



BROWN  
MEMORIAL  
PARK AVENUE

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

# Tidings

OCT/NOV 2016

## Pastor's Reflections

**Tim Hughes**

Associate Pastor

### There is a difference between weakness and vulnerability.

That's a key insight from Brené Brown's book, "Daring Greatly."\* I will confess I'm a little bit allergic to books from the "self-help" genre and initially I lumped Brown's book into that category. But then I read her painful revelation that despite 12 years of research into the relationship between vulnerability, happiness and love, she still found it "excruciating" to be vulnerable with other people.



"Can't I just research vulnerability until I've mastered it?" she asked her therapist. Her therapist reminded her, gently, that words like "mastery" were actually the opposite of being vulnerable. It turns out that understanding vulnerability and practicing vulnerability are very different things.

Brown defines vulnerability as "uncertainty, risk and emotional exposure." If simply reading that definition raises your blood pressure a little bit, it's likely because we've come to associate all three things with weakness. Especially in America, to be uncertain or to expose yourself to potential injury is considered foolish at best and deadly at worst.

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### Brown's Journey in **Global Mission**

*by the Global Mission Committee*

"Alive in the City and in the World" is the tagline that describes our church. Our Belief Statement regarding Mission and Justice (as outlined on brown-downtown.org) states that, "Mission means 'sending.' Just as God sends Jesus to transform our world, God sends the church to participate in God's transforming work in the world. We strive to listen for God's voice in our lives and in our church, making every opportunity to respond as individuals and as a community to the places of pain and injustice in our city and world where God is already at work."

Brown Memorial has been actively participating in "God's transforming work in the world" for more than 100 years. This year in 2016, we celebrate our 30-year partnership with El Salvador! We also honor our Presbytery partnership with the Dakota Presbytery through the Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps (BDLC)—an effort for the past 20 years. Our relationship with Cameroon, started by the Taylor family in 2004, actually initiated the formation of the Brown Memorial Global Mission Committee. We use our committee

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### INSIDE

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**Welcome New Members.** A diverse group of five joined us in July. See page 6.

**Organizing Lessons.** A case study of BUILD's recent activism. See page 10.

**Pejuhutazizi recap.** Stories and photos from Minnesota. See page 12.

## Pastor's Reflections

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Our politics and our culture idolize women and men who are steady, steel-eyed and never apologize for their actions.

The problem, Brown argues, is that true strength is irrevocably wed to passion, relationships of trust, and the ability to learn from failure. We recognize such strength when we see it, but it is difficult to emulate. Robotic, lock-step resistance to vulnerability is simply weakness masquerading as strength. Sooner or later everyone realizes the emperor has no clothes.

I love Brown's insights because they give me new language to talk about what is so compelling to me about the Gospel. We are moved, on almost a gut-level, by the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus. We know instinctively that there is power in the idea of God on the cross, but it is difficult to explain and even harder to emulate. Surely it is an image that operates in many ways on many levels and it is a mistake to reduce it to any one meaning. But I am deeply moved by a strength that is revealed in love. I am compelled to follow leaders who re-

veal themselves to be human, flawed and willing to learn. I am unwilling to let go of the idea that we are strongest when we connect across boundaries through risky, vulnerable love.

Such ideas may not always be in vogue in our national discourse. But they linger in our psyche, dreams and most sacred stories. I believe we are wise to pay attention. ♦

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\* Brene Brown, PhD. "Daring Greatly: How The Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead." Gotham Books, 2012.



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## News and Notes from the Session

Submitted by Anne Heuisler, Clerk of Session

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

- **Heard faith statements** of five new members received on July 24.
- **Called a meeting of the congregation** for Aug. 7 for the purpose of electing a deacon, Geralyn Schroth, to fill the unexpired term of Theresa Veatch.
- **Commissioned Anne Heuisler** to represent BMPA at the Presbytery Gathering on Sept. 14 at 1st Presbyterian Church in Bel Air.
- **Authorized observance** of the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 2.

- **Heard and approved a report** from trustee George Brown, co-chair of the Capital Fund Construction Team, outlining the team's goals and procedures, and authorized the team to proceed accordingly. The congregation and the Session will be kept informed of progress.

- **Received and approved a revised** Operating Manual for the Columbarium, drafted by Stephen Ruckman.

- **Received a proposal from chair Andy Johnston** and the personnel committee for revision of employee benefits for 2017 in response to the Board of Pensions benefits changes; approved most of their recommendations.

- **Appointed David Nyweide** to represent BMPA at "Doors Open Baltimore" – an effort to share historic places in Baltimore with the wider community.

- **Offered prayers for Andrew Foster Connors'** experience at CREDO and for pastoral concerns of the congregation.



If anyone in the congregation would like more information about any of these issues, I welcome questions. Session minutes are kept in the "Session Minutes Book" in the church office and are available for perusal upon request. Contact, Anne Heuisler, [aheuisler@comcast.net](mailto:aheuisler@comcast.net).

## Global Mission

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**Brown Memorial has actively participated in "God's transforming work in the world" for more than 100 years. This year we celebrated our 30-year partnership with El Salvador. Our most recent delegation to El Salvador is shown here last June.**

to share the incredible experiences we have with our global friends—learning about how each culture and community experiences the transforming work of God, realizing commonalities and differences in how each relationship develops and grows, and sharing a bit of what we experience with the congregation.

In 2012 our committee finalized our mission statement to help guide our activities moving forward. In 2013 and 2014, we were inspired by the PCUSA Big Tent to use our committee to read and discuss the book by Robert Lupton, “Toxic Charity.”

Following our Brown listening campaign in 2014, when we strived “to listen for God’s voice in our lives and in our church,” our committee opened our book discussion to the congregation to join us in reading and discussing the book “When Helping Hurts. (How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself),” also used by the Presbytery of Baltimore Committee on Reconciliation that year. These book discussions (completed in 2015) really helped us understand how we actually “respond as individuals and as a community to the places of pain and injustice in our city and world”—realizing how important it is to listen to each other’s stories and identify the strengths of each community.

In most cases for global mission efforts, the goal is to focus on community development, rather than immediate relief or rehabilitation. We discussed cultural differences between the “Majority World” compared with the “Western

World.” We talked about helping groups understand their own assets, and about understanding what “we” really means.

We also talked about building relationship and trust; and building relationships between community to community, and institution to institution. We talked about how we can foster change by taking positive change in each of our lives and conveying these ideas to the communities with which we wish to build partnerships. These discussions were supplemented by our committee members attending national PSUSA conferences where similar ideas on mission were discussed, culminating in our global mission retreat on June 4, 2016. For our global mission retreat, our committee invited Elizabeth Little from PCUSA World Mission to lead us in discerning how we, Brown Memorial, fit into global mission today. We spent the day remembering our global mission history, exploring the gifts (talents) we bring individually and as a congregation to the world, understanding our calling through our mission statement, and discerning our mission focus and criteria through what inspires us and what we value as a church.

We learned about ministry teams and how these teams can help build a critical mass to support and develop new and existing partnerships and better reach the larger congregation. We realized the importance of building a support system, such as affinity groups, in the church for creating, sustaining and ending our global relationships.

While we always understood that “Mission means

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# UPCOMING AT BROWN

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



## "Ignite" Lunch Series Oct. 23

This year's 4th Sunday post-worship lunchtime speaker series is all about sharing the amazing knowledge and stories of our own members in 7-minute, thought-provoking "Ignite Talks."

According to the website [ignitetalks.io](http://ignitetalks.io), Ignite Talks is a "fast-paced geek event." The first took place in Seattle in 2006. Ignite has since become an international phenomenon, with Ignite events produced in Helsinki, Tunisia, Paris, New York and now, the Brown Memorial Assembly Room.

Our Ignite presenters for this month are:

**McKay Jenkins:** Chemicals, Cancer, and Industrial Food. McKay shares discoveries from his books "ContamiNation" (about the toxins hidden inside everyday consumer products) and the forthcoming, "Food Fight: GMOs and the Future of the American Diet." He currently teaches English and Environmental Humanities at the University of Delaware and worships at Brown with his family.

**Ryan Moran:** Ryan shares his story of reconciling his childhood faith with the eventual realization that he is gay. Ryan recently joined Brown and is the Director of Operational Management at Medstar.

**Samirah Franklin:** "The Baltimore Youth Organizing Project." Samirah is an emerging adult leader in Sandtown-Winchester, where she worships at the local mosque. She became connected with Brown through youth organizing following the Baltimore Uprising and recently joined our El Salvador Delegation. She'll share about BYOP's work to build power for youth.

We thank Chip and Kelsie Riegel Morgan, Betsy Nix and Anna Connors for being our first Igniters Sept. 25.



## Tiffany Series Concert Nov. 6

The first Tiffany Series event of the 2016/17 season honors our very own Minister of Music Emeritus, John Walker on Nov. 6, 3 p.m. John is an internationally-renown organist who, prior to Brown, served as Minister of Music at Shadyside Presbyterian in Pittsburgh and Riverside Church in New York.

Flying in for the Nov. 6 concert on Brown's historic 1931 Skinner organ are organists Marie-Louise Langlais, Eileen Morris Guenther, Henry Lowe and Michael Britt. Brown's Chancel Choir and soloists will also premiere works commissioned in John's honor by Daniel Gawthrop, Alfred Fedak and JoyAnne Amani Richardson.

Tickets are \$20 (\$10 students). Purchase yours on Brown's website, at the church office, or at the door.



## Holiday Bazaar Donation Collection Sundays in Oct./Nov.

Donations are again being accepted for the Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary Holiday Boutique, organized by Brown members as a special shopping event for EMES families, with proceeds benefitting the school. Donations needed are NEW unwrapped toys, games, coats and other outwear for kids and adults, athletic equipment, or cash gifts or gift cards. Contact Sandra Fink for information, 410-377-2923, [finksr@hotmail.com](mailto:finksr@hotmail.com).



Michael Britt at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Va., before a production of "Phantom of the Opera."

## Silent Film and Organ Concert Nov. 11 to Benefit Capital Appeal

If Michael Britt, our Minister of Music, is not sitting at the Skinner organ in the Sanctuary Chancel most days, he can probably be found making music on a theater pipe organ somewhere in the area, or around the country (he's playing organ accompaniment for "Phantom of the Opera" at Princeton University Oct. 14, and for "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at Riverside Church in New York City July 25).

Some in our congregation may or may not know of Michael's love of theater organ. At age 13 he made his debut as an organist on a theater organ at the Virginia Theater in Alexandria, and he plays on the theater organ at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick as the house organist. Michael even had a theater pipe organ installed in his home before he moved to Bolton Hill last year and donated the organ to Saints Philip and James Catholic Church on Charles Street.

During the silent film era, theaters used pipe organs to provide musical accompaniment as a cheap alternative to paying a full orchestra. But no music scores were made for organists, so they were left to improvise as the movie reels turned.

Michael has accompanied silent film viewings at Brown for the Tiffany Series and Artscape, and this fall and spring he will do it again in public programs for Brown and the community, with all proceeds benefitting the Capital Appeal. Details are:

**Friday, Nov. 11, 7:30 PM, Brown Memorial Sanctuary**  
**Silent Film: "Steamboat Bill Jr." (1928), with Buster Keaton**

**Friday, March 10, 7:30 PM, Brown Memorial Sanctuary**  
**Silent Film: "The Three Musketeers" (1921), with Douglas Fairbanks**

**Suggested donation: \$15 adults, \$10 students/seniors, \$25 family**

## Capital Appeal Update

"We thank the 99 households who have made 97 pledges totaling nearly \$1.2 million toward our hopes to make our facilities more accessible, usable and safe for current and future members and friends of Brown Memorial.

Please take an opportunity to thank those members of the Capital Fund Core Team for their leadership in helping to raise these funds that are critical for the church to continue to grow into the community of welcome, hospitality and justice that God calls us to become. Sunday, Oct. 9, marked the conclusion of active fundraising efforts for the fund.

Now that resources have been pledged, the Session has appointed and authorized a Construction Team to shift toward leading the design and construction efforts. George Brown, President of Greenleaf Construction, and Betsy Nix, Professor at UB (both Trustees), have been appointed as chairs of that team. They are joined by Charles Reichelt, Erika Brockman and David Nyweide (Elder).

Their initial focus is interviewing and recommending to Session a design firm to create a Master Plan for overhauling the Fellowship Building, including the installation of an elevator. The Master Plan will be presented to the congregation sometime in the new year.

In the meantime, repair of the Tower continues and new chancel handrails are scheduled to be installed very soon.

**Members of the Capital Fund Core Team: Emily Brown, David Bielenberg, Rachel Clark, Beth Gregory, Jonathan Hensley, Taylor Stewart, Laura Urban, Andrew Foster Connors**

# Welcome to our Newest Members

by Andrew Foster Connors



## Manual Alvarez

Manual Alvarez joined the church by reaffirmation of faith. A native of Puerto Rico, Manuel's Pentecostal faith shaped his deep love of the Spirit, but also created conflicts as he began to accept himself as a gay man. A real estate agent, Manuel's quest for an integrated faith led him to enroll in classes at the Ecumenical Institute in Baltimore, and enroll more intentionally in conversations and classes at Brown. Both have given him greater clarity and joy in his faith journey and he looks forward to growing into his new faith family.



## SueJeanne Koh

A cradle Presbyterian, SueJeanne Koh came to Brown after moving to Balti-

more from Durham, NC, where she has been working on her doctorate in theology and ethics. Her Korean Presbyterian heritage and experience shaped her experience not only of God, but of the challenges and opportunities facing the Presbyterian Church (USA) amidst growing racial diversity in America. After leading a well-attended conversation on "race and the church" at Theology on Tap, SueJeanne planned and led a four session discussion on the same topic, which will continue this year with the next discussion scheduled after worship on Sunday, Oct. 30. SueJeanne met her husband, Mike, in Baltimore; their son, Jackson, was baptized at Brown during the summer.



## Tida Nelson

Tida Nelson is no stranger to Brown, having cared for many of the youngest children at the church in our Sunday morning nursery. She is also the daughter of Karen and Ken Nelson, longtime members at Brown. Tida feels that in and through the

worship of God and the service of the community, there is a strong sense of family and community. She is grateful to be a strong part of that family and is glad to make it official.



## Josh Thomas

Josh Thomas joined us by reaffirmation of faith. The son of a Methodist minister (his mother), Josh grew up with a faith that led him to understand God as a welcoming, inclusive, grace-filled God whose community should reflect that truth. A professional actor, Josh was literally walking by the church one day, saw the rainbow flag, entered for worship, and was pleasantly surprised to find a theater friend, Susan Stroupe, singing in the choir. A talented musician, Josh blessed us recently in worship with Jazz-style piano and voice.

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# Welcome New Friends

Presbyterian ministers Ed Loring and Murphy Davis have lived no ordinary life of faith.

by Jennifer Michael

Lately you may have noticed a pair of new friends in church on Sunday mornings. During visits to Baltimore to see their daughter Hannah Murphy Buc, Ed Loring and Murphy Davis have taken time to worship at Brown, and in the coming year they plan to become more involved as they move from Atlanta, Ga., to be closer to Hannah and her family.

We have been honored to have Ed and Murphy in our midst. They bring with them the example of lives lived totally and completely devoted to Jesus Christ. For the past 35 years, they have served as “elders” within a residential Christianity community for the homeless and the poor in Atlanta, and for decades have engaged in political advocacy on behalf of the homeless and the hungry and for the abolition of the death penalty.

The roots of their story began in the late 1970s when Ed and Murphy, who are Presbyterian ministers, worked at a small inner city church in Atlanta called Clifton Presbyterian. In 1979 they opened the city’s first free shelter at Clifton. The word “homelessness” was not a household word at the time. “People thought we had lost our minds,” Murphy recalls.

An estimated 1,500 people lived on Atlanta’s streets in the late 1970s, but that number quickly escalated in the 1980s to more than 10,000. Ed and Murphy wanted to do more. They became attracted to the Catholic Worker Movement and its guiding principle of hospitality toward those on the margins of society. They decided to leave Clifton Church to purchase, in partnership with the Atlanta Presbytery, an old apartment building in downtown Atlanta. They named it the Open Door Community.

For 35 years, Open Door has operated as a residential Christian community and Ed and Murphy and four others—working as the “Protestant Catholic Worker”—have served as the community’s leadership team. Open



**Brown member Hannah Murphy Buc says she is thrilled to have Brown's loving community to welcome her parents when they move to Baltimore next year.**

Door provides food, shelter, showers, clothing, medical care, foot care, prison visits, worship and a “common life of hospitality and resistance work,” according to the leaders. At one point, Open Door served 10,000-12,000 meals a month, seven days a week.

While living at Open Door, Ed and Murphy have taken no salary, insurance or pension. As Ed explained in a 2013 sermon at the Central State Prison in Georgia, “We at the Open Door Community give our lives to building a home for ourselves, the hungry, the homeless and the prisoner. Our home is ultimately in the heart of God, in the Beloved Community, and in those places where Jesus is among us.”

Now, fast forward to the 1990s, when Andrew and Kate Foster Connors walked into Open Door as students from the Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Seeking to learn from Ed and Murphy as the “models of

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prophets," Andrew and Kate sat down and shared meals with the homeless men and women served by Open Door, and participated with Open Door in public witness against the death penalty on the grounds of the Georgia Capitol.

For a short time, Andrew worked as Ed's secretary, "marinating in Ed's ideas brought to life on the page," and he designed an independent study on "hospitality," inspired largely from the Open Door's witness and ministry. At the same time, Kate took a street preaching class that stretched her comfort in greeting the Word on the street.

Through their experience at Open Door, Andrew says, "We learned from Christians who had committed their lives to following Jesus not just as an idea, but as a crucified human being, still suffering on our streets."

Fast forward even further to 2008 when Ed and Murphy's daughter Hannah arrived in Baltimore as a nursing student at Johns Hopkins University. She had heard about Brown Memorial from long-time family friends Taylor Branch and Christy Macy.

Andrew remembers the first Sunday she visited: "So inspired and influenced were Kate and I by Ed and Murphy that the first time Hannah introduced herself to me at the door, I threw my arms around her as if she were already family."

Ed and Murphy say they never imagined they would leave Open Door. But in recent years, a new reality has set in. Both the building that houses Open Door and the leaders who run it (ranging in age from 68 to 87) are growing older. Finding and training the dedicated volunteers needed to keep the ministry going has also become a difficult task. Adding to this is gentrification occurring in the neighborhood where Open Door is located, making it an "inhospitable space for the homeless poor," the leaders say. In 2017, they plan to close the Open Door.

This reality has brought with it a "very deep grief," Murphy says. But Ed adds that it is not the end of their story. They are simply beginning a new chapter. "One of the things we are so thankful for is the blessing at this age to have this newness of life...I believe the spirit of God is involved in that."

The prospect of moving closer to Hannah, her husband

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**"We at the Open Door Community give our lives to building a home for ourselves, the hungry, the homeless and the prisoner. Our home is ultimately in the heart of God, in the Beloved Community, and in those places where Jesus is among us."**

**- Ed Loring**

BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"

## Tutoring Program Aims for Continued Growth and Success

by Lisa Hoffberger

The 2016-17 tutoring year is now under way, following a series of tutor training sessions and the long-awaited day when students were reunited with their tutors. The children have grown physically, and our tutors stand ready to impart literacy skills so they can grow academically.

The Brown Memorial Tutoring Program again will serve 80 at-risk, low-income first- through fifth-graders from Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School, Eutaw Marshburn Elementary, John Eager Howard at Westside, and Mount Royal Elementary School. These schools draw their students primarily from the West Baltimore neighborhoods of Penn North, Reservoir Hill and Bolton Hill/Midtown, with the exception of Baltimore Montessori which has a citywide application process and 10 percent of its slots reserved for neighborhood children in the Greenmount West/Midtown neighborhood.

One hundred percent of the students served qualify for the free/reduced cost lunch program. A majority are African American. And, all have been identified by their teachers as reading significantly below grade level. Teachers affirm that improving their skills is a prerequisite for them to make meaningful progress in their other subjects.

We have much to accomplish each year between October and May, and we can't be shy about the tutoring program's success or what is needed to help it thrive.

Last spring's assessments demonstrated that 100 percent of the students improved their reading skills and 85 percent achieved either "significant" or "outstanding" gains. One in particular serves as an example of how powerful the right instruction can be for deserving children. "Tavon," a fourth grader, began the tutoring program reading at the first grade level. After meeting with his tutor once a week for the school year, he ended the year reading at the fifth grade level! Using the Orton Gillingham approach, his tutor taught Tavon the basic phonetic skills that are essential for decoding unfamiliar words. This carefully administered



**Donor generosity helps support the Tutoring Program, which saw 100 percent of students improve their reading last year.**

sequential and multisensory method relieved Tavon from all his stress and anxiety, and he was able to progress with confidence. The unbearable task of trying to decipher a page of complex print became an enjoyable pastime.

Tavon and the others truly feel excited about coming to Brown to learn, rather than feeling penalized for poor academic performance. The quiet and nurturing atmosphere away from common distractions at school enhances their concentration and learning.

The program has a modest operating budget, 20 percent of which is supported by the Brown Memorial Church. The remaining 80 percent is supported by the generosity of individual donors contributing to the program's annual fund and by foundations such as the Macht Fund, The Thomas Wilson Sanitarium for Children, the Charles T. Bauer Foundation and the Wright Family Foundation. We are grateful for such incredible generosity which makes it possible to provide van service, staff salaries, tutor training, teaching resources, gift books, snacks and holiday parties. The tutoring program's philanthropic outreach currently seeks family foundations similarly interested in funding early education and reading initiatives; and through its Annual Fund effort, it seeks additional support by individuals—both inside and outside the church family—who might

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## BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"

# Organizing Lessons from Port Covington

by Elizabeth Reichelt

**F**rom May-September, our pastor and BUILD clergy co-chair, Andrew Foster Connors, and many members of our congregation, were very involved in BUILD's organizing and negotiations that resulted in the historic \$100 million Community Benefits Agreement between Sagamore Development and the City of Baltimore for the Port Covington Development.

Now that the negotiations are behind us, we can take a step back and look at Port Covington as a case study for how BUILD (Baltimoreans

United in Leadership Development) organizes. Here are a few examples of how the BUILD "Universals" (rules of organizing) played out this summer:

**It takes persistent power to interrupt the narrative.** Baltimore City has a 50 year history of developers making significant campaign contributions (a form of power) to political candidates, negotiating directly with whichever candidate wins, and fast-tracking their development deals, with little to no input from local community organizations. However, with the Port Covington Commu-

nity Benefits Agreement, BUILD has finally interrupted and changed the narrative.

But it didn't happen overnight, or over the course of one summer. It happened over the course of a decade, as BUILD has consistently questioned and critiqued Baltimore's practice of awarding TIFS and PILOTS to developers with very little consideration of what type of return on investment the City should require. Many of us at Brown "followed the money trail" in Harbor East in 2011, and spoke out at City Hall against the Harbor Point TIF in 2013. We failed to interrupt



(Left) David Urban and David Nyweide; (top right) Brown members supporting BUILD at an action event this summer; (bottom right) Bonnie and Elden Schneider and Karen Nelson.

the narrative in either case. However, by consistently delivering organized people (another form of power), we positioned ourselves so that this summer, when Councilman Carl Stokes was ready to change the narrative, we were at his side, and able to deliver the organized people needed to shift what has historically been a private negotiation and transform it into a public process with BUILD at the center of it.

**We dream of “the world as it should be” but operate in “the world as it is.”** While Brown, BUILD and other community organizations have distinct visions of “the world as it should be” e.g., everyone has a job, everyone has access to affordable housing and every child attends a great school, BUILD recognizes that we have to operate in “the world as it is”—where developers aren’t going to build affordable housing if it doesn’t make economic sense, and developers can’t commit to covering all costs to education

funding if it means they can’t attract investors, and developers can’t commit to requiring all tenants to hire 30 percent local employees if it means they can’t attract tenants. And so BUILD’s goal in the negotiations with Sagamore was to get the very best deal possible in “the world as it is.” And we believe this deal will help move Baltimore closer to “the world as it should be.”

**There are no permanent enemies, no permanent allies, only permanent interests.** We started the summer on the opposite side of the table from Sagamore Development. We were allied with Port3 and BUILDUp Baltimore, two coalitions which shared our interests in job creation and affordable housing. So when we showed up for the various hearings and work groups, we knew to look for our allies in the neon green shirts and to sit wherever they were. And it was always on the opposite side of the aisle from the Port Covington supporters in their yellow

t-shirts. However, the two weeks of intense negotiations changed everything. During the negotiations, we stayed focused on our interests. Our heretofore allies were more focused on their principles and, as a result, they walked away from the negotiating table.

Through what Tom Geddes, CEO of Plank Industries, described as “BUILD’s strong, patient and disciplined leadership” during the negotiations, we were ultimately able to reach an agreement. For those of us who weren’t at the negotiating table witnessing the transformation of these various relationships, through the identification of common interests, it was somewhat disorienting to switch sides of the aisle and sit with the yellow shirts and against the neon greens at the final hearing. But we trusted our leaders, sat where we were supposed to, and celebrated the historic \$100 million Community Benefits Agreement. ♦

## Tutoring Program

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donate using the response envelope included in the recently mailed fund drive, or others who would contribute online at [browntutoring.org](http://browntutoring.org).

Might you refer a foundation friend to our program? Or, support a student like Tavon? Your help will inspire positive growth in the lives of Baltimore City’s children. They could use your help now more than ever.



**BROWN "ALIVE IN THE WORLD"**

# A Look Back at Pejuhutazizi

From kickball to kinesiology, campers experienced a full week of learning.

by Bill McConnell

**A** stalwart contingent from Brown Memorial traveled to western Minnesota for the fourth Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp. This year's group included the Armand/Peng and McConnell families; Rachel, Dever and Evan Cunningham; Chrystie and Doug Adams; and Julie Hanks. We were joined for the second year in a row by the Hernan family of Hunting Ridge Presbyterian in Catonsville. In all, 17 people traveled from Baltimore for the camp. Our camp partners from Upper Sioux were Fern Cloud, pastor of Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church, her daughter Raine and Karen Odden.

In many ways it was the most successful learning camp we've conducted at the Upper Sioux Community, which is located outside the town of Granite Falls. We had a lot of returning kids in the older age groups and they genuinely seemed glad to see us again. Some old friends who showed up for camp included Jordan, Hayden, Archie, Charlise, Lyric, Arabella, Johnna, Brooklyn, Boston and Ziza. Even some of their parents are becoming old friends and a few made time to stop by and chat during the week.

We also had a huge group of little ones in the pre-K and the first and



**In all, 17 people traveled to the Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp at the Upper Sioux Community in Minnesota.**

second grade groups. We had a pizza and pool party with the older kids early in the week and hosted what seems to have become an annual (and quite competitive) event—an adults versus kids kickball game. Pickup games of basketball were an almost daily occurrence.

None of the older kids were able to make every day of camp because of horse camp and other commitments, but our learning camp was important enough to them that they made a point to show up on the days they were free.

We added a new event this year by hosting a sleepover for the older kids after our last day of camp. Believe it or not, the only sound we heard after lights out was snoring!

Highlights of our daytime learning camp included Sharlene "The Science Queen" Hernan having the little ones use black plastic trash bags to make skeleton costumes. The little bags of bones spent a good part of a Tuesday afternoon running around the gym "scaring" each other and they even insisted on lying down on the floor so they could be "dead" people for a picture.

The older kids over the four days of camp painted canvases with a traditional tipi pattern, learned about kinesiology by making a working model of their hands, and took on ambitious computer mapping projects at the GIS (geographic information system) station that

included predicting how the spread of the emerald ash borer will harm Minnesota's ash trees, siting potential spots for wind turbines in the state and spotting their homes using satellite imagery and GIS data.

A very bittersweet evening was spent at the grave of our friend Dean Blue, who passed away in May at the age of 90. We read a poem and another writing that had been recited at his funeral. We were joined by his daughter Linda and Fern Cloud, who said a prayer of thanks for his life. Dean was one of the last native Dakota speakers, volunteered to serve in the U.S. Navy in World War II at the age of 16, was the long time tribal chairman at the Upper Sioux Community and was a housing specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He was the driving force in establishment of a casino at Upper Sioux that has allowed the community to provide employment, health insurance and income for its members. The ceremony was very moving for those of us who have gotten to know him over the past few years.

One word of note: we would very much like new blood to join us for next year's learning camp. The kids at Upper Sioux are delightful and it's been a pleasure and a blessing to get to know them, their parents and their community.

**Adults and high schoolers interested in joining our staff, or parents with kids interested in becoming campers alongside the Minnesota kids, please contact Chrystie Adams, [cladams22@verizon.net](mailto:cladams22@verizon.net), or anyone else who has participated in the trips. ♦**





## October Birthdays

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

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).

## Global Mission

Continued from Page 3

‘sending,’” we came to realize through this discernment journey that “sending” doesn’t always mean “doing” at the place we are sent, but “being” with the people we are sent to—to hear and understand their stories, and to tell their stories to others, so others can learn and understand.

Through the support of the Session and the Brown staff, the Global Mission Committee will host a series of discussions this October and in February during the adult Sunday School hour to share with the congregation the stories of our partner communities and convey to the congregation how our global experiences truly can transform our local world around us. A glorious example is the story in the [August/September issue of the Tidings](#), where Chrystie Adams wonderfully shared the journey of the apology to the Native Americans. Our hope is that stories like this will touch the congregation to listen for their calling in the world.

This month we invite you to join us Oct. 16 and 23, 9:45 a.m., in the Church House for these discussions. Visit [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org) for details. ♦

## Welcome New Friends

Continued from Page 8

Jason and their 2-year-old granddaughter Michaela, also brings “new joy” to them. “Having a little child to move toward is so great,” Murphy says.

In addition to spending more time with Michaela when they move to Baltimore in the coming months, they also plan to spend more time writing (Murphy is working on a memoir about her 21-year battle with cancer and her experiences with the public healthcare system). They will still advocate against the death penalty and work with a nationwide network of prisoners on death row, and they will continue producing a monthly newspaper called, *Hospitality*.

For 40 years, Murphy says their lives have been “unbelievably intense.” Now, “We will live a more balanced life.”

And they plan to make Brown a new part of that life in Baltimore. They are particularly excited to see

the growing diversity within Brown’s congregation. “That’s really important to us after 35 to 40 years of living and eating supper every night with such a wildly diverse crowd,” Murphy says.

Hannah says she is thrilled to have a loving and welcoming church family/community to help extend a welcome to her parents. “I know that Ed and Murphy’s history of activism and advocacy for the poor will add to the rich and diverse commitments that our church seeks to live into, and I am so joyful that we can extend a caring and steady touchstone as they begin this new chapter—right here in Baltimore.”

Andrew adds, “I welcome Murphy and Ed to Baltimore and while I know they will be involved in many different congregations, I hope they will consider Brown another place of hospitality and welcome.” ♦

## Welcome New Members

Continued from Page 6



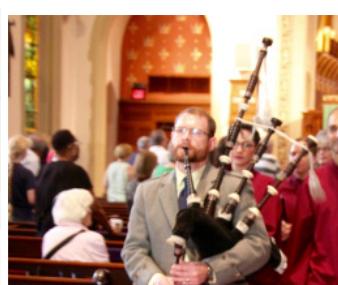
### Charles Yates

Charles Yates, a native Australian, first came to the United States three years ago to pursue a student exchange program in Arizona. Rela-

tionships brought him to Maryland where he is now a law student at the University of Baltimore. Recently, Charles experienced a spiritual awakening and new hunger to go deeper in his understanding and experience of God. Charles was baptized into the church on the day we received him and others into membership early in the summer. He is attending the "Adult Confirmation" class and looks forward to getting more involved at Brown. ♦

## Rally Day 2016

We were blessed with a beautiful Sunday, Sept. 11, to kick off the new church year with bagpipes in worship, a community cookout and a Tiffany Windows tour.



## November Birthdays

- 11/01** Anne Heuisler
- 11/02** Jack Davis
- 11/02** Andrew Hughes
- 11/05** David Mock
- 11/05** Alex Reichelt
- 11/07** Barbara Cook
- 11/09** Miranda Hall
- 11/10** Lily Shields
- 11/12** Kate Foster Connors
- 11/13** Warner Brockman
- 11/14** Jonathan Hensley
- 11/14** David Luljak
- 11/16** Betsy Nix
- 11/16** David T. Urban
- 11/17** Jamie Cunningham
- 11/18** Amel Hannah Brown
- 11/18** Jason Murphy Buc
- 11/18** Shirley Parry
- 11/18** Bert Schmickel
- 11/19** Luther A. Clark
- 11/19** Willard Graves
- 11/19** John Walker
- 11/20** Kevin Cross
- 11/20** Bonnie Schneider
- 11/20** Jennifer Rakowski
- 11/21** Michael Bell
- 11/21** Claire Inglesby
- 11/24** Patrick Riorda
- 11/25** Deborah Richardson
- 11/26** Peter Jackson
- 11/28** Luke Inglesby
- 11/29** Eva Simone Neblo McNabney
- 11/29** Carolina Mills
- 11/29** Amanda Slagle



# 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.**

**SERMON SERIES: Sundays  
through Nov. 20, 11 a.m.**

Tim and Andrew will give sermons based on Scripture readings paired with popular children's books. It's a great time to bring your children to worship. Schedule:

- Oct. 16, "Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel"
- Oct. 23, "Mrs. Rumphius"
- Oct. 30, "Ferdinand The Bull"
- Nov. 6, "The Sneetches"
- Nov. 13, "Stone Soup"
- Nov. 20, "Thank You Mr. Faulker"

**Every Sunday, "MOTHRAA"**  
**Meditation on the Hill Reading Al-**  
**coholics 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.

**Sundays Oct. 16, 23, Global Mission Committee presentations during Adult Education Hour, 9:45 a.m.** The GMC shares stories from our partner communities and how global experiences can help transform the world for us all. Learn more at [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org).

**Oct. 20 & Nov. 17, Prayer Shawl, 1-3 p.m.** Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls for those in need at the home of Diane Ross. Contact Diane at [rossinbalt@verizon.net](mailto:rossinbalt@verizon.net).

**Oct. 23 & Nov. 20, Ignite Talks,**  
 Noon-1:30 p.m. Assembly Room. See details on page 4.

**Oct. 23, Sunday Night Live, 5:30-8 p.m.** Assembly Room. A monthly gathering of middle and high school youth to enjoy dinner and discuss a topic related to God, the Bible or current events. This month's topic will be faith and politics.

**Oct. 30, Race and the Church Discussion Series, 12:30-2 p.m.** Church House Speers Room. Topic TBA. Contact SueJeanne Koh, [suejeanne.koh@gmail.com](mailto:suejeanne.koh@gmail.com).

**Nov. 6, Tiffany Series: Organ Concert in Honor of John Walker, 3 p.m.** Sanctuary. See details on page 4.

**Nov. 8, Theology on Tap, 7:30-9:30 p.m.** Tavern on the Hill, 900 Cathedral St. Explore theological topics in a casual setting. Contact Chip at [cmorganriegel@gmail.com](mailto:cmorganriegel@gmail.com).

**Nov. 11, Silent Film and Organ Concert, 7:30 p.m.** Sanctuary. See details on page 5.

**Nov. 13, Community Potluck, 12:30 p.m.** Assembly Room. This month our Pejuhutazizi partners and delegates will share pictures and stories from this summer's Family Learning Camp. Bring a dish to share with old friends and new.

**Nov. 27, Advent Wreathmaking, 9 a.m. and Noon.** Assembly Room.

# Tidings

*Good News from Brown  
Memorial Park Avenue  
Presbyterian Church*

1316 Park Avenue,  
 Baltimore, MD, 21217.  
 410.523.1542.  
[browndowntown.org](http://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](mailto:jmichael@browndowntown.org).*

*Sign up for our e-newsletter, This Week @ Brown, on the home page at [www.browndowntown.org](http://www.browndowntown.org).*



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