.

Check what made them sad and find ways to fix the problem.

Give them Hershey's to make them happy.

First ask what she was sad about, then whatever she was sad about we would go out for ice cream – her favorite one – and I would pay for the ice cream and take a walk with her and talk about what's going on with her if she would like to.

I would give her a hug.

I would say good things about her.

I would invite him to my cousin's birthday party.

I would give my friend junk food like jelly beans.

I would give my friend a flower.

I would tickle him.

I would smile.

I would sing a song to him. I would sing "You're Beautiful."

I would ask my friend if he wanted to play "Madden 15."

I would tell my friend a funny joke. "Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?" "He didn't have the guts to do it."

If my friend is sad, I will give my friend a hug. While I'm hugging my friend, I'll tickle her. I will also give my sad friend some of my snacks. I'll ask my friend what's wrong. When she tells me, I'll try to make her feel better. I'll put a positive thought in her mind.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WOKE UP ONE MORNING AND FOUND THAT YOU WERE INVISIBLE?

I went in my brother's room and took off his covers, and then he came in and his covers were floating. He said, "AHHHHHHH!" and I dropped them and ran out of the room. Then I went outside to my neighbor's house and made coffee, and they called the police. I told all of them it was me.

I would scare Jack. I would tap him on the shoulder and he would turn around and he wouldn't see me.

At the chocolate fountain I would put in marshmallow. And I would put my hand out and get chocolate all over it. And people would see the chocolate hand.

I would freak out at first then spook my brother because he is always mean, then I would take a dog and make it follow what I say. Then I would make it chase my brother 'till he screams like a little girl.

I would go in the sea. Then I would be a water ghost, and get on a shark's back.

I would ring someone's doorbell then go to the back door.

I would go to the playground, then tap somebody on the shoulder while they were on the swings, and run.

I went to school and no one could see me. I picked up a pencil and everyone thought the pencil was moving by itself.

I would play a basketball game, and I would be the best defender out there.

I would go upstairs and scare my Mom. I would drive a motorcycle invisible.

I would take my Mom's shoe and move it. It would be floating in the air and my mom would fall down. She would freak out.

I would go outside and play basketball. No one would see me but they would see the ball bouncing and slam dunk. The kids would run in the house because they would think it was a ghost!

I would scare my family and then I would have a dance party and eat all the food, and if they call my name they would be scared.

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SOARING EAGLES LEARNING CAMP 2015

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CONTRIBUTORS:

Cardinals: Alisha, Noah, Destiny, Brandon, Maurissa, Kevin, Ta'Myaja, Ra'Sean, Cheyenne, Kristian

Robins: Carlee, Xzavier, Marko, Sincere, Daniel, Taevon, Malik

Orioles: Zimica, Daniyah, Danaya, Jerrell, Tyneka, Ka'Lya, Jeremiah, Alena, Janya, Eric, Taneka, Marquis, Ja'nyiah, Samuel, Ra'Neiko

Ravens: Joy, A'Nija, Tharontay, Delontae, Martaz, Jasmine, Dameah, Isaiah, Demonyae, Doniece, Maurice

Eagles: Jazaniah, Kavon, Dominique, Malachi, Janae, Quavon, Damani, Da'Jmon, Tori, Dar'ron, Keyontay, Javonta, Xavier

Special Thanks to Ms. Chrystie Adams, and all the campers, counselors, teachers, and group leaders!

JULY BIRTHDAYS



07/03	John Howard De Hoff
07/03	Peter Hoffberger
07/03	Lehn Robinson
07/03	Tom Waldron
07/05	Will Fesperman
07/05	Frederick Lazarus, V
07/06	Michael Britt
07/06	Hannah Milcarek
07/06	J. D. Robinson
07/09	Charlie Obrecht
07/12	Anna Connors
07/12	Rose Glorioso
07/13	Andrew Babb
07/15	Franklin Branch
07/15	Dan Hale
07/18	Rachel Emerick
07/19	Rachel E. Clark
07/21	Hilbert Byers
07/22	Wells Obrecht
07/24	Doug Adams
07/25	Gerald Shields
07/27	Ellen B. Williams
07/28	Erin Bobango
07/30	Spencer Hammond
07/31	Valerie Hinkle

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/01	Deb Milcarek
08/01	Malinda Peeples
08/04	William John McConnell, IV (Bill)

08/04	Neal Naff
08/05	Chuck Holland
08/08	Adam Forward
08/09	Donald McPherson
08/11	Mehran Armand
08/12	Gilly Babb
08/13	Edward McCarthy
08/13	David Todd
08/14	George Brown
08/14	Mike Reed
08/15	Cecelia Reichelt
08/15	Sallie Robinson
08/17	Elizabeth Lee Williams
08/20	Jack McManus
08/20	Betsey Todd
08/21	James Egan
08/21	Tim Hughes
08/21	Anna Lazarus
08/24	Nicholas (Nick) Conti
08/24	Carol Graves
08/24	Laura McConnell
08/26	Evan Cunningham
08/26	Xóchitl Mota-Back
08/26	Theresa Veatch
08/27	W. Courtland Robinson
08/28	Susan Flanigan
08/28	Andy Imparato
08/29	Anna Hughes
08/29	Oliver Schmickel
08/31	Gareth Imparato
08/31	Henry Waldron

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.

Meditation Circle

Please join us for a time of silence and community **every Sunday, 9:00-9:30 in the Church House**. All are welcome. Using a few words or an image to bring us to a place of stillness, we sit together in a circle of meditative quiet, ending with prayer. Through stilling our minds and opening our hearts, we find community with one another and with God. For more information or to be added to an e-mail list for the Meditation Circle, please contact July/August Fletcher-Hill at fletcherhill@msn.com or 410-367-0995. Plan to arrive a few minutes before 9:00 as we begin our time together right at 9:00.

GIFTS OF STOCK

The giving of Stocks or other Securities, which have appreciated in value, July/August provide a tax advantage to you, the donor.

If you would like to make a gift to the church in this manner, please provide the following information to your broker.

DTC #0235

RBC Wealth Management

A/C #313-81881

Account Name – Brown Memorial Park

Avenue Presbyterian Church

Contact: Geoffrey Brent or Lisa Vetter

Phone Number: 410-316-5319

Please also inform Sharon Lucas, our Financial Administrator: slucas@browndowntown.org

JULY/AUGUST RESPONSIBILITY SCHEDULES SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

For an itemized list of Responsibility schedules at BMPA, please click on this link: <http://www.browndowntown.org/index.php?s=backstage>

If you would like to participate in one of the areas of responsibility, please contact Sharon Holley at (410) 523-1542 or via e-mail at sharon@browndowntown.org.

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