

Tidings

JAN/FEB 2018

Pastor's Reflections

Rev. Andrew Foster Connors
Senior Pastor

“Sooner or later, our sacred stories—individual and communal—return to the desert. Jacob. Moses. Miriam. Hagar. Jesus. The Desert Mothers and Fathers. Sometimes we retreat there. Sometimes we are driven there against our will. Sometimes it is simply where we find ourselves. Regardless, we eventually dwell in that harsh and empty place where the line between life and death grows thin.”



Such begins the theme description for the NEXT Church Annual Gathering held in Baltimore this year, February 26-18. The Desert monks found the desert to be the best place to deal with the self. There you had to let go of the need to have others determine your worth or to make you feel loved. Once you no longer needed to pursue the need to be loved, only then could you actually learn to love. To share love, one needed to learn how to relinquish its pursuit. For those who embrace its promises, the desert promises a place where God's promises begin to bloom. “The wilderness and the



Small Groups Experiment: Connections deepened and will continue

by **Andrew Foster Connors**, Senior Pastor

Approximately eight small groups got off the ground this past fall, meeting three to four times over the period of several months. Most groups met for meals and conversation, some added particular readings or reflections. On Sunday, Dec. 10, about 50 individuals met to evaluate the small group experiment. There was resounding agreement that the small groups had been a great experience for many, one that we'd like to continue in some form or fashion in the future. Many ideas were shared including:

- Striving for a more unified theme or material to provide greater unity across the church while divided into small groups.
- Organizing around days and times of availability instead of zip code.
- Organizing around content or plan instead of zip code.
- Starting earlier in the fall.

continued on page 3 ➔

— INSIDE —

"Baetjer Fund." More than \$200,000 transferred to Brown. See *page 3*.

Meet Our New Music Staff: Haley Olson and Caitlin Duckworth. See *page 6*.

Space Shuffle. Learn where to go ahead of our renovation. See *page 7*.

Welcome New Members. Four families have joined us. See *page 10*.

Pastor's Reflections

Continued from Page 1

dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom" (35:1). Perhaps Lent will prove to be that place for you this year.

The wilderness has always been a renewing place for the Church, though not without hardship, loss and suffering. NEXT Church was founded several years ago by a conviction that God isn't finished with the Church yet. God was and is doing a new thing. But in order to discover it, the Church needed to return to the desert, relinquishing much of its present-day baggage to ask some basic questions about who God is calling us to become.

I've made an annual pilgrimage to the NEXT Church National Gathering each year since its founding. Every year I've witnessed models of ministry and mission that have both challenged my conception of church and given me great hope for what God is doing through the Church.

There's "Farm Church" founded by a couple of people who quit their jobs after they starting asking the question, "what would it look like for a worshipping community to be organized around a farm giving 100% of its life to addressing food insecurity?"

There's the "Not Church" community in Southern California who named itself after asking its founding members the question: "If we started a worshipping community, how would we describe what we most wanted

it to be like?" Answer: "Not church." There are artist cooperatives, rehab communities, big and small church partnerships, and more.

Many of these exciting, new iterations of church have their roots in people who went to the desert, shed their assumptions about what church is supposed to be, and asked basic questions about themselves and their relationship to the Gospel. Perhaps this is the main spiritual work of every church. Perhaps it's the main spiritual work of every follower of Christ. The metaphor of desert seems to cut across a lot of places in our corporate life together these days—from our chaotic political life, to the violence in our city, to the challenges facing the larger church.

Those intersections will be at play in the NEXT Church National Gathering this year. We're all invited. Check out nextchurch.net if you'd like to attend one or more of the days. ♦



andrew@browndowntown.org



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

NEXT Church National Gathering February 26-28

The NEXT Church National Gathering takes place in our backyard this year, at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel. NEXT Church describes the gathering as an event "filled with church leaders (pastors and lay people) sharing stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversations about ministry today. Creative worship centers us around God's presence. Multiple opportunities to engage in workshops and conversation about particular aspects of



ministry foster new and deeper connections." The cost to attend the National Gathering is based on a sliding scale, ranging from \$189-\$319. There are also day rates for those not able to attend the entire gathering. This year, NEXT Church is offering a lay leader discount, and scholarships are also available to attend.

Andrew Foster Connors and Bishop Doug Miles are scheduled to present a workshop on Monday, Feb. 26, titled, "When Activism is Not Enough."

Two Locations, One Shared Commitment

Brown Memorial Woodbrook transfers fund to Brown Memorial Park Avenue

by Stephen Ruckman

As many readers of the *Tidings* know, the Session of Brown Memorial Woodbrook has been in a process of discernment over the past year and has determined, after careful study and prayer, to close its doors and merge with Govans Presbyterian Church.

When Brown Memorial opened its second location in Woodbrook in 1960, it was said that Brown Memorial operated as “one church in two locations,” and indeed this was reflected in the shared ministerial staff and congregants (after the Woodbrook location opened, some Brown Memorial couples split their time between the two churches).

But perhaps nowhere was this better reflected than in the two locations’ shared commitment to serving Baltimore’s underserved, particularly underserved children. Many Woodbrook members participated in the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program that was founded after the church split in two (in 1963), and many others, including Ruth and Anne Baetjer, gave generously to causes supporting children, including by setting up Woodbrook’s largest endowed fund, the “Baetjer Fund” for that purpose.

As Brown Memorial Woodbrook is closing the chapter on “two locations,” it has decided to continue that “one church” commitment by generously transferring the current balance of the Baetjer Fund, valued at more



David Bielenberg and Andrew Foster Connors with members of Brown Memorial Woodbrook.

than \$200,000, to Brown Memorial Park Avenue. This past month Andrew Foster Connors and elders of Brown Memorial Park Avenue gathered in gratitude and prayer with Rev. Randy Clayton and elders of Woodbrook—including former Tutoring Program tutors—as they formally transferred the fund to our congregation. This is a significant parting gift from our sister congregation, and we are blessed to have the opportunity to continue the important work it is intended to support. In keeping with the restrictions and desires of the original donors, the fund will go to the the restricted mission account of the Brown Memorial Park Avenue Endowment, funding the mission activities of the annual budget in keeping with the spirit of the gift. ♦

Small Groups Experiment

Continued from Page 1

Nine individuals volunteered to work on a second plan for groups. Those groups could take place as early as the new year, or as late as fall 2018.

The church staff will convene these leaders early in the new year to work on these ideas. If you'd like to be involved in organizing this work, please contact Rachel Cunningham, rachel@browndowntown.org. ♦



UPCOMING EVENTS

View our full calendar at browndowntown.org



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 13

Gather at Memorial Episcopal on Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m., for pancakes and sausage AND a re-match of the infamous pancake relay race. Memorial took the prize at last year's inaugural race but sources say redemption is at hand for Brown at what is shaping up to be an annual friendly little competition between the two churches. RSVP to Rachel Cunningham by Sunday, Feb. 11— rachel@browndowntown.org or (410) 523-1542 Ext. 14.



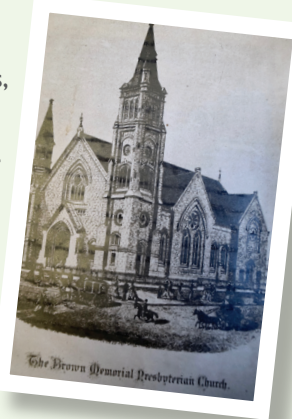
Ash Wednesday Tri-Church Service, Feb. 14

"From dust you came, and to dust you will return." We gather with our brothers and sisters from Corpus Christi Catholic Church and Memorial Episcopal Church for an annual ecumenical service of worship featuring the combined choirs of Brown Memorial Park Avenue, Corpus Christi and Memorial Episcopal churches. This year's service will be held at Memorial Episcopal on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

History Committee News: Historical Material Unearthed from Woodbrook

by Karen Nelson

Historical material has trickled in over the year, and periodically we organize, catalogue, and file it. There has been a recent uptick as preparation for renovation has unearthed items of interest. Due to the merging of Brown Memorial Woodbrook with Govans, we are currently receiving the documents, photos, and other items relating to the history of Brown Memorial Church which had been stored at Woodbrook. Many date back to the founding of the Church in 1870. Many of these items, including Session minutes, are disorganized, handwritten, folded, very fragile and in need of transcription to be of use. They represent the romance of the development of this Church in this community. Some should go to the Presbyterian Historical Society, some should be discarded, and some need to be gently housed or transcribe, catalogued, and added to our archives. We welcome anyone who would find this project interesting.



Session News & Notes

submitted by Laura Urban, Co-Clerk of Session

The Session took the following actions or received these reports since the previous *Tidings* issue:

- Received a report prepared by L&H Business Consulting after conducting a Financial Review of the financial records and procedures of 2016. Weaknesses in internal controls were identified. Session requested Elder David Nyweide (treasurer) and Sharon Lucas (financial administrator) write policies and procedures to be received and approved by Session.

- Discussed plans to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Session reviewed a list of suggested members from staff and added additional names. Elders Laura Urban (chair of Nominating Committee) and Cheryl Finney (chair of Personnel) agreed to call candidates and form a committee of 7 to 9 members, including two youth members. The Session also met with Curt Russel, representative from the Transitions Team of the Committee on Ministry for the Baltimore Presbytery, to understand the process required by the Presbytery on the process to hire a new associate pastor.

- Reviewed updates on the construction project, including learning more details about the work on the South Tower, plans to move the tutoring program to the third floor of the Church House during construction, and reconfiguration of the bathroom design to create a gender-neutral bathroom and to maximize space.

- Adopted the written Investment Policy, as prepared by the Investment Committee. The policy defines the Endowment funds and the roles and responsibilities for Session, the Financial Administrator, the Investment Committee (volunteers from Brown), and the Investment Advisor (professionals from Brown Advisory). It also defines a spending policy, stating that the church will spend annually no more than 5 percent of the prior year ending value of the total endowment, unless authorized by majority vote of Session.

- Approved expenditure of \$13,750 for Trustees to conduct a professional Building Reserve Study. This is a physical and financial analysis of the buildings to estimate a 20-year expenditure forecast and funding plan for



At their November meeting, Session members built this rock cairn representing the unique gifts each individual brings to the work of the church.

building maintenance.

- Received the transfer of the “Baetjer Fund” from Brown Memorial Woodbrook’s to BMPA’s Endowment Fund. The 1983 gift from Anna M. Baetjer created a fund with a current balance of approximately \$223,000.

- Reviewed a working copy of the 2018 Operating Budget prepared by staff.

- Elder Kelsie Riegel Morgan gave a report on the status of the youth program. At the Fall Retreat, adult leaders “embraced the sadness” of Pastor Tim Hughes Williams’ departure and encouraged youth to acknowledge the transition and the difficulty in this time. About 20 youth attended and enjoyed the improv theme. Sunday School has approximately 15 high school students. The youth fellow, Chris Golden, has stepped up and is doing a great job. The Tri-Church format for the monthly Sunday Night Live programs (with Memorial Episcopal and Corpus Christi Catholic) has been working well.

- Received ideas and suggestions from Pastor Andrew Foster Connors regarding his schedule. Session agreed to more actively work to plan the annual Session Retreat (January or February) and the Annual Meeting (Jan. 21)) to help relieve Andrew’s workload in this season without additional clergy. Session is considering ways to assist with new members classes and officer training. ♦

Music Notes

Meet the newest members of our music staff



Haley Olson

Composer in Residence

Haley Olson is a composer, improviser and pianist based in Baltimore who is serving as Brown Memorial's first Composer in Residence. In this role, she is currently composing a series of choral benedictions for the Chancel Choir, as well as two anthems, including one based on the Tiffany window "Lead Kindly Light."

Haley is pursuing an M.M. Composition degree at the Peabody Institute. Her works have been performed throughout the Midwest and in New York and Maryland. Her choral music has been performed at the Lutheran Summer Music Festival and St. Olaf College.

As a composer, Haley is interested in collaborating with solo artists and singers, most recently writing for violinist Peter Sheppard Skaerved. Her art song "at this time i could not breathe like the others" was premiered at the Sparks and Wiry Cries SongSlam in New York in April 2017, and will soon be available under Sparks Publishing.

Haley holds a B.M. in music theory and composition from St. Olaf College, where she co-founded the St. Olaf Laptop Orchestra. As an improviser, she can be heard accompanying for the Baltimore Improv Group and performing in venues and ensembles throughout the city. ♦



Caitlin Duckworth

Ensemble Chorister

Caitlin is a Baltimore-based soprano and emerging artist from the Houston area. She earned her Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance at New York University, and is currently a second year master's candidate in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy at the Peabody Institute. She also serves as the Opera Outreach Coordinator at Peabody.

Caitlin is the proud recipient of both academic and artistic awards, including the NYU Founders Day Award, Steinhardt Eckhouse Scholarship, Peabody Degree Scholarship, and Peabody Career Development Grant. In the coming season, Caitlin Duckworth will give the world premiere of the role of Mariola in Jake Heggie's newly revised chamber opera, "Out of Darkness: Two Remain," at the Baltimore Theatre Project.

Previous performances include the recent U.S. premiere of Errollyn Wallen's "ANON" at the Baltimore Theatre Project, a Kurt Weill review titled "The Sage of Jenny" at the Province Town Playhouse in New York City, and Massenet's "Cendrillon" at the Frederick Loewe Theatre. ♦



On Jan. 1, construction crews spent five hours installing the horizontal steel beam pictured here to secure the internal structure of the South Tower.

Restrooms

Memorial Episcopal Fellowship Hall (handicap accessible); Brides Room (accessed through the door to the right of the sanctuary chancel); Church House first, second and third floors

Nursery - Speers Room

Church House - first floor

Adult Education

Parlor (Church House - first floor)

Children & Youth Sunday School

Same location - Church House lower level and third floor

Sunday Night Live (Youth Group)

Memorial Episcopal Fellowship Hall (January's SNL takes place at the No Boundaries Coalition office. Youth are to meet at Brown first.)

Construction News

Updates on Our Renovation

by Betsy Nix & Rachel Cunningham

Work on the South Tower has begun. Our contractor has found creative ways to shore up the internal structure without having to pour a new concrete slab. Value engineering continues in the final planning stages of the fellowship building. We've streamlined designs for the efficient HVAC system and are looking forward to starting demolition in January 2018.

The Fellowship Hall Renovations are about to begin and with that comes some shuffling around as we work to find temporary spaces for all of our activities. Thank you to all who helped pack up the kitchen in December. Here is a list of classes and activities along with their temporary locations for 2018:

Meditation Circle

Andrew Foster Connors' Office (Church House - second floor)

Lunches/Coffee Hour

Sanctuary

Meetings

May take place in the Parlor or Youth Room (third floor) immediately following worship; in the Speers Room after 1 p.m.; and in the Sanctuary upon coordination with Handbell Choir Rehearsal. Please check with the Church Office for room availability before scheduling your event.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Parlor (Church House - first floor)

Youth News

Save the Date:

El Salvador Mission (June 19-28)

Andrew Foster Connors and Barbara Cook are organizing a youth mission trip to El Salvador. Approximate cost is \$1,600, with opportunities to fundraise. An information meeting for attendees takes place **Jan. 7** after worship. **A commitment with deposit is required by Jan. 15.**

For nearly 30 years, members of Brown Memorial have partnered with Maria Madre De Los Pobres, a Catholic parish on the outskirts of San Salvador.



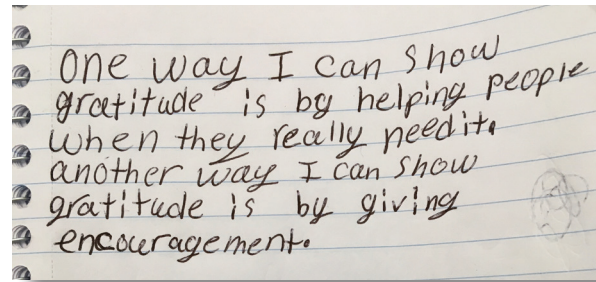
Tutoring Corner: Super Hero Students in Action

by Amy Munds

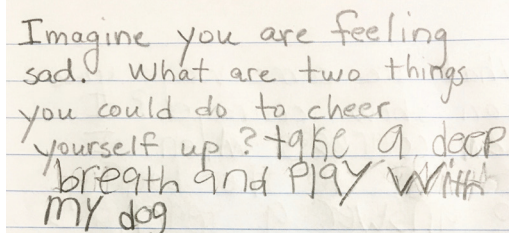
"What are some ways you can show courage? What are some ways you can show someone your gratitude? Imagine you are feeling sad. What are two things you could do to cheer yourself up?"

Self reflection is one area where the Brown Memorial Tutoring students are showing off their Super Hero abilities. We are starting each session this year with a question of the week, asking students and their tutors to discuss and journal about thought-provoking questions. We are seeing charitable, kind and compassionate writings in this work which simultaneously reinforces our students' writing, spelling and editing skills. Take a look at a sample of just a few of their writings.

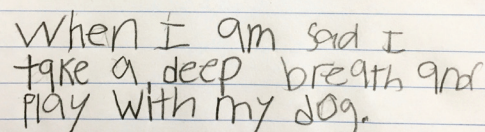
And, while on the subjects of showing gratitude and being charitable, we don't want to miss this opportunity to thank the many super tutors and donors who supported Brown Memorial Tutoring in 2017, making for another successful year of literacy work for young students who need the help most. Your perennial support allows this work to continue and is very uplifting!



One way I can show gratitude is by helping people when they really need it. another way I can show gratitude is by giving encouragement.



Imagine you are feeling sad. What are two things you could do to cheer yourself up? take a deep breath and play with my dog



When I am sad I take a deep breath and play with my dog.

PICTURE PAGE

TRI-CHURCH SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE THANKSGIVING DINNER



YOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY



Welcome New Members



The Browns

Chuck relocated to Baltimore for a new job opportunity in 2015. He lived in the city for a year before moving to Howard County. He wanted to keep a connection to the city and Brown Memorial offers him that opportunity. Brown also feels very comfortable and familiar to him—maybe it's the name! He looks forward to being part of this church.

He married his high school sweetheart 36 years ago and they raised a daughter Elizabeth, and two sons (Adam and Eric) in Delaware. His faith began to grow when he started going to church with wife Debbie. Over the years he has served as a Deacon, participated in bible study, and did mission work in New Orleans. He also sang with the Westminster Church Choir for a number of years and enjoyed touring twice with them in Europe.

He loves sports and is always looking for someone to play tennis with. He roots for the Ravens, but is first and foremost an Eagles fan!

Debbie is a lifelong Presbyterian, native Delawarean, proud Blue

Hen and a recent transplant to the Baltimore area. She has taught Sunday School, served as deacon moderator, and experienced (and survived) two pastor nominating committees. Twenty years ago she had the opportunity to travel to Africa with Church World Services and the United Nations to study the Liberian refugee crisis. The trip was formative in her faith journey.

Before leaving Delaware, she worked eight years as the Church Administrator for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, where she was also a member. She was attracted to Brown Memorial because it reminds her of Westminster—beautiful music, excellent preaching, an emphasis on social justice and located in a city.

She loves the outdoors and visiting with her three grown children who live in California, Utah and Alabama. She looks forward to getting to know people at Brown and getting involved in the life of the church.



The Hagens

Lea, Alex and Isaac Hagen recently moved to the Medfield neighbor-

hood in Baltimore after Lea and Alex finished their PhDs in Astrophysics at Penn State. Lea is a postdoc at Space Telescope Science Institute and Alex works as a data scientist for vizual.ai, a start-up in Canton. Isaac just turned one in early November and enjoys avocado, playing with blocks, and trying to steal mom's glasses. At State College Presbyterian Church, Lea and Alex were both active working with college students, as well as social justice and peace activism. They are excited to get to know more folks from Brown and join in BUILD and other work in the city.



Matt Mitchell

Matt grew up in the Catholic tradition, and after a number of years without feeling compelled to re-engage with organized religion, started seeking a faith community rooted in commitment to social justice, a celebration of diversity, and a commitment to engage with current issues through those lenses.

He currently serves as the department chair of English at Sparrows Point High School. He is engaged

to be married; his fiancé, Grant, is a pediatric resident at the University of Maryland Medical Center. His avocations include oil painting, outdoor rec, running, theatre and creative writing.



The Palmers

Addison Palmer and Amy Bonitz Palmer have lived in Baltimore for 20 years and are excited to join Brown Memorial with their son Max and daughter Ella after hearing about it from the Reichelt family.

Amy leads BARCO, a nonprofit dedicated to providing affordable and inclusive space for Baltimore's artists and creatives. Addison is a landscape architect. New to Presbyterianism, they were drawn to Brown's strong youth programs, commitment to social justice, welcoming congregation and powerful preaching and music. ♦

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Report

by June Fletcher-Hill

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has begun its work and is meeting regularly. We are writing and finalizing the various sections of the Ministry Information Form. This document details the Associate Pastor position and our church's current mission and vision as agreed upon by Session. Once the Ministry Information Form is completed and approved by Session and a committee of Presbytery, it will be uploaded for candidates to see and submit applications.

With guidance from others, especially former chairs of Nominating Committees here at Brown and our Presbytery liaison, we are also deciding upon and refining the next steps of the process. We are grateful for your prayers as we continue our work.

Members of the committee include Amy Bonitz Palmer, Hilbert Byers, Omar Calderon, June Fletcher-Hill (Chair), Carol Graves, Katherine Hinckley-Jenkins, Tom Inglesby, Carolina Mills, Spencer Scaglione, and Andrew Winters (Secretary/Communications Coordinator).



A Note from Tim Hughes Williams

To My Friends At Brown Memorial Park Avenue,

My heart is so full after my commissioning service at Light Street Presbyterian Church. It was a joy to see so many of your faces at the service. The Soulful Revue brought down the house and I was honestly amazed by the incredible stole that was presented by Brown. As people pointed out which pieces of fabric they contributed, I really felt the love and support of the church. Thank you so much. I'm grateful that I am still your neighbor and co-conspirator in ministry.

Urban Witness Committee Report

Addiction to Illicit Drugs as One Root of Violence

by Lynda Burton

Andrew forcefully reminded us recently that as a church that celebrates our heritage in this beloved City, we cannot turn our backs on the terrible epidemic of violence we are experiencing. We sit in relative safety in an awesome sanctuary, enjoy spiritually moving music, and hear erudite interpretations of how religious people have coped with tragedies over the centuries. Is there a way we can translate these gifts from the ages to cope with the current turmoil in our civic life?

To move from being spectators to accepting a role in solving the problem, the Urban Witness group has chosen to focus on one aspect that underlies violence—addiction to prescription and illicit drugs. As we have learned from the media, there has been an enormous growth in addiction to illicit drugs, specifically opioid use and an ensuing spike in the number of deaths from opioid overdose, now double those of deaths from murder.

Recently the Urban Witness group learned about the extent of the drug addiction crisis and opioid deaths in Baltimore from Scott Nolen, JD, PhD, from the Open Society Institute, a Baltimore-based foundation focused on alleviating drug addiction as one of its missions. The discussion after worship on Nov. 12 elicited several problems in the current treatment system that need to be improved. It seems clear there is urgent need for proper treatment for persons incarcerated and continuity with treatment after release from prison.

While there is a dire lack of resources overall for treatment, we learned that there are some openings for treatment that actually go unfilled because patients cannot navigate their way into the treatment system. Also, there is a need for communication between the various agencies that provide services.

The discussion was enriched by comments from a mental health advocate, a member of the judiciary, an EMT provider who has administered

Naloxone, and several persons with experiences with friends or family members who are struggling with addiction. One outcome of the contact with Dr. Nolen is that it led to an initial meeting between individuals in the Open Society's treatment programs and BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development).

As a next step, a meeting is planned Sunday, Jan. 7 after worship in the Church House parlor. Dr. Michael Fingerhood, Associate Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, and Kim Burton, Director of Older Adult Programs at the Mental Health Association of Maryland, will present on topics regarding opioids, including how they impact the brain and body, symptoms of abuse, special population considerations, treatment and recovery. Conditions that increase risk for misuse and abuse will be explored and ways we can prevent addiction, as well as contribute to other solutions, will be discussed. ♦

Join the Mission Trip to Cuba, April 27-May 2

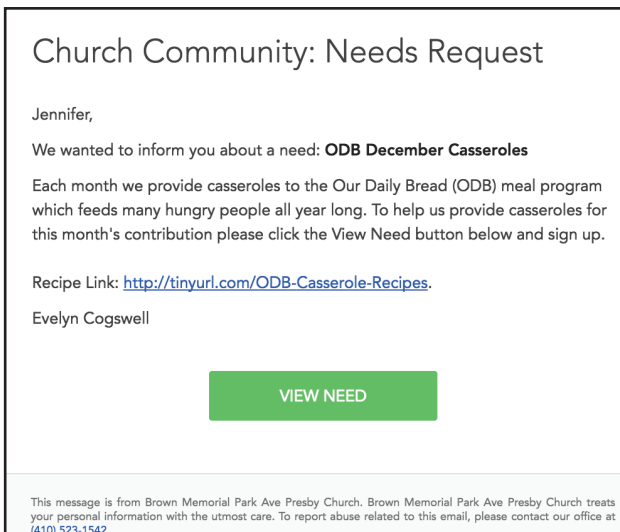
Brown member Deb Baer is looking for others to join her on a mission trip to the Presbyterian Church in Camajuani, Cuba, April 27-May 2, 2018. The purpose of the trip is to continue Brown Memorial's discernment regarding a relationship with the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Camajuani. The trip is open to non-Spanish speakers. A Cuban translator will accompany the trip.

The cost of the trip will be about \$1,000-\$1,200, depending on airline ticket prices at the time of purchase. Anyone who is interested or has questions should contact Deb immediately at 410-925-7881 or deborahbaer15@gmail.com. **A deposit of \$500 is due on Jan. 17.** Anyone wishing to travel will need a valid passport that can't have an expiration date less than six months from the date of the trip. Participants must attend a cultural sensitivity training and one other meeting before the trip.

CCB TIP: Creating and Responding to "Needs"

by Jennifer Michael

If you are a member or regular attender at Brown Memorial and are included in the church's internal database CCB (short for "Creating Connections at Brown"), then you are familiar with occasional emails that say in the header, "Church Community: Needs Request."



What are "Needs Requests?"

These emails contain links to sign-up forms for volunteer opportunities and other needs within the church. Church staff or group leaders generate the "Needs" forms by logging into CCB and into a specific group. A "Need" can be sent to anyone in a group. The CCB group that contains all church members and friends is the "Church Community" group, so most "Needs" are targeted to this group.

Examples of recent needs sent to the Church Community have included requests for volunteers to make casseroles for Our Daily Bread (this "Need" is generated monthly), a "Need" for kitchen-pack up volunteers ahead of the Fellowship Hall renovation, and a "Need" to provide

meals for the Asike family following the birth of their son. The scheduling of each Sunday's worship leaders—including liturgists, greeters, audio engineers, acolytes and communion servers—is also coordinated using the "Needs" feature in CCB.

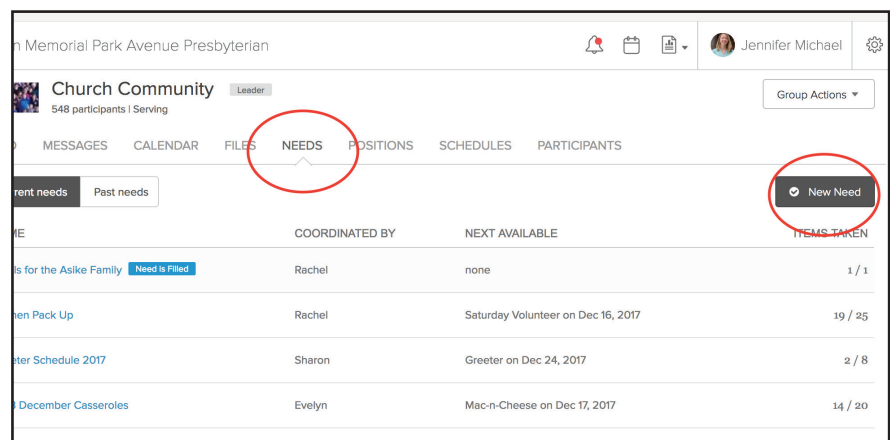
How to Respond to a "Need"

These screenshots show what a Needs Request looks like in your email inbox. To respond, simply click on the green "View Need" button to be taken to the Need where you can read more details about the Needs Request and who is coordinating the request.

The monthly Needs Requests sent for Our Daily Bread casseroles, for example, list the requested number of casseroles, the type of casserole needed, and the date they are due. Volunteers click on one of the empty "I'll take it" boxes and then their name appears next to the casserole they will make. The Needs coordinator will receive an email that this Need has been taken. The volunteer who has signed up for the Need will receive an automatically generated reminder email as the due date approaches.

How to Create a "Need"

Leaders and assistant leaders of groups can create, edit and remove a need in their group if a group administrator activates these privileges. Group members can



continued on page 14 ➡



January Birthdays

01/01	Fred Lazarus
01/02	Deborah Baer Reed
01/02	Erin Powell
01/03	John Warmath
01/04	Emily Burton
01/05	Elden Schneider
01/08	Devon Smith
01/09	Yari Armand
01/09	Felix Mota-Larson
01/09	Becky Thomson
01/10	Nathan Arnold
01/10	Katie Shaw
01/12	Lizzie Mills
01/12	Nellie Mills
01/13	Emily Bishai
01/13	Richard Cook
01/13	Hadicha Murat-bekova
01/14	Taylor Branch
01/17	Elena Kirkpatrick
01/18	James Forward
01/19	Elizabeth Cavallon
01/20	Zakiyah Grayson
01/20	Michael Hughes
01/22	Chrystie Adams
01/23	Horace Liang
01/24	Debbie Brown
01/24	Charles McManus
01/25	David Bielenberg
01/25	Steedman Jenkins
01/26	Sean Artes
01/27	Rebecca Adams
01/28	Charles Reichelt
01/29	Lucas Calderon



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

CCB Tip

Continued from Page 13

also create, edit and delete a need in a group if the settings in the group are activated to allow this.

To create a Need, group leaders need to log into CCB, go to their group, and click on the “Needs” link at the top of the group page, and then the “New Need” button to be taken through a series of fields to fill out. Once the Need is created, an “Inform People” button allows group leaders to generate an email to everyone in their group about the Need and a link to the Needs Request form.

If any leaders or members of a group listed in CCB are interested in using a “Needs” form to help coordinate volunteers for group events, assign items to bring to a group meeting or party, coordinate care for other group members who need help, etc., contact a member of the church staff—Rachel Cunningham (rachel@browndowntown.org) or Jennifer Michael (jmichael@browndowntown.org)—and we will walk you through how to set-up and send the Need. Online instructions are also available at churchcommunitybuilder.force.com. ♦

What Are Those 211 Cards?

by David Nyweide

We’ve all seen people around Baltimore standing in street medians and slowly pacing between cars at stoplights. Their clothes look worn, faces dirty and hair disheveled. They usually hold a sign asking for something—money, food, a job, a place to lay their head.

Have you ever rolled down the window and talked with someone plodding by your car at a stoplight? You may only have several seconds before the green light, but that amount of time may be enough to ask the stranger beside you about what led him or her to the street with a sign and, thus, something about his or her true needs. A man may have served his country overseas, become overwhelmed by a drug or alcohol addiction, and then lost everything with no family or community members to provide a safety net. A woman may have fled domestic abuse and had nowhere else to go.

In addition to listening, you can offer help by handing him or her a Maryland 2-1-1 First Call for Help card, which you can find in trays around the church. Anyone in the state of Maryland can call 211 or go to www.211md.org to find out which health and human services are available for any need. ♦



More Scenes from the **HOLIDAYS**



The Brown Memorial Tutoring Program held eight Christmas parties this year to include all of the students and their tutors who enjoyed crafts, karaoke, food and gift giving.



Brown Memorial volunteers teamed up with the Baltimore City Police Department to arrange for Santa's visit from the North Pole to Baltimore to visit students at Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School. Students who had earned good behavior points had their pictures taken with Santa.



February Birthdays

02/03	Sarah B. Buikema
02/03	Charles Yates
02/04	Anthony Crooms
02/04	June Fletcher-Hill
02/05	Annie Bishai
02/05	Emily Brown
02/07	Benjamin Hand
02/07	Jonna Lazarus
02/07	Dave Miller
02/08	Barbara Christen
02/10	Lila McNabney
02/12	Bob Babb
02/13	Tom Hall
02/14	Wallace Anderson
02/14	Patrick Francis
02/14	Allan Riorda
02/16	Andrew Liang
02/17	Anne Fallon
02/17	Ben Inglesby
02/17	Joseph Reichelt
02/17	Caroline Tracy
02/18	Christy Macy
02/19	Kensi Veatch
02/20	Oscar Bachvaroff
02/21	Henry Crew
02/22	Kathryn Wagner
02/23	Jake Cheseldine
02/24	Monica Lemmon
02/25	Charles Wagandt
02/26	Steve St. Angelo
02/28	David Nyweide
02/29	Helena Boumgarden



BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City
and the World*

Meditation Circle, 9:45 a.m.
Education Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.

TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS

Keep your phone number **and carrier information** current in CCB to receive texts about last minute schedule changes.

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, Bible Study, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Church House. Join us for this topical bible discussion.

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.

Jan. 7, Conversation on the Opioid Epidemic, 12:30 p.m. Church House Parlor. *Details on page 12.*

Jan. 7, Information Meeting on El Salvador Mission Trip, 12:30 p.m. Church House Third Floor. *Details page 7.*

Jan. 9, Theology on Tap, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tavern on the Hill, 900 Cathedral St. Casual discussion on theological topics. This meeting will discuss Youth and Religion and the National Study of Youth and Religion. Contact Chip at cmorganriegel@gmail.com for more information.

Jan. 18 & Feb. 15, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1-3 p.m. Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls

for those in need. January meeting is at Mary Jane Sokol's home and February at Dianne Ross's home. Contact rossinbalt@verizon.net for more information.

Jan. 21, Annual Congregational Meeting

after worship. Sanctuary. Friends and members of the congregation are invited to discuss Brown's year ahead. Childcare available.

Jan. 21 & Feb. 25, Sunday Night Live!

5:30-8 p.m. A monthly gathering of youth grades 5-12 from Brown Memorial, Memorial Episcopal and Corpus Christi for dinner, games and group discussions on topics related to God, the Bible, or current events. January's meeting is at the No Boundaries Coalition office (meet at Brown first.) February is at Memorial Episcopal Parish Hall.

Jan. 26-28, Youth Winter Retreat

Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA. This annual winter weekend will include skiing, snow tubing and a water park. For info, contact tim@browndowntown.org.

Jan. 28, Potluck for Children's Sunday School Families

5:30 p.m. Home of George and Emily Brown. For info, contact rachel@browndowntown.org.

Feb. 13, Fat Tuesday Pancake

Supper, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Episcopal Parish Hall. *Details on page 4.*

Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday Tri-

Church Service, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Episcopal. *Details on page 4.*

Feb. 18, Let's Talk Lunch, after worship. Sanctuary. A lunch designed to get to know others in the community. Individuals will participate in two, 30 minute conversations with another individual. Pairings will be drawn at random.

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

Jennifer Michael,
Editor

Have an idea for something to include in the Tidings? Email Jennifer Michael, jmichael@browndowntown.org. We are publishing the March/April earlier than usual ahead of Easter. Deadline is Feb. 5.

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



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



**BROWN
MEMORIAL
PARK AVENUE**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)