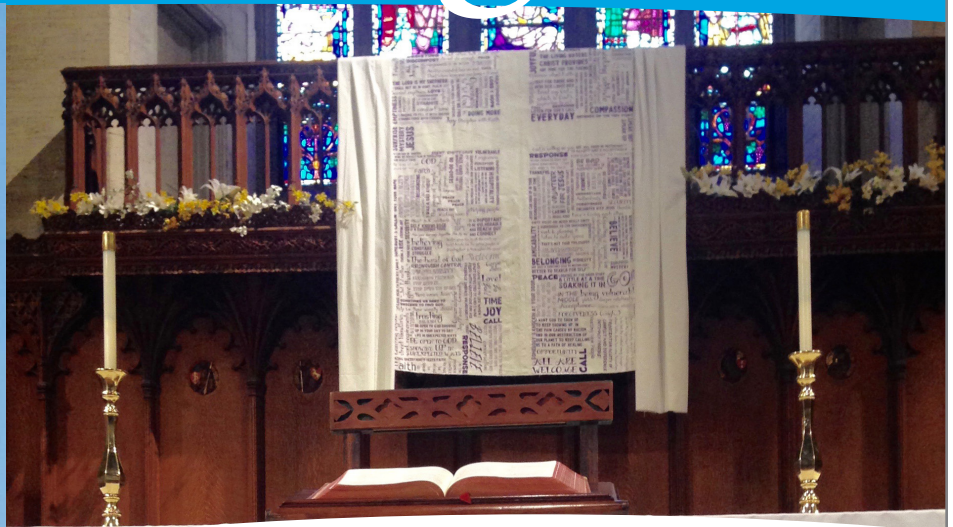


Tidings

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2017



Pastor's Reflections **God's Love Overcomes**

by **Rev. Andrew Foster Connors**, Senior Pastor

"You can't wear white pants until after Easter." I surprise myself (and probably a few others too) to remember such counsel from my youth. I can't tell you why you're not supposed to wear white pants until after Easter or who made that rule, but it sticks with me nonetheless. I'm not sure the liturgical year is a good guide for anything having to do with spring wear, but it is a helpful guide for living.



There is wisdom to this discipline that the church introduces to our lives. A good life—one with God—is best organized around seasons of expectation, celebration, penitence and repentance, death and life, and life made new. Those seasons teach us the value in approaching God and our life with God from more than one vantage point. They prevent us from getting too static in our understanding of God, as though God were an idea that we managed

continued on page 2 ➔

— INSIDE —

Truth to Power. Youth hold the mayor to her promises. See *page 3*.

Summer Music. Hymn sings, stoop concerts and more. See *page 5*.

Q&A: Confirmation Experience. The Brockmans reflect. See *page 7*.

A Helping Hand. The story of the Finks and Franklin Witcher. See *page 10*.

**Pictures from Lent
and Holy Week, pg. 8-9**

PHOTO BY: FRED GORMAN

Pastor's Reflections

Continued from Page 1

instead of a character alive and active in our world. Through those different vantage points we come to see a clearer picture both of who we are, and who God is for us in Christ.

The liturgical calendar organizes time around the salvation history of God's journey with the people of Israel and with the church. Of course, life doesn't follow any calendar so neatly. Some of us will face the tomb in the middle of Christmas season. Others of us will know great joy in the midst of Lent. The gift of the liturgical year is not that our lives align perfectly to its rhythms. It is rather the ability to approach life with the gift of these rhythms, recognizing that God's story is always reading us and our world, challenging, strengthening, equipping and questioning us and our world.

Depending on where you are in the midst of that story, it is helpful to be reminded that seasons come and seasons go. The abandonment of Friday doesn't last forever. Sunday will surely come. It can also be helpful to know that the church's story is large enough to hold people through those different seasons—there is space to grieve, space to forgive and seek forgiveness, space to weep and hope and grow.

In the church, we do our best to arrange our calendars around those convictions, but it's important not to confuse the church with the story it's charged to proclaim. The Gospel story is larger than the community that proclaims it. God gives life to the church, not the other way around. Even so, we need that community to proclaim that story and hold us accountable to it. This Easter season, I lean on that story that proclaims new life before frightened disciples are able to see it, before they are able to believe. I am thankful that the Easter season lasts for a full seven weeks—through the entire month of May—reminding us that whatever the darkness in our world or in our lives, God's love overcomes. There is a great deal to be thankful for, even when the world seems shaken and undone. It's enough to make me want to pull out the white pants and celebrate! ♦



andrew@browndowntown.org



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

News and Notes from the Session

Submitted by Laura Urban and David Bielenberg, Co-Clerks of Session

The Session took the following actions since the previous *Tidings* report:

- **Approved the return of Brown's annual \$500 interest** earned from investment with TRF-Development (BUILD's development partner in Oliver neighborhood) back to TRF. They will take \$500, match it with \$1,000 and plow it back into development.

- **Approved David Bielenberg and Laura Urban** as co-clerks.

- **Responded to a letter from a member concerned about the lack of gender and racial diversity** of the church staff. The Session affirmed its commitment to valuing diversity in its congregation, lay leaders and staff, yet stated that it believes

the current staff are the right people for the right jobs.

- **Approved Brown to join the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland** and to affirm the Sanctuary Tenets document. Any specific action (e.g., housing an immigrant in the Church House) will require a new discussion and vote by Session.

- **Signed up to participate in committees and events:** Kelsie Riegel Morgan (Worship Committee), Deb Baer and Lis Bowie (Global Mission); John Walker and Elizabeth Reichelt (In the Loop Presbytery events); John Walker (Presbytery meetings)

- **Heard about lender options for a construction loan**, researched by

David Bielenberg and David Nyweide.

- **Approved recommendation and allocations to fund building maintenance items (\$5,000)** from the Trustee's budget: metal casement windows; wood trim, jamb, and sill repair on Church House windows; Lafayette side roofing (from insurance settlement).

- **Approved recommendation from the Diversity Committee** to support installation of "pew cuts" in select pews to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers or service animals.



Questions about this information are welcome. The Session Minutes Book is available for perusal in the Church Office by request.

BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"

Truth to Power: Brown Memorial Youth Help Hold Our Mayor to Her Promises

by Tim Hughes Williams
Associate Pastor



On April 4, more than 150 youth and adults packed the basement of Trinity Baptist Church in West Baltimore for a Youth Accountability Assembly with Mayor Catherine Pugh. The event was planned by the Baltimore Youth Organizing Project (BYOP), a youth-led community organizing initiative created by BUILD and the No Boundaries Coalition in 2015. Brown Memorial has supported BYOP since its founding through financial contributions and significant staff support. By the time Mayor Pugh finally took the stage, more than 20 young people were present from Brown Memorial to support the BYOP Coalition.

For two years BYOP has listened to young people (ages 14-24) across Baltimore to learn what changes they want in their community. They've built power through relationships with churches, schools and youth organizations. While running for mayor, Pugh made clear commitments to the 200 young people present at the BUILD One Baltimore Assembly (March 13, 2016). She promised:

1. To create 1,000 year-round youth jobs over the course of her first term through the Mayor's Office of Employment Development and the corporate community.
2. To increase funding for after-school and community school programming to \$8.2 million.
3. To fully fund the existing Recreation Center plan or devise a new one.

The purpose of the Assembly on April 4 was to hear

Mayor Pugh's plans to honor her commitments around youth jobs and after-school funding. BYOP asked her to commit to working with them to create 250 new year-round youth jobs in her first year. She agreed that she was eager to create working opportunities for young people but was reluctant to commit to a specific number. When Avery Williams, a senior at Polytechnic Institute, asked her for a clear "yes" or "no," her answer was "Yes."

Secondly, the BYOP team asked Mayor Pugh to explain significant cuts to after-school funding in her preliminary 2018 budget. Despite promising she would not cut after-school funding, it was cut by approximately 25%. A tense exchange followed in which the mayor denied cutting after-school funding, citing an increase in state funding for transportation to school and after-school programming. However, the mayor's budget is clear. After-school programming is taking a significant cut. Mayor Pugh agreed to meet with BYOP leaders to achieve clarity on this point. At press time, BYOP was planning to call on young people to attend the City Council meeting on April 24 to demand after-school programs be fully funded. Brown Memorial committed to bringing 20 young people to the meeting.

Our youth should be proud of their commitment and willingness to stand in solidarity with youth citywide, many of whom are seriously underserved by local government. Please stay tuned to learn how you can continue to engage in this important ministry of justice for our youth. ♦

SUMMER AT BROWN

Youth News You Can Use

Our summer schedule,
May-August, is full



Who is behind all the whipped cream and cheese puffs? Lucas Calderon. His team won the challenge to throw and make the most cheese puffs stick to his face at the April 9 Sunday Night Live youth group meeting.

Final Sunday School Classes Confirmation Sunday, May 21 9:45 a.m., I Iam Worship Service

Come for the finale of Sunday School. Then, our 8th and 9th graders lead the worship service, share their faith statements, and become confirmed members of the church!

Sunday Night Live in the Park Sunday, May 28, 5:30-8 p.m. Tim and Perry's House (3632 Beech Avenue)

We are taking SNL on the road! All middle and high schoolers are invited for a cookout at Tim and Perry's and field games in Wyman Park (across the street). If it rains, we'll be somewhere else.

The No Boundaries Block Party and Fundraiser Saturday, June 3 Shift 1: Noon-2:30 p.m. Shift 2: 2:30-5 p.m.

The Annual Boundary Block Party brings together the neighborhoods of Central West Baltimore for a good time. The Block Party is tons of fun and they are in need of volunteers. Youth who are going to Massanetta or Montreat this summer can raise money by working

either or both shifts. Tell Tim ASAP if you are interested.

The Youth Car Wash Fundraiser Sunday, June 11, 11:30-1:30 p.m.

A youth fundraiser with hotdogs, burgers and a car wash in front of the church following worship. Proceeds will help send our young people to the Massanetta and Montreat conferences this summer.

Summer Night Live! Sunday, June 18, 5:30-8 p.m. Assembly Room

The summer version of our monthly gathering for middle and high school youth. All rising 6th graders-graduating seniors are invited for dinner, games and conversation about stuff that matters.

Massanetta Middle School Conference June 22-25, Harrisonburg, VA

Talk with Chris or Rachel for more information.

Summer Night Live! Sunday, July 23, 5:30-8 p.m. Assembly Room

The summer version of our monthly

gathering for middle and high school youth. All rising 6th graders-graduating seniors are invited for dinner, games and conversation about stuff that matters.

The Soaring Eagles Learning Camp, June 25-29 Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School

Talk with Chrystie Adams for information (cladams22@verizon.net).

Montreat High School Conference July 30-August 5, Montreat, NC

Talk with Tim for more information.

The "Welcome Back" Day Trip Saturday, August 26

Rising 6-12th graders are invited to celebrate the return of fall programming. More information coming soon.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tim Hughes Williams
tim@browndowntown.org

Chris Golden
chris@browndowntown.org

Rachel Cunningham
rachel@browndowntown.org

Music Ministry

"In the Good Old Summertime"

by Michael Britt, Minister of Music

Beginning on Sunday, May 28, the members of our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir and other ensembles take a much-deserved break for the season. Many of these people rehearse on a weekly basis in preparation for our weekly worship services, as well as concerts and other events. We are deeply grateful for everyone who participates in our Music Ministry for their time, talent and dedication.

However, our music ministry is still actively involved at Brown during the summer months. Our soloists, as well as other members of our church community, prepare selections for our Sunday worship. Soulful Revue will begin their rehearsals for an August worship service. The following are other events you are welcome to attend and, of course, participate in!



Hymn Sing & Lemonade **Wednesdays: June 7, July 5 and** **August 2, 6-7 p.m.**

Presented outside on the front steps of our church. The hymn sing is accompanied by a vintage reed organ.



Eutaw-Marshburn Choir Camp **Monday, July 17 –** **Thursday, July 20**

This four-day event will include daily choral rehearsals, introduction to ringing handbells and choir chimes and other musical activities.

The highlight of the week will be a dinner for the choir members and their families, followed by a concert in our sanctuary presented by the EMES Choir, which will take place on Thursday, July 20, 7 p.m.

In addition to our music staff, members of the Youth Choir from Abingdon Presbyterian Church (Philadelphia), under the direction of John Sall, will assist us.

Volunteers are needed: meals, activities, etc. If interested in participating, please contact Chrystie Adams, cladams22@verizon.net.



Artscape Activities **Friday, July 21, 7 p.m.**

A silent film accompanied by Michael Britt on our famous E.M. Skinner Pipe organ.

Saturday, July 22, 9 a.m. **Breakfast with Tiffany**

A light breakfast in our Assembly Room will precede a tour of our famous Tiffany windows, led by Jim Schuman.

Sunday, July 23, 11 a.m. **Tiffany Window Tour**

Jim Schuman will lead a second window tour after worship with light refreshments served in our Assembly Room.



Summer Concert Series **Fridays: July 7 and 14, 7:30 p.m.**

A light program presented by members of our congregation/music ministry held outside on the front steps of our sanctuary. Beverages provided. Please bring an hor d'oeuvre to share!

Capital Projects Update

Designer and builder are laying out plans and time lines

by Betsy Nix

The construction project is progressing. We've signed contracts for the planning phase with Murphy and Dittenhafer, a design firm, and Marani, builders we have worked with on previous projects.

The designers have been meeting with staff of the church and the tutorial program to determine the best uses for the three floors of the Fellowship Building. We have tried to plan efficiently, creating upgrades while keeping much of the existing infrastructure.

The major decision that has been made so far: the elevator, which will hold four to six people, will run in a shaft starting on the first floor between the kitchen and the far stairway, the current location of the powder room. Plans include additions of separate, multiple-fixture men's and women's rooms on the Fellowship Building's first floor; flexible classroom/meeting space and a designated nursery on the building's second floor; and a library, break room and ADA accessibility for the Tutorial Program. In a parallel process, things are moving forward on the South Tower.

Here is a rough time line for the coming months:

- **Mid-April:** Structural engineers evaluate the South Tower. Final repairs could begin late summer.
- **Late April:** Murphy and Dittenhafer complete the schematic design package.
- **May:** Marani presents budget numbers to the planning team.



- **June 4, after worship:** Congregational gathering to see plans and budget numbers.
- **August:** Subcontractors secured.
- **September:** The Tutorial Program moves into temporary space; construction documents finalized.
- **Before the end of 2017:** Construction on Fellowship Hall begins.
- **Fall 2018:** Brown and the Tutorial Program actively use renovated spaces.

Capital Construction Team members:
George Brown, Betsy Nix, David Nyweide,
Erika Brockman, Charles Reichelt.



Giving Tip

Did you know you can track your giving in CCB (Creating Connections at Brown), our interactive internal database for church members and friends? From your profile page, click the "Financial" tab in the row under your photo to reveal your recent transactions. Be sure to click the "Family" button underneath so all household gifts appear, as sometimes a contribution may be attributed to a spouse. From the bottom of the page you can also print a customized "Giving Statement." If you would like this to be your default method of accessing your giving information, please email slucas@browndowntown.org, and your household will be opted out of receiving paper statements in the mail. You can also go to the "Forms" section of CCB and fill out the "Paper Statement Opt Out" form to receive these electronically in the future. Access CCB by clicking the "CCB" button at the bottom of our website homepage.

Q & A

The Confirmation Experience

Brown Memorial for the first time this year offered an adult confirmation class, in addition to a confirmation class for 8th and 9th graders. This resulted in some parents and children going through confirmation at the same time. Will and Annika Brockman were one of these families and we asked them a few questions about their experience.



Why did you decide to take a confirmation class? What were your expectations going into the experience this fall?

Annika: Honestly, I didn't really feel I had a choice. It just seemed like the next step for all the kids in my Sunday School group, and my brother had gone through the class when it was his turn a couple years ago.

However, I was excited to be taking the class for a couple reasons. First, I wanted to learn more about the church and religion through history because I felt this information would be helpful to me in making decisions about my political convictions, as well as my religious beliefs.

The second reason was that I had a lot of questions about my religion and I wanted to understand how our religious community addresses some issues I consider important (such as feminist values) since many bible passages and many prominent Christians seem not to share the same values.

Similarly, I was interested to learn

more about how scripture encourages or discourages discrimination and violence against those who are queer.

Will: I was confirmed when I was around Annika's age, so I didn't feel that attending the adult confirmation class was in any way compulsory. When her brother went through the class two years ago, I was impressed by what he reported to us about the stimulating discussions he had with his peers and the instructors, which I think was very different from the experience I had at that age. As an adult, I decided that the relatively impoverished religious education I had received as a kid left me ignorant about some very important subjects. (I think I learned more about Christianity in a college survey course on art history than I ever did in a church setting.)

I've done a fair amount of reading in recent years to remedy this deficiency, but I saw the confirmation class as an opportunity to go beyond self-guided study. The opportunity also

seemed to be too convenient to pass up, since I could carpool with Annika, and—since she's more punctual than me—I could get to the class on time, or at least be early for the service.

Was there a particular subject or conversation that really surprised you? Why?

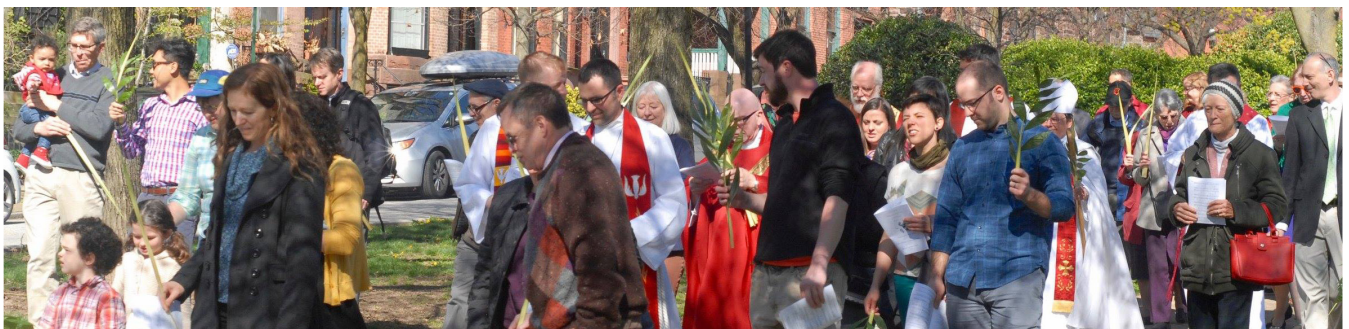
Annika: I really enjoyed learning about the various theological theories that have been advanced to explain how Jesus's life and death fulfilled a divine purpose (such as the "moral exemplar" theory and the "scapegoat" theory). These perspectives surprised me, because I hadn't been exposed to them before, and they weren't at all what I had expected of how Christians look at the bible.

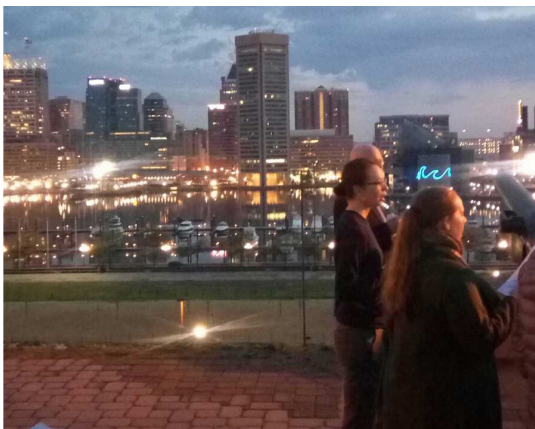
Will: I don't think I would say that I was surprised, but I think it's easy to underestimate how much more interesting every subject is when it's discussed among a group of intelligent, inquisitive people like the

continued on page 15 ➞

PICTURE PAGE

Photos on this page were taken during the neighborhood Palm Procession on April 9 (credit: Fred Gorman). Photos on the opposite page show our Lenten art and decorated sanctuary, prayer stations, the Fat Tuesday pancake supper and the Easter sunrise service in Federal Hill Park.





BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"

Answering a Call for Help

Brown Memorial members Sandra and Roger Fink took a former inmate, who had spent 44 years in prison, under their wing and helped him start life anew.

by Jennifer Michael

Sandra Fink says she's not a big believer in miracles, but she can only think of one word to describe a call made to her and husband Roger by Andrew Foster Connors in late 2015—"miraculous."

Sandra and Roger, members of Brown for the last 10 years, had recently finished reading "Just Mercy," written by Bryan Stevenson, a lawyer and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. The book chronicles injustices within the justice system, and particularly the unfair treatment of African American men.

"It just blew our minds," Sandra says of "Just Mercy." "After we both read the book we said, 'We have to do something. We have to make a difference.'"

Less than a week later, Andrew called with a request. A fellow Presbyterian minister had contacted him about a man who had been released from a life term in prison to the streets of Baltimore after 44 years of incarceration. The man had no money and no family. Andrew asked if the Finks would be willing to mentor the former inmate named Franklin Witcher.

Sandra is a retired therapist and social worker and Roger is a retired psychologist. Roger had told Andrew if he ever needed help with something, he'd step in. Sandra and Roger were also looking for new volunteer opportunities, having recently "retired" from volunteering for many years as pantry workers for the Samaritan Community.

When Sandra and Roger met Franklin for the first time, he was "completely grateful," Sandra recalls. "That set a tone for us that we saw followed through with everything we did," she says. "We never left him without him thanking us."



PHOTO BY: ANNE HEUSLER

Franklin and Sandra at the home of McKay and Katherine Jenkins where a potluck dinner was held for Franklin.

Sentenced to Life at 16

Franklin Witcher grew up in Baltimore and was a normal kid until his teen years when he began robbing and stealing, according to what he told the Finks. At 16, he and two older young men committed a robbery, and the victim was shot and killed. Franklin was convicted of the murder—the other two pinned the murder on Franklin and were acquitted—in a 1972 jury trial that lasted two days. He was sentenced to serve a life term, plus 20 years.

Franklin's release came after a team of pro bono criminal defense lawyers brought post-conviction challenges for him and other inmates under a Maryland Court of Appeals case, *Unger v. State*, that found the jury instructions given during the 1976 trial of Merle Unger—which were the same instructions given during Franklin's trial—violated his right to due process of law.

When Franklin, at age 60, was released from the penitentiary in Hagerstown on a cold day in November 2015

wearing only a t-shirt, his pro bono counsel, Stan Reed, and a social worker picked him up and settled him into a halfway house. Stan paid his rent for three months.

When Sandra and Roger became involved “We loved him from the beginning,” Sandra says. Franklin was committed to finding work and found a job on his own cleaning the kitchen of a catering company. They helped him move from the halfway house to an apartment with an old friend, open a bank account and learn to use an ATM.

Sandra and Roger talked to Franklin regularly by phone during the week, but every Thursday they reserved for being with him. They’d take him to meet his probation officer, to see doctors, and go to breakfast. They spent one leisurely morning taking Franklin to visit Fells Point for the first time.

One of the few requests Franklin made directly to the Finks was for them to take him to the grocery store and teach him how to shop. They went to the Shoppers at Mondawmin Mall where Franklin marveled at small things, such as all the different colors of apples for sale. Sandra laughs at how it was the longest shopping trip she’d ever taken.

Franklin also asked for help finding the burial site of his mother, who had died while he was in prison. The Finks traveled to Annapolis and located her death certificate and information about where she was buried. They took Franklin to her graveside and quietly left him there, where he stayed for at least an hour, which Sandra recalls as “the most touching thing.”

Along the way, other Brown members joined Franklin’s “family,” including Anne Heuisler, Beth Gregory, Lucille McCarthy, Karen Nelson, David Bielenberg, Greg Trimble, McKay and Katherine Jenkins and David and Betsey Todd. They got him new teeth, new glasses, furniture, housewares and a microwave. Many of Sandra and Roger’s friends in their personal circle lent assistance.

Franklin attended worship and a post-worship lunch one Sunday at Brown to thank church members for their help (Franklin became a Muslim while in prison). Some members of the Brown “family” also attended a potluck supper for Franklin at the Jenkins’ home.

“He was almost wide-eyed, acting overwhelmed by the idea that we would come out on a cold night to meet him,”



Franklin and his lawyer Stan Reed, minutes after Franklin was released from prison on Nov. 23, 2015.

PHOTO COURTESY OF: LERCH, EARLY & BREWER CHTD.

I think he endured a lot of pain in his life—the kind of pain that would crush most. But he did not seem crushed at all; rather it seems as if surviving and making sense of all that pain grew in him wisdom and peace.”

— Katherine Jenkins

Anne Heuisler remembers of the meal at the Jenkins' house. "He seemed shy, answering questions tersely, but seemed to welcome Sandra and Roger's prodding, telling us more of his story."

For Katherine Jenkins, Franklin exuded a "positive peace."

"I think he endured a lot of pain in his life—the kind of pain that would crush most. But he did not seem crushed at all; rather it seems as if surviving and making sense of all that pain grew in him wisdom and peace," says Katherine. "It was a pleasure to be in his company and I sincerely wish our family got to spend more time with him."

Freedom Cut Short

A little over a year after Franklin's release from prison, he was well on his way to settling into a new life. In addition to his Brown "family," he had found another small family. He had moved into a new apartment with a girlfriend and her young son.

In February of this year, Sandra and Roger made their annual trek to Florida for the month and were having dinner when they received a call from Franklin's girlfriend. Franklin had collapsed from a heart attack, was in the hospital and the outlook was not good.

Sandra and Roger took the first flight back to Baltimore and, as Franklin's durable power of attorney, made the decision to take him off life support. On Feb. 6 he passed away, 15 months after having been released from prison.

In March, a memorial service was held for Franklin in Brown Memorial's sanctuary. All of Franklin's Brown

Memorial family attended, as did many of the Fink's other friends, Stan Reed and the childhood friend he had shared an apartment with.

"I was very moved by Franklin's memorial service, partly because I learned more of his story, but mostly because of the evident, profound effect he had had on people who had known him," said Brown member Karen Nelson. "This man, who was turned out into the world at the age of 60, after 44 years of incarceration, with no family, or resources, or friends who were able to help him, was described as a gift and a blessing by people who had started with a prescribed relationship with him and were drawn into much more."

The Finks are now coping with adjusting to life without Franklin. They reached some closure when they traveled to Long Island to meet the Presbyterian minister who had originally called Andrew to tell him about Franklin. The minister, Rev. Ian Liang, had befriended Franklin when he was in prison and corresponded with him for more than 20 years. Rev. Liang and the Finks buried Franklin's remains in a beautiful garden at Rev. Liang's home.

Reflecting back, Roger Fink says, "Being connected Franklin's life gave me a sense of doing something that went beyond the ordinary."

Sandra says, "We'll be forever grateful for this. I don't know if we could ever replicate it."

Anne Heuisler has been encouraging Sandra to write an account of her rich experience with Franklin. "I am in awe of Sandra and Roger's dedication to helping him and of the clear spiritual reward they experienced. Their devotion to Franklin was inspiring." ♦



Learning to Read Building Confidence Succeeding in School

As we near the finish line of another successful year of literacy studies, the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program sends deepest thanks to so many devoted individuals, families and foundations who have supported our annual fund and our grant requests during this school year. With your help, Brown Tutoring is growing. More schools. More students. More than 60 volunteer tutors. Most importantly, our students' skills are growing! We thank you for your very essential role in the program again this year.

BROWNTUTORING.ORG, 410-523-1542 ext. 17



May Birthdays

05/01	Laura S. Urban
05/02	Aaron McNabney
05/04	Tyler Hoffberger
05/04	Tom McManus
05/04	Teddy Obrecht
05/05	Elizabeth Reichelt
05/06	Ashley Boumgarden
05/07	David Rollison
05/08	Julian Finney
05/08	Grace Hand
05/09	Charlie Obrecht
05/10	Barbara Clippinger
05/10	Sue Galusha-Bobango
05/11	Matthew Fedderly
05/11	Khoa Nguyen
05/13	Josephine Finney
05/17	Margaret McManus
05/17	Andrew Ross
05/18	Caroline Anderson
05/18	Laura Filipp
05/19	Daniel Burton
05/20	Carolyn Marks
05/20	Anna Marie Brennan Taylor
05/21	Art Hall
05/21	Mary Jane Sokol
05/22	Nancy Bradford
05/23	Page Campbell
05/25	Emily Reed
05/26	Laura McNabney
05/27	Ellen Carter Cooper
05/27	Jackson Mills
05/28	Landon Reiman
05/31	Christopher Brennan Taylor
05/31	Jim Edrington
05/31	Kim Norman



To have your birthday listed in the *Tidings*, contact Sharon Holley, church secretary, 410-523-1542, or Sharon@brown-downtown.org.

Tiffany Series

World Famous Organist to Give Concert May 7, p.m.

by Shirley Parry, Tiffany Committee Chair

James David Christie, internationally acclaimed as one of the finest organists of his generation, will present a Tiffany Series concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 7. A reception will follow.

Christie will play a colorful program of mostly French works. Composers represented in the program include Henri Duparc, Charles Tournemire and Christie himself. He will also play works by Albert Alain and his son Jehan Alain. In the 1930s, Jehan Alain was considered one of the most gifted young French composers. He was killed at age 29 during World War II in a battle for which he posthumously received the Croix de Guerre for his bravery.

Christie will also play a piece by Jean Langlais, who performed at Brown Memorial in the 1950s, and whose widow, Marie-Louise Langlais, played in last November's concert honoring John Walker.

James David Christie is Chair and Professor of Organ at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, Distinguished Artist in Residence at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, and College Organist at Wellesley College. He also serves as organist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 1978.

He has performed around the world. The major orchestras that Christie has performed and recorded with include those of Vienna, London, Dublin, Stutt-



gart, Koblenz, Paris, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, New York and Boston. He has given more than 60 tours of Europe and has performed often in Russia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Australia and Iceland.

In the fall of 2010, James David Christie exchanged positions with Notre Dame Cathedral titular organist Olivier Latry, and served as visiting Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatory.

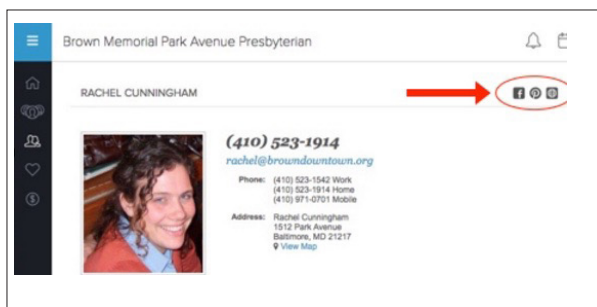
Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for students) and are available in the Assembly Room after worship, online at www.brown-downtown.org, and at the door. Early ticket purchase recommended. We hope you will join us for this exciting concert!

For more information, email:
TiffanySeries.BrownMemorial@gmail.com

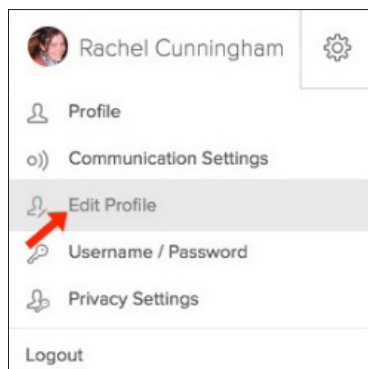
CCB Tip: Linking Your Social Media Accounts

by Rachel Cunningham

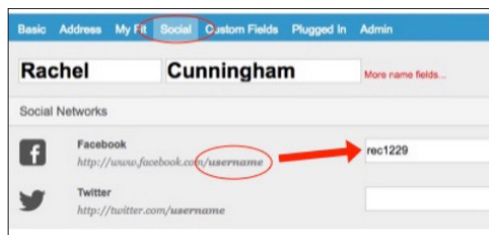
Did you know you can link your Facebook and other social media profiles to your CCB profile?



If you've ever wondered what those small symbols next to some profile names are, they're social media links. Clicking on one of these links will take you to that person's profile on a particular social media site.



To add your social media profiles to CCB, login and click the Edit Profile tab under your name.



Click the Social tab and a list of the available social media site links will appear. Fill in your username only for any sites you wish to link to your CCB profile and click Save at the bottom of the page. Your updated profile will appear with the social

media links listed to the right of your name. Click on each link to test it is working correctly. If your link goes to an incorrect profile, most likely the username is incorrect. Check to see that you have the correct username for that site and try entering it again. If that doesn't fix the problem, let us know and we will look into it for you. Happy linking.

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



June Birthdays

06/02	Billy Clippinger
06/04	Will Brockman
06/04	Sarah Reiman
06/05	Emy Urban
06/06	Lorrie Liang
06/07	Lydia Beasley
06/10	Erika Brockman
06/10	Cal Riorda
06/10	Adrienne Williams
06/11	Loretta Byers
06/11	Caleb Brennan Taylor
06/12	Erin Emerick
06/12	Abby Jackson
06/12	Peggy Obrecht
06/12	Mary Obrecht
06/13	Will Coulson
06/13	Robert Marshall
06/14	Fado Yoon (JaYoung Yoon)
06/15	Jacob Thompson
06/15	Noah Todd
06/17	Linnet Jones
06/17	Will Rogers
06/18	Madison Riorda
06/19	Rain Hall
06/19	Trevor Hoffberger
06/21	Lily Bradford
06/21	Joe Schindler
06/21	Dale Terrill
06/22	Nancy Bandiere
06/22	Peter Coulson
06/22	Rebecca Crew
06/22	Tom Stewart
06/22	Jihar Williams
06/23	Paul Forward
06/23	Rachel Forward
06/23	Beth Goldsby-Allen
06/23	Max Palmer
06/24	Patti Flowers-Coulson
06/25	Annette Jones-Wilson
06/26	Graham Bishai
06/26	Emmett Dahl
06/26	Madora Henson
06/26	Kerry Johnston
06/28	Maggie Johnston
06/28	Jack Mitchell
06/28	Geralyn Schroth
06/28	Nancy Warner
06/30	Paul Newill-Schamp



July Birthdays

07/03	Peter Hoffberger
07/03	Lehn Robinson
07/03	Jennifer Simmons
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
07/14	Eric Echols
07/15	Franklin Branch
07/15	Dan Hale
07/16	Liam Stanton Abernethy
07/16	Ann Teaff
07/18	Rachel Emerick
07/19	John Boumgarden
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
07/29	Ian Munds
07/30	Matthew Dahl
07/30	Spencer Hammond
07/31	Valerie Hinkle

The Confirmation Experience

Continued from Page 7

other students in my adult class—and when the discussion is led by Andrew or Tim! Each person in our group brought a different perspective, informed by faith journeys that began in diverse places and followed highly personal trajectories, over a course of decades. Youth confirmation may yield more surprises, because the students may be encountering the subjects for the first time, but examining them in the company of others who have reflected thoughtfully on those topics in light of their lived experiences feels just as revelatory.

This is the first time we've had a youth class and an adult class at the same time. Have you compared your experiences? How do you think the classes are different or the same?

Annika: We have not compared our experiences very much besides to figure out if we were covering the same topics (not really, by the way). It seems as though we are following similar curriculum on a different timeline and with different methods of learning and discussion. My confirmation class seems to be less philosophical and I feel as though we are learning through more engaging methods and with fewer school-like tendencies.

Will: I'm deeply hurt that my daughter doesn't remember all the long, deeply personal conversations we have had in the car talking about Calvinism, early Christian debates about the Trinity, and so on. The iPhone earbuds

should have been a dead give-away that she was just pretending to care what her father thinks about such things. Seriously, a big part of my motivation to take the "companion" confirmation class had to do with feeling that I was being a responsible parent who could provide semi-knowledgeable guidance about the topics she was discussing in class. But, from what I could observe, Annika didn't need much prodding from her parents to embark on her own faith journey earnestly and inquisitively. And, especially since I don't know where my own journey might take me next, I felt comfortable leaving her travel in the care of the real professionals at Brown Memorial.

If I were going to offer advice to a future confirmation student, it would be?

Annika: From some of the things my brother had said, I was under the impression that the class might be pretty demanding and intense, like some classes in school. I didn't need to worry, and future confirmation students shouldn't worry either. The class is a breeze if you pay attention and participate. There are no grades, and it's not stressful; it's essentially regular Sunday School, but with fewer games.

Will: Always let your daughter have the last word when responding to a father-daughter questionnaire from your pastor. ♦



BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City
and the World*

Summer Schedule Begins Sunday, May 28

Worship will move to 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 28, through Sunday, September 3. Education classes will take a break during this time.

Every Sunday (6 pm) & Thursday (5:30 pm), Meditation on the Hill, Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings, Church House Parlor.

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.

May 7 & 14, Global Mission Committee sponsored discussions during Adult Education Hour, 9:45 a.m. Church House Speers Room. On May 7 Forrest Hall will lead a discussion on the current state of climate change. On May 14, Chrystie Adams will lead a discussion on Standing Rock and the Apology to the Native Americans.

May 7, Tiffany Series: James David Christie Organ Concert, 3 p.m. See page 13 for details.

May 18, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1-3 p.m. Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls for those in need at the home of Dianne Ross. Contact Dianne at rossinbalt@verizon.net.

May 21, Confirmation Sunday, 11 a.m. See page 4 for details.

May 28, June 18, July 23, Sunday Night Live!, 5:30-8 p.m. See page 4 for details.

June 3, No Boundaries Block Party and Fundraiser, 2:30-5 p.m. See page 4 for details.

June 7, July 5, Aug. 2 Hymn Sing and Lemonade, 6-7 p.m. See page 5 for details.

June 11, Youth Car Wash Fundraiser, 11:30-1:30 p.m. See page 4 for details.

June 22-25, Massanetta Middle School Conference, See page 4 for details.

June 25-29, Soaring Eagles Learning Camp, Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School. A Brown Memorial-hosted summer enrichment program for EMES students. If interested in volunteering, contact Chrystie Adams, cladams22@verizon.net.

July 7, & 14, Summer Concert Series, 7:30 p.m. Front steps of Brown Memorial. See page 5 for details.

July 17-20, Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary Choir Camp, See page 5 for details.

July 21-23, Artscape at Brown, See page 5 for details.

July 29- Aug. 5, Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp, Upper Sioux Community Center, Granit Falls, MN. Brown Memorial members participate in a summer enrichment camp for Upper Sioux Community children. Learn more at baltimoredakotalearningcamps.org.

July 30-Aug. 5, Montreat High School Conference, See page 4 for details.

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 Williams,
Associate Pastor

Jennifer Michael,
Editor/Communications Manager

Have an idea for something to include in the Tidings? Email Jennifer Michael, jmichael@browndowntown.org. Due dates this year: 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.



Visit us on Facebook:
[BrowndowntownBaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/BrowndowntownBaltimore)

