



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

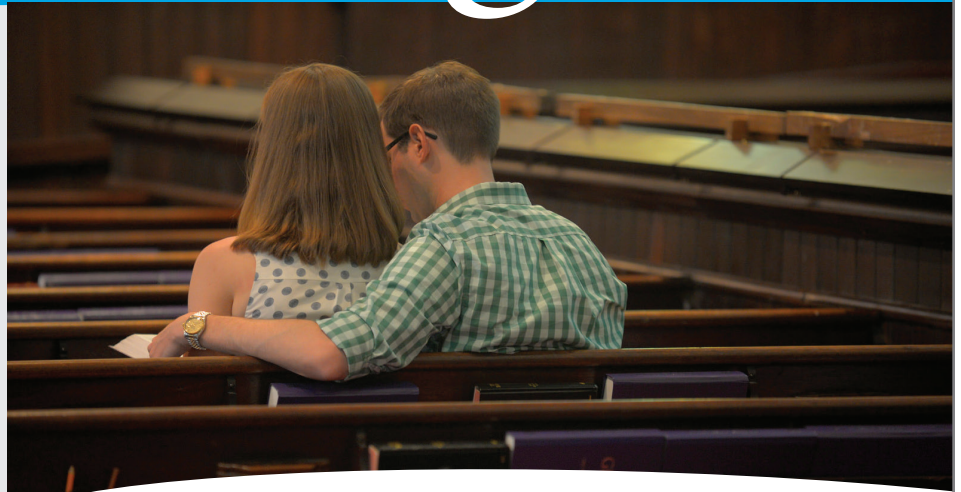
# Tidings

AUG/SEPT 2017

## *Rally Day Sunday, September 10*

Join us for our “back to church” celebratory day. Worship returns to 11 a.m., the Nursery opens at 9:30 a.m. for our families with infants and toddlers, Meditation Circle returns to 9:45 a.m. in the Church House, and the Education Hour resumes at 9:45 a.m., with classes for children, youth and adults, in the Church House and Fellowship Building (parents will receive a more detailed letter about classes).

We will also hold a community picnic on the church steps, including a window tour in the Sanctuary. We'll provide hot dogs, brats, drinks and dessert—you bring a side dish or salad to share. And invite a neighbor or friend!



## FALL 2017:

### Going Smaller as We Get Bigger

by **Andrew Foster Connors**, Senior Pastor

“Do you have any small groups?” a new member asked recently. “Because I’ve found that to be helpful in larger churches like this one.”

The question took me aback, not because I couldn’t answer it, but because I hadn’t thought about our community as a “larger church.” But as I’ve processed the question it made a lot more sense. Hardly a week goes by that I don’t hear someone make a comment about the changing nature of our congregation. “I look around and don’t know half the people in the pews;” “I just got back after being away at college and I can’t believe how many people I don’t know;” “Where did all these people come from?”

These comments are often followed by a wondering about how we can continue to relate to each other, given our growth. Many of us look backward to experiences we’ve had that worked before. Wednesday night dinners, community dinners, nametags. These are just a few ideas that “worked” in the past. There’s always a possibility that they could work well again.

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## — INSIDE —

**Pastor's Reflections.** Tim looks back at his ordination day. See [page 3](#)

**Fall Education Updates.** Our list of classes and their locations. See [page 4](#).

**New Member Profiles.** Get to know these new faces. See [page 10](#).

**Welcoming the "Stranger."** Session approves sanctuary tenets. See [page 12](#).

## Fall 2017

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But I think the phenomenon of our growing church also encourages us to look forward to places we haven't been before, to experiences we haven't yet had. It encourages experimentation and risk, with a baseline trust that God's grace is present through the people God has called to be a part of our church community in this time and this place.

Recognizing this important transition in the life of our church, the staff and Session are launching a renewed focus on community beginning this fall. And—in a spirit of experimentation and risk-taking—we'll be launching a “small groups” experiment with post-church kickoff scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 8.

To jumpstart this process, we are dividing the entire congregation into small groups of 6-12 people. Those groups will be encouraged to get together 3-6 times between Oct. 8 and Dec. 8.

Groups will determine their own “curriculum,” with the expectation that every group will include prayer and some form of personal engagement and sharing. Groups will determine their own dates and times for meeting. We know that some groups will jump at this opportunity and others may not gel. Our staff will work to quickly troubleshoot, shifting individuals who want to participate out of groups that aren't

viable and into ones that are. It will be a little messy, but my hope is that this intentional focus on weaving a stronger congregational fabric will deepen our sense of community and strengthen our faith in the process. And it will be fun!

In many ways, the fall is a perfect time for this experiment as we prepare to lose our Fellowship Building to the renovation scheduled to start in January 2018. Groups that work well may wish to continue meeting into the spring. Or we may decide to try something different. Who knows? Only time and trial will tell.

The concept of community probably sounds modern to some, but it's actually rooted deeply in the life of the church. “Koinonia” is the Greek word that translates to “fellowship” or “community,” a word that is supposed to define both the organization and the spiritual bonds of the church. My experience at Brown Memorial is that people who invest their time in developing those bonds never walk away disappointed. There are too many interesting, passionate, talented, beautifully broken people in our community to leave us anything other than grateful when we engage each other—our stories, the pressures that we face, the hopes that we harbor. I look forward to seeing where this fall experiment will lead! ♦

## MUSIC NOTES

by Michael Britt, Minister of Music

We often think of summer as being a time for rest. Not so for the music ministry at Brown Memorial! I would like to thank our choirs and ensembles for their magnificent contribution to the many events we hosted during the last several months.

Our Eutaw-Marshburn Choir Camp and Summer Concert Series would not have been possible without those who give so generously of themselves and their many talents. Additionally, our talented soloists, as well as members and friends of our congregation, enhanced our Sunday worship services throughout the summer. Finally, I extend my appreciation to all who attended the concerts, hymn sings and Artscape events. We had record numbers for all events and found ourselves scrambling for more seating. What a wonderful problem to have!

This fall, we once again, invite you to be a part of the music ministry, regardless of musical experience. The Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Soulful Revue and Soulful Sisters are a valuable part of our ministry, and we encourage you to consider participating. The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Sunday morning bulletin will provide more detailed information about rehearsal schedules. If you have questions or need more information, please contact me at: [michael@browndowntown.org](mailto:michael@browndowntown.org) or 410.523.1542 #16.

Thank you and Blessing to All!



# Pastor's Reflections

In June, Associate Pastor Tim Hughes announced to the Brown Memorial community his acceptance of a call to pastor Light Street Presbyterian in Baltimore, beginning in September. In this final Pastor's Reflections for the *Tidings*, Tim recalls the day when Brown Memorial members first stepped forward to embrace him.



I entered the Presbyterian ordination process in December of 2008, after almost a year of worrying that I was making a huge mistake. It was still more or less illegal for an openly gay candidate to be ordained in the PC(USA). The ordination process was a challenging three-year ordeal that would ask me to make up required seminary classes and complete a hospital chaplaincy on top of my full-time job—with no guarantee that I could be legally ordained when it was all over.

Ultimately, I did decide to initiate the process because I felt called to the ministry. I made a list of all the pastors in the Boston area who might be inclined to block my ordination for theological reasons, and over three years I had lunch with nearly all of them. I shared my story and asked them to consider supporting me or abstaining from the vote. Many of them agreed.

And then the 2010 General Assembly voted to allow openly gay candidates to be ordained—if the local Presbytery agreed. The doors were finally opening. Because I began my process years before the policy change, I would be one of the first candidates to test the new rules. I conducted a nationwide search of congregations and felt a call to ministry here at Brown Memorial Park Avenue. I interviewed and received a call to serve as your Associate Pastor. It was a great day.

In spite of receiving a call, I still had one more hurdle in the ordination process—my final examination on the floor of the Presbytery. It was the vote I had spent years preparing for, and despite the recent change in policy, any Presbytery could still block my ordination on the basis of my sexual orientation. A few weeks before my final examination, I learned that my meeting was being abruptly moved from

Boston to Baltimore. The explanation: there was a lot of “anxiety” that my examination would cause churches to leave the Presbytery—and the meeting had been moved without my consent.

I was very upset about the relocation. I had fierce advocates in Boston and a proven track record and I knew my opposition by name. I knew no one in Baltimore and had no idea how the Presbytery would respond to my examination. I would be the first openly gay candidate to move through the process in Baltimore and I expected the “anxiety” would follow me here.

The Presbytery meeting was at Brown Memorial Woodbrook in February 2013. I answered the questions to the best of my ability. The room was full and friendly but I didn't know anyone except for Andrew Foster Connors and the members of the search committee that hired me. When the vote was taken, I was unanimously approved for ordination. I sighed a deep breath of relief. It had been four years since I signed the forms initiating the process.

After the vote, the moderator asked any members of Brown Memorial to come and gather around me as Andrew said a prayer. I was astonished to see no less than 50 of you get up out of your chairs and come forward. I had simply assumed you were members of other congregations. I realized, all of a sudden, that nearly a quarter of the 200 people in the room had come to this meeting to advocate for me.

These days, of course, I'm not surprised at all that so many of you would show up for a midday meeting to support a candidate that you didn't know yet. I have since come to know you as people who show up. As people who care deeply about issues of justice. As people who know how to

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# Education Updates for Fall

## SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES 9:45 AM

### Meditation Circle

The Meditation Circle continues to gather for a short reflection followed by silent meditation in the Church House Parlor. No previous meditation experience is required.

### Adult Education Class

The Adult Education Class is moving to a lectionary based curriculum which means that on most Sundays the text being studied will be the preaching text. No outside prep work is required and drop-ins are welcome. This class will meet in the Church House Speers Room.

### Speaking of Faith

The Adult Confirmation Class that met last year is continuing with a new name! The class will meet every Sunday morning through the fall,

delving more deeply into theological topics. Participants are expected to attend a minimum of 3/4 of the classes to do a certain amount of preparation prior to class. This class will meet in the Fellowship Building on the second floor. New members who choose to make this commitment are welcome.

### Inquirer's Classes (Dates TBA)

These classes are for anyone interested in exploring membership in the church. They will meet in Andrew's office on the second floor of the Church House.

### Youth Classes (Grades 5-12)

All the Youth Classes will all take place on the Church House third floor. Contact Chris Golden (chris@

browndowntown.org) for more information.

### Children's Sunday School Classes (Grades Pre-K to 4)

The Children's Sunday School is moving to the Church House in anticipation of the Fellowship Hall Renovation. All grades will meet together on the lower level. Lessons will follow a narrative lectionary telling the story of God's people beginning with Genesis through the Acts of the Apostles.

### Nursery

The Nursery opens at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday to allow for everyone to participate in our educational opportunities.

## WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES


### Weekday Bible Study

Weekday Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:30-11:30am in the Church House Speers Room and will be switching to topical studies beginning this fall.

### Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap meets on first Tuesdays at a local pub to discuss a different topic each month related to our faith. Contact Chip or Kelsie Reigel-Morgan (cmorganriegel@gmail.com) for information about

upcoming dates and topics.

 **For questions about these educational opportunities, contact Rachel Cunningham (rachel@browndowntown.org) unless otherwise specified.**



# Church Renovation Update

by Betsy Nix

Brown Memorial is committed to making our Fellowship Building renovation as sustainable as possible on our budget.

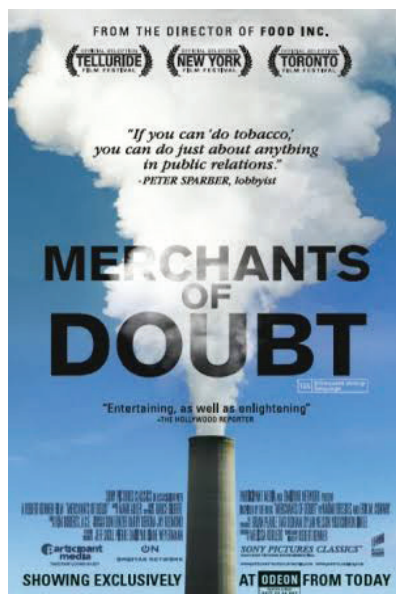
At our June meeting, our design firm Murphy and Dittenhafer presented the construction team with the list of Sustainable Design Considerations that they anticipate implementing on our job. We start on a good foot because we are renovating an existing structure instead of building from scratch.

During construction the contractors will redirect a minimum of 50% of the waste away from landfills, salvaging as much existing material as possible. Our design firm will set us up to optimize our energy performance once we are using the building through the use of natural



Design rendering of the Assembly Room after renovation.

light and LED lighting. Low-flow plumbing fixtures will help reduce our water use. We will select carpet and tile that incorporate recycled-content material for use in some areas and flooring made from rapidly renewing natural sources in others. All adhesives, sealants, paints and coatings on the project will be low emitting. ♦



## Screening of Climate Change Film Nov. 5.

by McKay Jenkins

The Brown Green Team, in conjunction with partners at Bolton Hill churches Memorial Episcopal and Corpus Christi, will show the climate change film "Merchants of Doubt" in Brown Memorial's Sanctuary on Nov. 5 at 3 p.m.

The film offers a deep look at the highly orchestrated corporate and political efforts to undermine climate science. We're planning to follow the film with a brief panel discussion, with climate scientists and environmental journalists as well. If you would like to help with the planning of the event, or learn more about the Brown Green Team, please contact McKay Jenkins at [mckay@udel.edu](mailto:mckay@udel.edu). ♦

***The Brown Green Team is a new ministry at Brown that works to foster environmental stewardship and justice through educational programs, community work projects and legislative action.***



# Mission Trip to Cuba Planned for 2018

by Deb Baer

As many of you know, the Presbytery of Baltimore has a relationship with the El Centro Presbytery in Cuba. In early 2018, we are planning a mission trip from Brown Memorial to Cuba to visit the El Centro Presbytery and to consider a possible relationship with a church in central Cuba.

We hope that some Brown Memorial church members will come with us on this trip. Please contact Deb Baer at [deborahbaer15@gmail.com](mailto:deborahbaer15@gmail.com) if you are interested. The dates are not yet set but we are thinking early 2018, probably February, for the 5-6 day trip. The trip is estimated to cost \$1,000-\$1,200, including airfare and all expenses.

We are happy to announce that two friends from the El Centro Presbytery in Cuba will visit our Presbytery in September and will attend worship at Brown on Sept. 17. We look forward to welcoming them.

Fred Cogswell ([cogswelf@comcast.net](mailto:cogswelf@comcast.net)), Jody Shaw ([jodyshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jodyshaw@gmail.com)) and I visited Cuba in November 2016. If you have any questions about our experiences in Cuba, please ask one of us. ♦

## Pastor's Reflections

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love each other well. As people who love God.

I hold that moment as a picture of God's faithfulness. Most of the time we walk with uncertainty, faking it until we make it, hoping that our hunches have something to do with God's will. Every now and then we are graced with a glimpse of God's loving affirmation of our calling, and when those moments arrive we are wise to savor them.

As I began to discern a new call to serve as the pastor at Light Street Presbyterian Church this spring, it was with a familiar cocktail of excitement and nerves. The "anxiety" was back, as it so often is when God is asking us to do something a little crazy. It was very hard to think about leaving full-time ministry in this community, where I have learned so much about what it means to be a pastor. I have truly loved this community and I have never taken for granted your remarkable love and care for me—beginning before we ever even

met. I am so glad I'll be able to maintain a quarter-time role here this fall, and that our churches will be neighbors going forward. And when my nerves start to get the best of me, when I begin to question my decisions or even God's faithfulness, I will remember the day you all emerged from the crowd to support me like some sort of Presbyterian Field of Dreams. God's Spirit is trustworthy and true and nearer to us than we might guess. May we have eyes to see Her, the courage to trust Her and—when the call comes—to follow. ♦



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# Session News & Notes

Submitted by Laura Urban, Co-Clerk of Session

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

- Held a special meeting to hear Pastor Tim Hughes Williams explain he will accept a call to pastor Light Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore (in Federal Hill). Because Light Street's call is only for a three-quarter time position, our Session voted to develop a plan (to be approved by Presbytery) for Tim to have a quarter time position at Brown Memorial for 12 months to supervise staff and provide overall leadership for Sunday Night Youth ministry. This arrangement should give Light Street and the Presbytery time to identify long-term funding for a full-time pastor position, and give Brown Memorial time to identify and call a new associate pastor. Session expressed both excitement for Tim's new call and sadness at the loss of his leadership at Brown. The group prayed for Tim's new ministry and the period of transition for Brown.
- Heard faith statements of 11 youth who completed the Confirmation Class. Ten students chose to join the church and were received into membership — Evan Cunningham, Ian Munds, Lucas Calderon, Annika Brockman, Liam McConnell, Ruskin Nohe-Moren, Yari Armand, Spencer Scaglione, Ben Inglesby, Joseph Reichelt.
- Brown Memorial Woodbrook has announced they are working to merge with Govans Presbyterian Church. They will then sell their property on North Charles Street. (Merger details are being worked out and all plans must be formally approved by the Presbytery.) Therefore, our Session is working to identify a plan for retrieval and/or storage of records that are stored at Brown Memorial that are part of our history at Brown Memorial Park Avenue.
- Received a staff report on programming ideas for fall 2017, including short-term small groups for the congregation in Oct.-Nov. Also, Tim is considering moving "Sunday Night Live" youth group meetings to shared space at Memorial Episcopal, following the closing of the Assembly Room this fall for reconstruction/remodeling.
- The Construction Team reported on progress of work with the contractor (Marani) on the Capital Campaign project.
- Each year TRF Development Partners (BUILD's community development partner) pays Brown Memorial a small dividend from our 2007 loan of

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## *New Small Group: Faithfully Feminist*

by Sarah Diehl

A small group for women affiliated with Brown will begin this September and continue through the end of the program year in May. The group will meet monthly on the third Wednesdays, from 7-9 p.m., and its purpose will be to build healthy, supportive, church-connected relationships. Each gathering will include opportunity for focused reflection as we honor women's gifts and voices.

To best serve the group's purpose, its membership will be limited to eight people with the expectation that each member will attend each month. If there is greater interest, we'll consider forming a second group. I conceived the idea for the group, with help from Rachel Cunningham, Joanne Egan, Andrew Foster Connors, and Anne Heuisler.

If you'd like to participate or be in touch about the group, please contact me through CCB (the church's internal website accessible from the "CCB Login" button on the church's website homepage) or through the Church Office. ♦



# PICTURE PAGES



Soaring Eagles Learning Camp



Hymn Sing



Friday Night Stoop Concert

Artscape Windows Tour



Montreat





## Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary Choir Camp



## Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp



## Session News & Notes

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\$25,000. Session approved reinvestment of the dividend with TRF.

- Heard report on the Brown Tutoring Program: 1) the program will temporarily move to space on the third floor of the Church House; 2) 81 children were served this year; 3) 100% of the participants showed improvements on their assessments.

- Approved Trustee's recommendation to install a commercial-grade fire detection system (\$9,800) and repair decaying and leaking wood windows (\$27,725) in the Church House.

- Approved application for a line of credit (up to \$1.2M) from US Bank as a construction loan during the Capital Campaign building project.

- Approved a recommendation from the Investment Committee to have two members approved as signers on the investment account, although only one signature is required. The chair of the Investment Committee (Elder Stephen Ruckman) and Treasurer (Elder David Nyweide) are now authorized signatories. ♦

**i** If anyone in the congregation would like more information about these issues, we welcome questions. Session minutes are kept in the Session Minutes Book in the church office and are available for perusal upon request.

# Welcome New Members

by Andrew Foster Connors, Senior Pastor

We welcomed a number of new members to our church family during worship services this summer. We profile a few of these members here, with more profiles to follow in the October/November *Tidings*.



## Julien Colvin & Joanne Copes

Julien experienced a call to ministry and went to seminary in the 1960s where the tumult of the times shaped him as a person deeply committed to justice and the poor. He served a Lutheran church in Baltimore that had become a church of the poor following the middle-class flight of the times. Julien says he was a "terrible pastor" and soon transitioned to the city housing department where he continued to pursue his passion to work with individuals and communities to create "a real home" for everyone. Like Julien, JoAnne has also focused on the development of affordable housing and community development efforts in her work life. She grew up Catholic, which proved to be less and less of a good fit as she went off to college. A desire to raise her own children in the Christian faith ignited a new faith search. She and Julien found Govans Presbyterian through Govans' work with refugee families, under the leadership of the Rev. Jack Sharp. There they worshiped and raised a family until their children went off to college.

They had been absent from church life for a number of years before Roger and Sandra Fink suggested they give Brown Memorial a try.



## Bradley de Wet & Sara Reilly

Bradley grew up in Richmond, the son of South African parents. Bradley was confirmed in the Methodist Church but found himself more deeply engaged with faith during college (Virginia Tech) through Campus Crusade for Christ. Sara Reilly grew up in a family that considered themselves Christian but rarely attended church. One of the challenges of wanting to get more deeply involved in a church community was the feeling that "everyone knows I don't belong here." Sara also became more deeply engaged with her faith at Virginia Tech where she and Bradley met. Her father's sudden death during her senior year in college added a new level of urgency to her search. Sara tried Catholicism, which has rituals she especially appreciated. But both Bradley and Sara report difficulty adjusting to faith traditions with exclusionary policies or

theological outlooks. They appreciate the diversity of Brown Memorial and the inclusionary focus in a worship tradition that feeds each of them in different ways. Sara works for the Maryland Department of Health and Bradley commutes to his work with a software company in Washington, DC.



## Daryl Plevy

Daryl was raised Lutheran but didn't connect deeply with her faith in recent years. She did connect deeply with work under Mayor William Donald Schaefer when she was involved in much of Mayor Schaefer's work around neighborhood revitalization. She has fond memories of improving city life under Mayor Schaefer's tenure in partnership with many community organizations. Recently she had been attending a church in Montgomery County with her son, Josh, who has also been attending Brown. Brown Memorial was recommended by Barbara Francis, a long-time friend. Daryl is recently retired from a full career of government administration and is now working as a consultant. ♦



# Getting to Know the Deacons

by Fred Cogswell

**This article is a reprint from last year's *Tidings*, but contains updated information about new Deacons and their assignments.**

The Deacons play an essential role within Brown Memorial: caregiving for our church family. The following is a brief summary of our many activities:

- Organizing and providing meals for those experiencing the need.
- Initiating prayer vigils during surgery.
- Supporting those requiring hospice care.
- Supporting families who have lost loved ones by providing prayer and meals through periods of mourning.
- Providing transportation to medical appointments.

- Acknowledging and celebrating professional awards, the birth of children and milestone anniversaries.
- Delivering groceries.
- Praying with those who wish to receive or participate in prayer.
- Writing to and/or contacting families using church note cards.
- Contacting and praying for our college students who are away from home.
- Maintaining contact with our high school students who are seniors.
- Maintaining contacts with families who have recently moved from the area.

The Deacons are organized to provide caregiving by alphabetic assignment.

To assist you, photographs of the 2017 Deacons and email addresses (phone numbers are available in CCB) are provided here to help you identify your Deacon.

You may want to reach out to your Deacon just to say hello or to discuss caregiving needs; we acknowledge that effective communication is a shared responsibility. It is our goal to be in touch with each of you in our church directory for whom we are responsible during 2017, and we expect to find additional ways to meet and get to know you. Deacons typically wear name badges on Sunday mornings during worship. ♦



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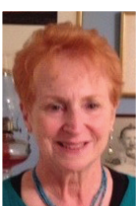
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# Welcoming the "Stranger" Among Us

Session has approved sanctuary tenets developed by a state coalition.

by Barbara Cook

**F**or the past year and a half, representatives of Brown Memorial's Hispanic Ministries Committee have been participating in the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland to discern the need to establish a sanctuary movement in the Central Maryland area. The coalition is comprised of pastors and lay leaders from churches across the Central Maryland region.

This past spring, the Session at Brown Memorial approved a sanctuary statement developed in the Coalition meetings. We have provided a few opportunities to discuss this statement at Brown through the Adult Forum, Ignite presentations and discussions over lunch after church.

In approving this pledge and becoming a sanctuary church, the Session recognizes that Brown Memorial may not have adequate facilities to provide shelter to an immigrant family under a deportation order. Session is open to this possibility, however, and would expect to consult with the congregation prior to making such a decision.

We are called upon by our Lord to minister to "the stranger" among us. In answering that call, the Hispanic Ministries Committee is grateful for the courageous leadership of Session in setting a course to welcome all refugees and immigrants in our midst.

Highlights of the "Sanctuary Tenets" developed by the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland in March 2017 are as follows:

## The Pledge

*As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as Sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people*

## Vision

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland recognizes the urgent need to take action to voice our support of asylees, refugees, and immigrants of all faiths whether documented or not.

- We envision the need and pledge to stand in solidarity with all those who are facing persecution based upon immi-



gration status, faith, race, gender, or sexual identity.

- We envision the need to stand in solidarity with one another as providers of spiritual guidance and pastoral care to marginalized members of our communities.
- We envision the need to support organizers in the Baltimore area as they build relationships, take action, and call upon the city, state, and country to support the human rights of undocumented immigrants and seek a pathway to citizenship for them.
- We envision the need to raise our voices to political power, to take a stand to protect the human rights of all, particularly those fleeing persecution, violence, and ecological disasters around the globe.

## Mission

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland supports the concept of Sanctuary by promoting safety and refuge for those seeking safe and productive lives in the U.S. The Coalition proposes to support Sanctuary in the following ways:

- Prayerful support of Sanctuary congregations.
- Material support (including but not limited to food, meals, transportation and financial support) of those congregations offering Sanctuary to undocumented immigrants.
- Phone banking gatherings to raise awareness of the Sanctuary movement, gather support of the movement, and seek material support for Sanctuary congregations.
- Advocacy initiatives to call upon Congress to submit legis-

lation to support amnesty and immigration reform that will provide a pathway to legal status for the undocumented.

- Pastors and congregations will seek ways to expand the Sanctuary Coalition to be a robust group providing support and standing in solidarity with the national Sanctuary movement.
- In the event a civil resistance opportunity is presented, the coalition will explore the action and call upon those who might be willing to participate. Membership in the Sanctuary

Coalition will not include an expectation of participation in nonviolent civil resistance but will support those who choose to disobey civil law.

- As a routine, participants in the Sanctuary Coalition will be encouraged to support the movement with electronic media posts, flyers, and banners supporting the human rights of immigrants and those living in Sanctuary situations.
- The coalition will seek ways to contact, recruit, and publicize reduced cost/pro bono legal services for immigrants. ♦

## *More About What "Sanctuary" Means*

The Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has developed the following information about sanctuary:

### **WHAT IS SANCTUARY?**

Throughout history, the people of God have provided safe space in their places of worship for those vulnerable under the laws and customs of the time. The Hebrew people had cities of refuge for persons wrongfully accused of crimes. In the years before the American Civil War, congregations provided safety for slaves fleeing the South in the Underground Railroad. In the 1980s, more than 500 U.S. congregations provided safe houses to Central Americans fleeing civil war but whom our government refused to acknowledge as refugees.

Today, churches are providing sanctuary to people with final orders of deportation. Law-abiding parents and workers caught in the clutches of a broken immigration system are entering houses of worship to fight their orders of deportation from a safe space. Con-

gregations are standing with families at risk of separation.

### **WHY SANCTUARY AND WHY NOW?**

Eleven million undocumented persons are living in the United States, the majority of whom have lived here for more than 10 years. They are our friends, neighbors, and family members. All are at risk of deportation. Since the new administration has taken office, deportation enforcement has increased—and not just for those with criminal records as was promised. Immigration reform is hopelessly stalled in Congress. Meanwhile, the dialogue about immigrants has become more and more hate-filled and hostile.

Many church communities refuse to sit by and watch another family torn apart. Congregations are standing alongside members of their church and community by hosting legal clinics, writing letters of support to judges and immigration officers, and accompanying those in deportation proceedings. These acts of solidarity are, sometimes,

enough to stop unjust deportations.

### **IN ADDITION TO OR INSTEAD OF OFFERING SANCTUARY WITHIN THE CHURCH, HOW CAN COMMUNITIES OF FAITH PARTICIPATE?**

Sanctuary is not just about living within the protection of the walls of a congregation, it is about living in the shelter of a community of faith that is working alongside the "Sanctuary Church" to keep a family together. In order to strengthen the witness of the "Sanctuary Church," other communities of faith become part of the shelter and protection of the family by: participating or leading prayer vigils, phone banking, writing letters, circulating petitions, staying overnight with the family, donating money to the church and the family, visiting with them, bringing them meals/food, and doing anything we can to let them know that they are not alone. In short, there is a role for everyone to play. ♦





## August Birthdays

08/01	Deb Milcarek
08/01	Malinda Peeples
08/02	Beverly Hensley
08/04	William McConnell
08/04	Neal Naff
08/05	Chuck Holland
08/08	Adam Forward
08/09	Donald McPherson
08/10	Osaro Grayson
08/11	Mehran Armand
08/12	Gilly Babb
08/13	Edward McCarthy
08/13	David Todd
08/14	George Brown
08/14	Mike Reed
08/15	Cecelia Reichelt
08/15	Sallie Robinson
08/17	Elizabeth Lee Williams
08/20	Araman Adams
08/20	Jack McManus
08/20	Betsey Todd
08/21	James Egan
08/21	Timothy Hughes Williams
08/21	Anna Lazarus
08/24	Wolfe Glaser
08/24	Carol Graves
08/24	Laura McConnell
08/26	Evan Cunningham
08/26	Xóchitl Mota-Back
08/26	Theresa Veatch
08/27	W. Courtland Robinson
08/28	Susan Flanigan
08/28	Andy Imparato
08/29	Anna Hughes
08/29	Oliver Schmickel
08/30	Sharon Lucas
08/31	Gareth Imparato
08/31	Henry Waldron



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



**Tutor Bobbie Cook was one of the many volunteers who helped pack up the Tutoring Program space in June.**

## Tutoring Corner

### "Many Hands Make Light Work"

by Amy Munds, Tutoring Program Assistant Director

This saying could not have been more true for the tutoring program during mid-June as it prepared to vacate the Education Building for the church renovation.

Closets have been cleaned out, supplies sorted through, donations made, and boxes packed, ready for the move to our temporary home—the third floor of the Church House, in the space so endearingly inhabited by Rev. Tim Hughes Williams and the youth group.

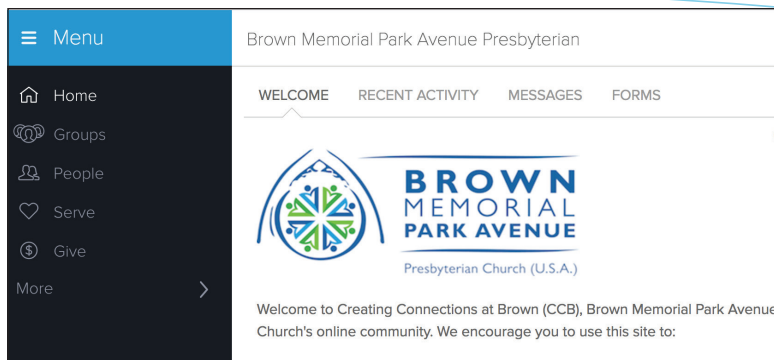
The task seemed daunting at first to Martha and me, but true to their nature, many of our volunteer tutors stepped up, greeting us with a smile, snacks, and a willing helping hand, ready to ease the load.

Thank you to all of our volunteer tutors! We are grateful for the hard work these men and women put in all year, and their dedication to Brown Memorial tutoring and our students, even in summer, was evident as they continued to help this program thrive.

All supplies will be unpacked in time for tutoring sessions to begin in the new location starting Sept. 19 for our 2017-

18 welcome and tutor training, and on Oct. 9 for student instructional sessions. It will be an exciting year for our students in the temporary location while we await the thrill of a newly renovated space, complete with an elevator, in Brown Memorial's Education Building!

And speaking of newly renovated, click your way over to browntutoring.org, where you'll find a fresh approach to the tutoring web space. Everything is at your fingertips—for tutors and would-be tutors, friends and donors. Throughout the year, we will be posting program notes for our volunteer tutor base via the tutor log-in, while expanding that base for the future by way of our new volunteer sign-up button. We've even got a button for online financial support. Please consider supporting our students, any way you choose. Many hands surely do make light work, and we appreciate all of them! ♦



## Five Ways to Start Using CCB

by Jennifer Michael, Communications Manager

CCB—or Creating Connections at Brown—is the name we use for Brown Memorial’s internal church website. The password-protected, cloud-based program is both a database for church staff, and an additional way for church members and groups to communicate. If you are a church member or active friend and you haven’t visited CCB yet, we encourage you to login and take a look around as we begin the 2017/18 church year. Here are five ways to start using the site:

**Login.** If we have your contact information, then you have a profile in CCB. To login for the first time, locate the green “CCB Login” button at the bottom of the church website homepage. From the CCB login page, click on “Sign Up” to be emailed automatic login credentials after filling out your information.

**Update your profile.** After logging in, click on your name in the upper right corner to visit your personal profile page. Then click on “Edit Profile” on the right to update your contact information for yourself or your family members. Upload your photo, and list your spiritual gifts, your passions and your abilities.

**View your giving history.** From your profile page, click on the “Financial” link to view your past pledges or pledges made by your family members, and print giving statements.

**Search for committees and groups.** From the CCB homepage, click on the Group icon on the left (below the Home icon). The names of groups you are already in will pop up. You can view all committees/groups at Brown by clicking on “Advanced Search” at the top of the Groups page. You can email the leader of a group to request to join, or automatically add yourself to a group if it is open to all church members.

**Look up a friend.** Do you want to get in touch with someone you met at church on a recent Sunday? From the CCB homepage, click on the People icon on the left (third down from the Home icon) and type their name in the search field. If you only remember their first name, a list of all people in the church with that name will pop up. Or you can download and print out a pdf directory of all church members from a link listed in the main text on the CCB homepage. ♦



**CCB STAT:** On average, 46 Brown Memorial members logged in and used CCB each month between April and July.



## September Birthdays

09/01	Catherine Sewell
09/02	Monica Rakowski
09/02	Mary Randall
09/02	Gregory Trimble
09/03	Hilda Imhoff
09/04	James E. Cox
09/04	Ang Robinson
09/08	Amy Dahl
09/09	Nicole Mitchell
09/10	Jacqueline L. Cole
09/10	Micheline Manus
09/11	Kathryn Arnold
09/12	Susan Stroupe
09/13	Emma Fesperman
09/14	John Burton
09/14	Youngmi Song Organ
09/16	Nannette Mitchell
09/16	Karen Nelson
09/16	Jody Shaw
09/16	Linell Smith
09/18	Amy Munds
09/20	Trevor Bishai
09/22	Lynn Clippinger
09/22	Dylan Aaron Smith
09/24	Luke Clippinger
09/24	Barbara Hull Francis
09/24	Helen Logan
09/24	Ed Richardson
09/25	Jack Burton
09/25	Mia Goodwin Davis
09/25	Sabine Goodwin Davis
09/25	Grace Peng
09/28	Keiffer Mitchell, Jr.
09/28	Donna Senft
09/28	Jim Veatch
09/29	Lisa Hoffberger



# BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City  
and the World*

**Program Year Schedule Begins Sunday, Sept. 10**  
Worship moves to 11 a.m. and Meditation Circle and the Education Hour resume at 9:45 a.m.

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

**Every Wednesday (resuming in September), Bible Study**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Church House.

**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.

**Aug. 26, "Welcome Back" Tubing Trip**, 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Rising 6th-12th graders are invited to tube the Shenandoah River to launch the programming year. Cost: \$28 per person. Interested youth and adult chaperones RSVP with Chris (chris@browndowntown.org).

**Aug. 27, Soulful Revue Sunday**, 10 a.m. Sanctuary. The Soulful Revue music ensemble will lead the music for worship.

**Aug. 30, Paperback + Pastor**, 6:30 p.m. Home of Karen and Ken Nelson. Andrew Foster Connors leads a discussion of the book, "Small, Great Things," by Jodi Picoult. For more information, email andrew@browndowntown.org.

**Sept. 7, Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, 7 p.m. Rehearsals resume for the church year in the Sanctuary.

**Sept. 10, Rally Day/Potluck Picnic/Tiffany Windows Tour**, 11 a.m. Sanctuary and Church Front Steps. See page 1 for details.

**Sept. 17, Sunday Night Live!**, 5:30-8 p.m. Assembly Room. Our monthly evening gathering for middle and high school youth kicks off this evening. Every 4th Sunday there will be homemade dinner, games, and conversation about topics that matter to young people. All are welcome and no RSVP needed.

**Sept. 21, Prayer Shawl**, 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.

**Sept. 24, Community Potluck**, 12:30 p.m. Assembly Room. Plan to stay for lunch following worship where the Staff and Construction Team will give more details on the plans for our upcoming Fellowship Building renovations.

**Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Fall Youth Retreat**. Skycroft Conference Center, Middletown, Md. All middle and high school youth are invited to the weekend retreat. There will be games, small groups, worship, and opportunities for paintball, zip-lining, S'mores, and more. We are joined on Saturday by the All-Church Retreat. Registration information coming soon.

**Sept. 30, All-Church Retreat**, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Skycroft Conference Center, Middletown, Md. Enjoy a day of fellowship, study and fun. More information is coming soon.

**SAVE THE DATE: Dec. 10, Tiffany Series Concert**, 7 p.m. Sanctuary. The Tiffany Series will present a Baltimore Symphony Orchestra brass quintet and Michael Britt on organ.

## 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 Williams,  
*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). Due dates this year: Sept. 10 (Oct./Nov. issue), Dec. 1 (Jan./Feb. issue), Feb. 10 (Mar./Apr. issue), Apr. 10 (May/June/July issue)*

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



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