



Tidings

MAR/APR 2017

Pastor's Reflections

Tim Hughes
Associate Pastor

“Who has a question?” I asked, bright-eyed and desperate.

Crickets. I was looking at a room full of stone-cold, poker-faced eight year-olds. There were no questions.

It was 2006. I had been hired by a summer camp in South Boston and had agreed, after some hemming and hawing, to teach a class with the incredibly vague title, “Imagination Station.” It was billed as an opportunity to “use your imagination and creativity through games, stories and adventures.” No one—least of all me—had any idea what that meant. So after a few other half-baked ideas had bombed, I found myself asking the kids what they wondered about.



“What do you mean?” said a little girl in pigtails, her head tilted skeptically like a cocker spaniel. “Wonder about what?”

“Anything!” I said, too enthusiastically. “Anything you wonder about in the world!”

Crickets. They had no questions. They were weirded out. The class was to last all summer, and I was sinking on day one.

continued on page 2 ➔



Lent 2017: Call and Response

by **Susan Stroupe**, Worship Committee Chair

Getting on the road to the Cross this year might seem especially overwhelming, because Jesus still asks us to walk with him down the long path to the cross, and for many of us that call might be especially difficult this Lent.

This season of Lent, we will explore “Call and Response” during worship. By focusing on “Call and Response,” we are not only listening to the familiar path of the Easter story, but listening for how God calls us to take action. We will focus on who in the Bible responds to Jesus on this road, and how they respond, so that we might hear with new ears how we can respond.

Part of how we rehearse “Response” will be in our time in worship already aptly named, “Responding to the Word.” Each sermon in Lent will end with a question for the congregation to hear and respond to, in the form of speaking with another person in the congregation for a few minutes, right there and then during worship. In addition, through these partner-based responses, we as a congregation will build a progressive Lent-themed work of art (don’t worry, it’s simple for you—no artistic talent required!) that will be finished by the time we reach the end of the road on Good Friday.

continued on page 3 ➔

— INSIDE —

Lent & Holy Week Activities. Our complete schedule. See pages 3-4.

Welcome New Members. Learn more about them. See page 5.

“Mac & Cheese for Jesus.” Finding a sanctuary in a small kitchen. See page 8.

Picture Page. Photos from worship with Madison Avenue. See page 9.

Pastor's Reflections

Continued from Page 1

The following day I came back with an innovation. There was a old mail slot in an unused door in the room, which led to a staircase outside the church.

"This," I said solemnly, pointing at the slot. "This is a magic mailbox. You can write letters, asking any question, and they will return to you answered."

There was instant energy in the room. Markers and pens were wagging, and one by one letters began to pour through the mail slot. Who are you? one said. How does this work? Others were more whimsical. Will I ever be able to fly? Where do bugs come from?

I answered the letters faithfully each night to the best of my ability. I asked one of the lunch ladies to drop them through the mail slot at an unexpected moment. We talked about their questions and answers for the last 10 minutes of every class. They were captivated by the mail slot. I was relieved to have found a vehicle for conversation.

Our theme for this Lenten season is "Call and Response." The phrase refers to verbal or musical interaction where all of the statements ("calls") from a primary voice are punctuated by expressions ("responses") from a secondary voice. It is used to great effect in blues, jazz and spirituals. It also constitutes a great deal of our liturgy in worship. As we draw closer to Good Friday and the cross, we'll pay close attention to the calls and responses of Scripture, the holy back-and-forth that constitutes so much of our tradition. We'll also be modeling that dialogue in worship by posing questions in every sermon that will be answered in congregational conversation.

Our hope and belief is that we will not just be talking to ourselves. It is our prayer that God's voice will punctuate our conversation, as unexpected and mysterious as a magic mail slot, a word of encouragement or conviction, an unbidden prayer. And sometimes, of course, the answer itself is beside the point. Sometimes the point is the questions, bubbling up from nowhere, finally daring to be heard. To pay attention to our world is to have questions that cannot be answered. We invite you to bring those questions to worship this Lenten season and see what responses you might receive. ♦



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

Brown Beyond Sunday

Brown members recently shared on our closed Facebook group some of their photos from participating in local demonstrations. The Facebook group helps Brown members stay connected throughout the week, beyond Sunday mornings. To be added to the group, send an email to Jennifer Michael, jmichael@browndowntown.org.





Lenten Activities & Worship Services

Ecumenical Worship Services **Wednesdays at Noon** **February 28-April 12** **Trinity Baptist Church** **1601 Druid Hill Avenue**

Attend mid-week Lenten worship with our brothers and sisters across West Baltimore, a tradition started by The Rev. Marion Bascom after the '68 Baltimore Riots. Lunch will be served following each service. Free will offerings are gratefully appreciated.

Tri-Church Education Series **"Love Your Neighbor"** **Wednesdays** **March 8, 22, 29 & April 5** **Brown Memorial Park Avenue** **Dinner 6:30 pm, Service 7-8 pm**

In our divided nation it's easy to lose our bearings in what it means to love our neighbors including those named or made to feel "other." Join us for a meal and program featuring leaders from the No Boundaries Coalition, the Jewish community, the Muslim community and new immigrants to Baltimore as we ask them to reflect on the question, "What would you like to see from the Christian community in light of the current political environment?" A light dinner is served at 6:30. The program runs 7-8 p.m. in the

Assembly Room of Brown Memorial. The event is co-sponsored by Brown Memorial, Memorial Episcopal Church and Corpus Christi Church.

Weekly Prayer Opportunities **Prayer Stations** **Beginning Ash Wednesday**

Stations for interactive prayer will be available in the Sanctuary throughout Lent. A new station will be added each week culminating with the Maundy Thursday contemplative worship experience. The Sanctuary will be open Thursday evenings from 6:15-7 p.m. for anyone wishing to visit the prayer station or labyrinth.

Evening Prayer Service **Thursdays**

March 3 - April 5, 5:30 pm

As you move from the busyness of your day into evening activities, you are invited to step apart from that busyness and join others in prayer. Within a liturgical framework, we bring forth spoken and silent prayers from the church's ongoing prayer list, from prayer request cards, and from the deepest parts of our hearts. ♦

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





Holy Week Activities & Worship Services

Palm Sunday Sunday, April 9

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

"Palm Sunday" Night Live Sunday, April 9, 5:30 - 8 pm

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

Taize Prayer Service Tuesday, April 11, 7 pm

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

Maunday Thursday April 13, 5:30-7:15 pm

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

a contemplative worship experience. Communion is served. There is no charge for this meal but we do need volunteers to help provide the meal. Share your favorite soup, salad or bread with the congregation. Choir rehearsal will begin at 7:30 p.m. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available for this service upon request. Please contact Rachel Cunningham if you can help with the meal or would like childcare. So that we may have an approximate head count, RSVP by April 10 to rachel@browndowntown.org, or (410)523-1542 Ext. 14.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service Friday, April 14, 7:30 pm

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

Easter Decorating Saturday, April 15 10 a.m.-Noon

We will decorate the Sanctuary in

preparation for Easter and would love a good crowd. We invite all to help turn our "sacred space" into a spring garden. Many hands make the job go even faster.

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 16, 6 am

We are partnering with Light Street Presbyterian Church for a sunrise service in Federal Hill. The sight of daylight breaking over Baltimore City is a spectacular backdrop to a simple service of witness to Christ's resurrection. Gather with Tim in the park at 6 a.m. for songs, liturgy, prayers and good news. Breakfast at Miss Shirley's follows.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 11 a.m.

We joyfully celebrate the resurrection in community. Music by our Chancel Choir, soloists and brass quintet, under the direction of Tom Hall. Education hour will not take place on Easter Sunday but will resume the following week. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available. Communion is served. Join us for light refreshments following worship. ♦

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

Welcome to our Newest Members

by Andrew Foster Connors, Senior Pastor



Omar & Christine Calderon & Children

Omar and Christine came to Brown Memorial by letter of transfer from Grace United Methodist Church. They share a deep sense of gratitude for this strong church family. They were looking for a place that would nurture and develop the faith of their boys, Matias (16), Lucas (14) and Marcos (12). Residents of Bolton Hill for nearly 12 years, they were driving home one evening and saw a bunch of teenagers hanging out on the corner—Brown Memorial youth gathering for Sunday Night Live at Brown. Omar and Christine are both architects.



Kelly & Darrell Glaser & Children

Kelly grew up Presbyterian with fond

memories of summers in Montreat, N.C. (the Presbyterian Holy Land!) College was a challenging time for her and she rediscovered faith, church and a sense of rebirth following those difficult years. Darrell grew up in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, rejecting some of the more stringent aspects of his childhood faith in search of a deeper sense of compassion and justice. Darrell reports that he literally “heard a voice” that brought him to Brown Memorial—it was Andrew Foster Connors speaking on the radio. Kelly works in licensing at Under Armour. Darrell teaches economics at the Naval Academy. They have two children, Wolfe (3.5 years) and Greta (5 months).



Robbie Heath

Robbie has been a Bolton Hill resident since 1996. The Tiffany stained glass windows brought her to the church. She grew up in Ontario, Canada, joining the United Church of Canada. Following graduation from nursing she moved to Baltimore and then to Kabul, Afghanistan, where she met her late husband,

a civil engineer from Tennessee. Her husband's work took them to Tanzania, Saigon, Jakarta, south-central Sumatera, and Singapore, among other places. The death of her husband several years ago initiated a church search.

"I feel I want to come home," she says, "and this is the place to do it." Robbie continues to travel the world as a surveyor for an international healthcare accreditation organization, but is looking forward to a reduced travel schedule in the near future.



Lynn Heller & Tom Inglesby & Children

Tom grew up Catholic and particularly appreciated the elements of the church that focused on social action and liberation theology. Since he arrived in Baltimore 25 years ago, he's been looking for a church that seemed right to him. He hasn't felt a connection to a church and its people here until he and his family found Brown. In too many places, he says “Words are said, but people don't seem to act on them. It feels so different here.” Tom calls Brown

continued on page 6 ➔

Welcome New Members

Continued from Page 5

Memorial “a place of ideas connected to action.” He and Lynn are pleased to find a place where their kids can go deeper into real questions of life and faith in Sunday School. Lynn and Tom are the parents of Ben (15), Luke (13) and Claire (11).

Lynn was raised Presbyterian. Her church was a mile from her childhood home in Bethesda and she has fond memories of “coffee hour” there with her grandparents. Like Tom, she has experienced some trouble with organized religion as an adult and has tried a number of different churches and faiths. None has felt quite right until she and Tom found Brown—a place of action, where the people of God are doing work for the good of humanity.



Jeremy and Mary Meghan Snyder & Daughter

Jeremy was raised Methodist, with Pentecostal grandparents, so he’s experienced several branches of the Christian faith. During his undergrad years he attended a Presbyterian church, eventually signing up for a faith-based service corps following college. There he met Mary Meghan, serving on the border, where faith, social justice, and community all interacted in ways that shaped their

hopes and expectations for church life.

Mary Meghan was raised Catholic. Like Jeremy, she was introduced to the Presbyterian church in college. While in Boston she attended the church where Tim Hughes used to serve. She appreciated Brown’s deep involvement in the community, as well as its sense of community. She and Jeremy are both fluent in Spanish and are the proud parents of 1-year-old Lena.



Perry Williams

Perry is the fiancé of Associate Pastor Tim Hughes, but it was not a forgone conclusion he would join the church. He became acquainted with members from Brown through Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), which eventually led him to establish his membership here. Perry grew up in Mississippi, in a conservative church affiliated with the Baptist church. He ended up in Atlanta for college where even the most progressive churches were not open to LGBT people, meaning he didn’t have a real relationship with church after college. Perry is a mechanical engineer by trade and enjoys CrossFit, college football, and traveling abroad. ♦

Interfaith Partners: Engage Deeply in the Natural World

by McKay Jenkins

Are you interested in deepening your awareness of and commitment to environmental restoration? Would you like to join a group of church members dedicated to raising awareness of our many ecological challenges?

McKay Jenkins, a Brown congregation member, professor of Environmental Humanities at the University of Delaware, and the author of numerous books of environmental journalism (including the just-published “Food Fight: GMOs and the Future of the American Diet”), is forming a group at Brown to deepen our engagement with the natural world.

A board member of the non-profit Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, a coalition of faith-based organizations throughout the region, McKay is looking for teammates at Brown to help host speaker and film series; join watershed walks in Brown’s neighborhood; join tree and garden plantings; and the like.

If you’re interested, drop McKay an email at mckay@udel.edu.



McKay Jenkins and his family, wife Katherine and children Annalisa and Steedman, in Rocky Mountain National Park.

BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY" Tutoring Corner: Preparing Minds and Bodies for Work

by Amy Munds
Tutoring Program Assistant Director

“Close your eyes and listen as far outside as you can. Listen for the birds or a car driving by. Now listen in the building ... listen for the children laughing downstairs. Now listen in the room ... for the clock ticking. Now listen for your heartbeat ... and breathe.”

This might sound like a yoga class, but the students in the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program are starting their sessions with a five minute mindfulness exercise, preparing their minds and bodies for concentration and work with their tutors.

Our opening day presenter and trainer from the Holistic Life Foundation, an organization that provides mindfulness workshops and mentoring to more than 14 Baltimore City schools, shared statistics of increased attention span, fewer fights and outbursts of anger, and a decrease in suspensions in the schools that they serve.



Amy and a student take a quiet moment to clear their minds.

Our tutors were impressed with the results and willing to implement these techniques during our opening group time, before starting their individual sessions. This year we are observing a more peaceful beginning to our sessions, an increase in focus and a decrease in behavioral issues.

One of our 5th graders from Mount Royal Elementary School pointed out that practicing mindfulness is important to people. “It can help you calm yourself down from whatever you were doing before.” ♦



Volunteer Recognition

Long-time tutor and Brown member David Mock was recognized February 5 for his 20 years of service as a tutor with the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program. He was presented with a framed photo signed by fellow tutors, staff and students. A slideshow was also shown during the post-worship reception that paid tribute to four generations of the Mock family who have volunteered for the Tutoring Program.

Interested in learning more about the Tutoring Program and how you can contribute? Visit Browntutoring.org, or contact Tutoring Program Director Martha Socolar, 410-523-1542, ext. 17 or martha.socolar@comcast.net, for more information.

BROWN "ALIVE IN THE CITY"

"Cookin' Mac and Cheese for Jesus"

by Ernest F. Imhoff

The 4-by-4 foot kitchen in our apartment is my own private 4-by-4 Foot Sanctuary. Leave me alone there and I can mix up some elbow macaroni and I'm just a country boy singing "Cookin' Mac and Cheese for Jesus," a song I made up in my sanctuary:

"I'm cookin' mac and cheese for Jesus

Ain't in no gourmet mood

Got no space for dancin' here

Just cookin' the comfort food.

"Folks out there are hungry

They've seen their share of gloom

I'm cookin' zippy beef for Jesus

In my 4-by-4 foot room.

*My small workplace is closely tied to our cavernous,
beautiful sanctuary, Brown Memorial Presbyterian
Church at Park Avenue.*

For the last three years at Springwell Senior Living, I've cooked 48 homemade casseroles. I've cooked, tin-foiled and marked at least 60 casseroles since 2011. Brown members cook the dishes for Our Daily Bread, a Catholic Charities program helping people out of jail, the homeless and the sick. Diners enjoy dishes of mac and cheese, zippy beef and chili

In July 2013 my wife Hilda, a Chancel Choir singer, and I moved to Springwell in Mount Washington from Bolton Hill. Hilda and I had been driving downtown streets for Meals on Wheels with food for shut-ins from Brown, our spiritual home for 50 years.

Service is an old tradition at Brown. Besides casseroles, parishioners cook meals for the homebound, sing and play music, guide youth, teach school, lecture on Christian values, protest social injustice, build alliances against poverty, fight for better housing, knit for American Indians, help others way beyond Baltimore and do oodles and oodles more.



Ernie in his 4-by-4 foot "sanctuary" at Springwell Senior Living. Photo credit: Hilda Imhoff.

Casseroles bring people together. Karen Nelson helps guide the program with Evelyn Cogswell and Rachel Forward. Karen also lives in Mount Washington. She, Hilda and I met for the first time recently in our living room. Naturally, we talked animatedly about everything but casseroles.

Since 2014, I've also baked and donated 69 loaves of banana bread and brownie pans. Besides our church, recipients are Springwell's Alzheimer, assisted and independent residents, shipmates on the Baltimore Liberty ship SS John W. Brown, ailing *Baltimore Sun* colleagues (I worked at the *Sun* as reporter and editor 36 years), celebrations, friends, strangers and family.

The cooking is for free in the 4-by-4 Foot Sanctuary. No money changes hands.

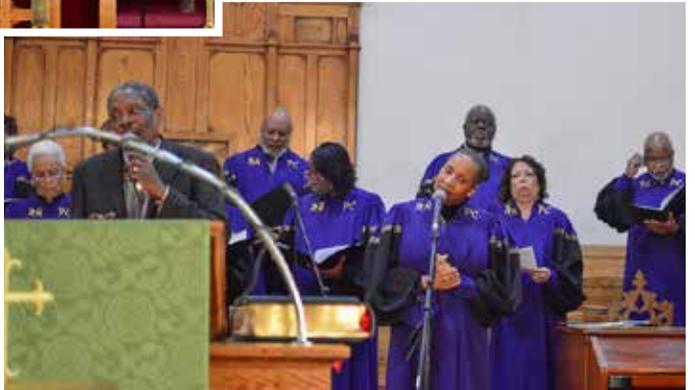
Helping the least of our brothers and sisters as Matthew 25:40 suggests began early for my brother Bill and me. My mother Martha was a muscular Christian, a Lutheran minister's daughter from Germany who ran a nursery school in Williamstown, MA, with all proceeds going to the needy. "Boys," she advised us, "we go to church, but we can do as much good outside the pews as inside."

Through the Red Cross, I donated 130 units of blood

continued on page 14 ➤

PICTURE PAGE

On January 15, our congregation worshipped for the first time under another roof when we accepted an invitation from our closest Presbyterian neighbor, Madison Avenue Presbyterian, to worship with them in the spirit of the Rev. Martin Luther King holiday. J. Herbert Nelson, the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), was the guest preacher. During his sermon, Rev. Nelson told the two congregations "to come together not as Democrats or Republicans or Independents, to come together not as rich or poor, to come together not just as Presbyterians, but to come together as people of faith who truly believe that transformation can happen." The photos here are courtesy of Belle Imagery.



BROWN "ALIVE IN THE WORLD"

Mission Trip to Cuba

Three Brown members explored potential partnerships.

by Jody Shaw

Around 5 a.m. the day after Election Day, Deb Baer, Fred Cogswell and I gathered at BWI to depart for a week with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Cuba. As we sat in the airport and I perused my Twitter feed just before boarding, I couldn't help but think the timing of our trip was sub-optimal. As it turned out, the timing was perfect.

From November 9 to 15, we spent time with our fellow Presbyterians in the province of Villa Clara, one of two central Cuban provinces that comprise the El Centro Presbytery. For more than a decade, El Centro has had a Presbytery-level partnership with the



Jody Shaw and Deb Baer stand with women living in rural Placetos, Cuba. On the far right is Consuelo Gomez, who visited Brown in 2015, and second from right is JoAnne Torre, the translator for Brown's delegation.

Presbytery of Baltimore. Under that partnership's umbrella exists direct partnerships between member churches of the two different Presbyteries.

Deb, Fred and I visited five churches in El Centro without a direct partner church in Baltimore. At the recommendation of El Centro, we concentrated our time in the churches and communities of Camajuaní and Placetos, while also visiting Remedios, Caibarien and Santa Clara.

In Camajuaní and Placetos, we visited with various people comprising the church community—from the church's session, to its members and attendees, to the people who participate in, or are served by, its various programs. We talked, listened, prayed and played. We strove to be present and to reflect God's love to each other. We also strove to be

open to the possibility of feeling moved toward encouraging Brown to form a partnership with one of the churches we visited.

Having been to Cuba with a university group in 2002, I wasn't surprised by the incredible warmth of the Cuban people, which was obvious from the embraces we received on arrival at the airport in Santa Clara. Nor was I surprised by the ingenuity that allows Cubans to do so much with so little—ingenuity we saw up close in a repurposed 1980s Russian Lada that transported us from Placetos to Santa Clara, and in a homemade lawnmower (fashioned from a washing machine motor, a dolly and a machete) that a maintenance worker pushed across the lawn of the Santa Clara church. I was a surprised, however, by what I saw and



experienced in the Cuban church—and how much it reminded me of what I love about our church.

I saw a church striving to be as loving and inclusive as God. With the session in Camajuaní, we had an incredibly open conversation, lamenting our countries' shared history of slavery, how that history had created societies and institutions divided along color lines, and our shared hope that one day our churches would look more like our broader societies. Over lunch in Placetás, we learned about that congregation's support of local educational and other activities to create a more welcoming climate for members of the LGBT community. During those open and fearless conversations about seeking social justice, I felt like I was at Brown.

I also saw a church that opens its doors to the community for more than just worship. We had the great fortune of being in Camajuaní when the church hosted in its sanctuary a concert by a municipal orchestra from Santa Clara and a community chorale. It was the first time the orchestra, a cultural institution affiliated with and sponsored by the government, had performed in a religious venue. Sitting in a beautiful space, surrounded by diverse members of the community, and listening to beautiful music, I felt like I was at Brown.

Perhaps most impressively, I saw a church that does those things without sacrificing theological depth and spiritual substance. Before Sunday worship in Placetás, I was invited to join the youth education class. For an hour, Consuelo Gomez (who visited us at Brown last year) led a group of about a dozen adolescents in a conversation about the

role of Jesus as a reformer, analyzing scripture with a depth I found both impressive and, frankly, a bit intimidating. Listening to those wise-beyond-their-years youth, I felt like I was at Brown.

Although it was a difficult time to leave Baltimore and our country, thanks to these beautiful observations and experiences, I never felt that far from home. We don't yet know what our trip to Cuba will mean for the life of our church in the long run, but I already have some sense of what it means for my life in the short run. It means that

whenever I start to despair at the twisted values of our political leaders, I think about our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ. For decades, they have been a light in darkness, reflecting God in their communities, even when their government often reflected very different values. Surely I can try to do the same. ♦



This article features just a sampling of Jody's photos from his trip. View more on the Photo Galleries page at browndowntown.org.



Upcoming: Global Mission Discussions

As a follow-up to the Jan. 8 cross-cultural potluck discussion on global interests of the church, the Global Mission Committee is hosting a series of discussions during the Adult Education Hour, 9:45-10:45 a.m., in the Church House before worship

The first discussion took place Feb. 26 about Brown Memorial's exploration with Cuba (2015, 2016, 2017 trips); and discussion on the Baltimore Presbytery's partnership with the El Centro Presbytery in Cuba. Fred Cogswell, Jody Shaw and Deb Baer co-led the discussion.



The rest of the discussion dates this spring are:

APRIL 23 – What does Earth Day mean to us? How do we address environmental issues? McKay Jenkins will lead.

APRIL 30 – What is a Sanctuary Church? Brown Memorial's Hispanic ministries. Barbara Cook will lead.

MAY 7 – What is the current state of climate change?

MAY 14 – What's going on now with Standing Rock and the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline; and the Apology to the Native Americans? Chrystie Adams will lead.

Tiffany Series Sexuality and Religion Panel March 26, 3 p.m.

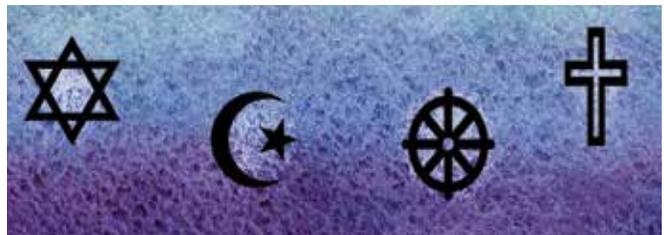
by Shirley Parry, Tiffany Committee Chair

The Tiffany Series is proud to present "Faith Matters: Religion and the LGBTQ Community in Fractious Times" on Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. at Brown Memorial.

Leaders from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist faith communities will talk about the commitment of different religions to supporting LGBTQ people. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is co-hosting this event.

Addressing the need for such a discussion, Senior Pastor Andrew Foster Connors said, "With many LGBTQ people actively fearing whether there will be attempts to roll back basic constitutional rights, it's important for the faith community to come together and reinforce our commitment to stand with them and those they love."

Associate Pastor Tim Hughes, who is gay, added, "Many of us who identify as both LGBTQ and people of faith are



tired of being scapegoated in the name of divisive politics. There are depths of wisdom in our traditions that speak to the virtues of diversity and inclusion. In fact, the very existence of LGBTQ people of faith defies the narrative of 'us' versus 'them.'"

"Brown Memorial has a long history of standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ community in the struggle for justice, and it's a joy to have this discussion here at the church and underline our core beliefs that we are all children of God," said Pastor Foster Connors.

Tickets are \$15 (\$5 students) and are available at www.browndowntown.org, in the Assembly Room and at the door. Parking and shuttle service will be available.

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



Music Notes

Upcoming Chancel Choir anthems and their composers

by Michael Britt, Minister of Music

MARCH 5

“Jesu, Grant Me This I Pray”

by Charles Herbert Kitson

C.H. Kitson (1874-1944) was an English organist, teacher, composer and author. Kitson was born in Leyburn, Yorkshire where he was an organ scholar at Selwyn College. He later received his doctoral degree in music from Oxford University. His first important post as organist was at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. He also taught at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He eventually returned to London where he joined the staff of the Royal College of Music.

MARCH 19

“Hymn to the Eternal Flame”

by Stephen Paulus

This anthem is an excerpt from an oratorio composed by Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) entitled “To Be Certain of the Dawn.” Father Michael O’Connell, Rector of the Basilica of Saint Mary (Minneapolis) commissioned this work as a gift from the Christian community to the Jewish community. The first performance was in November 2005, which marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps and the 40th anniversary of the Vatican document *Nostra Aetate* (In Our Time) which had much to do in renewing the dialogue between Jews and Christians.

APRIL 2

“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”

by William L. Dawson

William L. Dawson (1899-1990) was one of the greatest contributors to American choral music. He ran away from home at age 13 to attend the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, the only school that would accept African-American students. He worked on the school farm to pay for his education.

In 1921, Dawson became the Director of Music at Lincoln High School in Kansas City and supervised instrumental music in the elementary schools and conducted school choirs. He continued his musical studies at the Horner Institute of Fine Arts.

During his lifetime, Dawson received an American Choral Directors Association award for “pioneering leadership, inspiration and service to the choral arts;” the Paul Heinecke Award from SESAC given “in honor and recognition of his talent, achievement and devotion to American music...whose spirit and purpose have transcended ethnic and international barriers;” induction into the Alabama Arts Hall of Fame; the creation of William Dawson Day in Philadelphia; and an honorary doctor of music degree from Ithaca College of Music. During the ceremony, Ithaca College President James J. Whalen said, “You, William Dawson, have spent a lifetime

immersed in the folk music of your peoples...You have committed your life to bringing this music of the heart, this music of the soul, to the young of all races, so that their faith and their hopes will grow, so that their ideas and dreams will flourish.”

APRIL 9

“The Ground”

by Ola Gjeilo

Ola Gjeilo was born in Norway in 1978 and moved to the United States in 2001 to study at the Juilliard School in New York City. He is currently composer-in-residence with Voces8 and DCINY. A full-time concert music composer based in New York City, Gjeilo (pronounced Yay-lo) is also interested in film, and his music often draws inspiration from movies and cinematic music. “The Ground” is taken from Gjeilo’s Sunrise Mass which was composed in 2008. The work is based on the texts of the Latin mass using an English title for each movement. Gjeilo writes: “I wanted the musical development of the work to evolve from the most transparent and spacey, to something completely earthy and grounded; from nebulous and pristine to more emotional and dramatic, and eventually warm and solid—as a metaphor for human development from child to adult, or as a spiritual journey.” ♦



March Birthdays

- 03/04 Annie Obrecht
- 03/04 Sue Schindler
- 03/06 Ryan Artes
- 03/07 Rosa Brown
- 03/07 Tida Nelson
- 03/07 Edna Watts
- 03/08 Aidan Connors
- 03/11 Rees Richardson
- 03/11 Dianne Ross
- 03/12 Scott Lemmon
- 03/13 Joanne Egan
- 03/14 Lucy Hand
- 03/14 Ken Mills
- 03/15 Ellen Edrington
- 03/15 Liam McConnell
- 03/15 Don Peeples
- 03/16 Jonathan Barnes
- 03/17 Chel Cavallon
- 03/18 Alex Illum
- 03/19 Martha Bishai
- 03/19 Sarah Diehl
- 03/20 Nicholas Reed
- 03/21 Ellison Warmath
- 03/22 Melissa Riorda
- 03/23 Ben Bobango
- 03/23 Nell Robinson
- 03/23 Steve Ruckman
- 03/23 Sarah Seipp-Williams
- 03/26 Kenna Mitchell
- 03/26 Carol Newill
- 03/26 Sarah Ramirez Cross
- 03/26 Rick Thomas
- 03/27 Olivia Liang
- 03/29 Erin Anderson
- 03/29 Olivia Babb



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

"Cookin' Mac and Cheese"

Continued from Page 8

over the years. Favorite episodes were hurried calls for apheresis donations for children with cancer.

I worked thousands of hours as an ordinary seaman (a real job title at the bottom of the ladder) on the World War II Liberty Ship that is still sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. We remember Allied sacrifices in The War when the vessel took troops and cargo to Europe.

Serious leg and back pains ended my mountain hiking and guiding after 35 years and my adventures for 15 years hauling lines, cooking and scrubbing orange rust from the Liberty ship.

Hills and waves collided in a perfect storm of sharp pains. I had eight-vertebra spine surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2005. The operation solved sciatica/complicated back issues but left something new: nonstop pins and needles making my feet and ankles unsteady.

With the neuropathy and a cane, I steered to more sedate volunteerism. I wrote and photographed two books about the Liberty ship, "Good Shipmates, I and II," and a recent book "Pine Cobble Knapsack: A Longing for the Hills."

God moves in a mysterious way, as William Cowper wrote. But God does move. So still do I, carefully. I reach 80 in April 2017. Life is fun at Very Slow—hemmed in by shelves, tasty ingredients, a stove, a sink and a fridge in a 4-by-4 foot sanctuary. There's enough room for salt and pepper and one singing cook. ♦



Giving Tip

by Barbara Cook, Investment Committee Chair

The Investment Committee has a strategy to share with you (suggested by one of our members) for fulfilling your 2017 pledge and/or your Capital Appeal commitment tax free.

As you know, those of us over age 70 and a half are required to withdraw a minimum distribution ("RMD") from our IRA's. A year ago, Congress passed a law that memorialized the ability to direct any or all of the RMD to a charity of choice without needing to pay taxes on the distribution.

Now, at any time in the year, one can choose to withdraw the RMD and instruct your broker to send a portion or all of the RMD to Brown Memorial in order to fulfill your pledge/Capital Appeal commitment. This might be something to consider as the market is high.



Sharon Lucas, our financial administrator, can assist you with the details of accomplishing the transaction. She can also answer your questions about this opportunity. Contact her at 410-523-1542, or slucas@browndowntown.org.

News and Notes from the Session

by Anne Heuisler, former Acting Clerk of Session

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

- Heard faith statements and voted to receive 10 new members.
- Granted request from Page Campbell, Diversity Committee, to display seasonal welcoming banner “Immigrants and Refugees Welcome” from Faith America.
- Approved Capital Fund Construction Team’s recommendation to sign contracts with Murphy and Dittenhafer Architects and A. R. Marani Builders, Contractors. Authorized Church Treasurer David Nyweide to sign a contract to engage Nick Hollander of L&H Business Consulting for a financial review in April 2017. The \$3,500 cost of the review is covered by line items in the 2016 and 2017 budgets.
- Heard from the Tutoring Commission that Mary Obrecht is joining the commission as a member. Amy Munds will be a full-time assistant to Martha Socolar, the program director; Coppie MacFarlane will be a full-time tutor instead of an administrator. The commission is looking for alternative space during BMPA construction. The tutoring commission needs to determine the hours/benefits of employment for each staffer.
- Approved 2017 budget, staff pay increases and personnel manual draft.
- The Stewardship Committee presented results of the appeal for 2017 pledges, indicating the Capital Campaign did not inhibit pledging. Fifty-five percent of pledging households increased their contributions. Commended Stewardship Committee for doing a fantastic job with more sophisticated solicitation methods.
- Heard faith statements of new elders and deacons.
- Authorized observance of the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper in 2017 on the second Sunday of each month, World Communion Sunday, Easter Sunday and at retreats.
- Re-elected David Nyweide as treasurer for 2017.
- Authorized joint worship service at Madison Avenue PC for January 15, 2017.
- Approved Tutoring Commission request to increase the number of members from 9 to 12. Added \$3,500 to Brown Memorial’s budget for mission in order to share the Tutoring Program’s increased costs of compensation and health insurance.
- Enjoyed a dinner with current and outgoing elders, deacons and trustees.
- Participated in a retreat to generate ideas for the year ahead.

Send questions about this information to Anne, aheuisler@comcast.net, or the current co-clerks of Session, Laura Urban, lsurban@sbcglobal.net, or David Bielenberg, dbielenberg@verizon.net. Session minutes are kept in the church office and on CCB, our internal church website:

<http://browndowntown.ccbchurch.com/>. ♦



April Birthdays

04/03	Drew Johnston
04/03	Ruskin Nohe-Moren
04/03	Kitty Ward
04/06	Hannah Bobango
04/06	Shannon Bobango
04/06	Jim Schuman
04/07	George Bareford
04/07	Liz Bowie Fesperman
04/07	Jake Schindler
04/08	Rachel Smith
04/08	Larry Fletcher-Hill
04/09	Jim Williams
04/11	Sarah Egan
04/11	Will Egan
04/11	Lucille McCarthy
04/11	Jeanne Thomas
04/12	Ernie Imhoff
04/12	Grace Todd
04/13	James Cavallon
04/13	Annalisa Jenkins
04/15	Annika Brockman
04/15	Karoon Peng Armand
04/17	April Flores
04/17	Kathy Graning
04/18	Dever Cunningham
04/19	Barbara Cates
04/19	Annie Schindler
04/20	Mary Mashburn
04/22	Greta Finney
04/24	Gareth Reiman
04/24	Ben Waldron
04/25	Red Finney
04/25	Clementine Hensley
04/25	Amy Schmickel
04/26	Chloe Cheseldine
04/26	Kenna Emerick
04/27	Andrew Foster Connors
04/29	Freddie Courpas
04/29	Susan Saudek
04/29	Jean Savina
04/29	Dave Schmickel
04/30	Katie Egan



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.

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 re-
gardless 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 lec-
tionary 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.

Feb. 28-Apr. 12, Ecumenical Wor-
ship Services, Noon. Trinity Baptist
Church. *See page 3 for details.*

Mar. 8, 22, 29, & Apr. 5, Tri-Church
Education Series, 6:30 p.m. Dinner;
7-8 p.m. Program. Assembly Room. *See*
page 3 for details.

Mar. 10, Silent Film & Organ Con-
cert, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary. A screening of
the 1921 silent film, "The Three Muske-
teers" starring Douglas Fairbanks, with
organ accompaniment by Michael Britt.
Admission is by suggested donation at the
door to benefit Brown's Capital Fund.

Mar. 14, Theology on Tap, 7:30-9:30
p.m. Tavern on the Hill, 900 Cathedral
St. Casual discussion on theological
topics. Contact Chip at [cmorganriegel@](mailto:cmorganriegel@gmail.com)
gmail.com for more info.

Mar. 16 & Apr. 20, Prayer Shawl, 1-3
p.m. Enjoy support and fellowship while
making prayer shawls for those in need.
Contact Diane at rossinbalt@verizon.net
for more information.

Mar. 26 & Apr. 23, Ignite Talks,
Noon-1:30, Assembly Room. Members
share knowledge and experiences in three
seven-minute presentations over lunch,
with questions and comments to follow
(\$5/person donation appreciated).

Mar. 26, Tiffany Series Panel Pre-
sentation, 3 p.m. *See page 12 for details.*

Mar. 26, Apr. 9 & 23, Sunday Night
Live!, 5:30-8 p.m. Assembly Room.
Middle and high school youth gather to
enjoy dinner and discuss a topic related to
God, the Bible or current events.

Mar. 12 & Apr. 9, Community
Potluck, 12:30 p.m. Assembly Room.
Continue the feast of communion. Bring
a dish to share with old friends and new.

Apr. 9, Palm Sunday, See page 4 for
details.

Apr. 11, Taize Prayer Service,
7 p.m. *See page 4 for details.*

Apr. 13, Maunday Thursday, 5:30
p.m. *See page 4 for details.*

Apr. 14, Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m.
See page 4 for details.

Apr. 13, Easter Decorating, 10 a.m.
See page 4 for details.

Apr. 16, Easter Sunrise Service,
6 a.m. *See page 4 for details.*

Apr. 16, Easter Worship, 11 a.m. *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,
Associate Pastor

Jennifer Michael,
Editor

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

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



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PARK AVENUE

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)