



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Tidings

OCT/NOV 2018

Pastor's Reflections

Rev. Andrew Foster Connors
Senior Pastor



For a lot of clergy, stewardship season is our least favorite time of the year. A theology of abundance

and our response to it can rapidly devolve into secular fundraising for a church budget.

It's easy to start feeling like Jerry Lewis on the telethon, as one of my friends put it. Church can start to feel like NPR during the fundraising drive. After you've made your pledge, you just want to turn it off. Of course, the church needs the money just like NPR does and both produce something of great value to the people they serve. Yet, in all honesty, the contemporary church's pledging system is just a shadow of the Christian call to share gifts within and beyond the church community.

Luke tells the story of the early church in the book of Acts. There, he tells us, "the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common" (Acts 4:32). The text goes on to report the names of several

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Hear the Sanctuary's Stories

Dial 410-630-4298 to experience a new audio tour

by Jennifer Michael

Did you know the Tiffany window in the left transept of the Sanctuary, known as the "Annunciation to the Shepherds," contains up to seven layers of glass in sections, and the wings of the angels in the window contain shards of copper that glow as the morning sun crosses over them? Or, for those newer to the church, were you aware that between 2001 and 2003, this window and six others were taken apart, shipped to Minnesota for restoration, and shipped back and reassembled?

A few other interesting facts to be found inside Brown Memorial—the stained glass Chancel window, known as "The Lord is my Shepherd" window, was dedicated in memory of the former Postmaster General of the United States who served under President William McKinley and was a member of Brown Memorial. Also in the Chancel, you'll find beautifully carved oak depicting the gifts of the Holy spirit, the prophets of the Old Testament and

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— INSIDE —

Gender Neutral Restrooms. Staying "ahead of the curve." See page 4.

Rob Brown. Remembered as "passionate about helping others." See page 5.

Welcome New Members. Learn more about 12 members. See page 7.

Brown Tutoring. A picture is worth a thousand words. See page 11.

Pastor's Reflections

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people who sell property and give all the proceeds to the church. The apostles then “distributed to each as any had need,” resulting in a community where no one is in need. As if to reinforce the point, two people who try to hold back some of their resources drop down dead in the next chapter.

I would like to find some good historical critical escape clause to accentuate the unrealistic nature of Luke’s vision, but that would obviously be self-serving. The Gospel writers—chief among them, Luke—won’t let us squirm out of this vision so easily. And yet while guilt seems to be a consequence of Jesus’ gospel vision, it is not its driving feature. Abundant living is Jesus’ true intent. Abundant living for everyone. The trouble, Jesus tells us, is that when it comes to money, capital, possessions—we are easily deceived as to the power these things hold over us and the allegiance that we give them.

This stewardship season, we’re going to wade more deeply into this central tension that the Gospel creates for us. This is difficult since money is simultaneously ubiquitous and taboo. It’s also difficult since many of us experience guilt and even shame when it comes

to our relationship with things. And yet the Gospel is insistent that an honest spirituality doesn’t exist on a plane separate from things—it puts them in their proper place, freeing us from their control over us by cultivating contentment through simplicity and the possibility for generosity that simplicity creates.

Stewardship season will start on October 21. In addition to a worship focus, I’ll be leading the adult Sunday School class as we delve deeper into these questions and challenges from personal, communal and societal standpoints. As for the church budget, the Session will still be asking you to pledge a gift out of your gratitude for God’s blessings in your life. But I have no doubt that when God is at our center, there are enough loaves and fishes, wine and water to go around. ♦



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

Session News & Notes

The following are recent actions taken and reports received by the Session.

Submitted by Laura Urban, Co-Clerk of Session

■ Accepted the Terms of Call for Associate Pastor Michele Ward, as presented by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

■ Completed a brief Statement of Values and Goals for BMPA, a project that began last January with congregational conversation groups at the Annual Meeting. The statement is organized around five central relationships, including our relationship to God, each other, our facilities (Sanctuary, Church House and Fellowship Building), our city, and our world. The statement will be circulated broadly this fall to the congregation to help us frame what we are doing now and in the near future.

■ Received a report from Elder Liz Bowie, who has formed a team to assist new inquirers and new members in the process of joining the church and becoming active in

congregational life. This group, formed earlier this year, will continue to work closely with staff in the coming year to assist with other new member groups.

■ Discussed the need to create opportunities for parishioners to be honestly connected to one another. Practical suggestions included: using nametags on Sundays, creating small groups and building other fellowship times. Elders also acknowledged that this has been a season with reduced resources for connections, as we have been without a Fellowship Hall (thus less after-church programming) and without an associate pastor.

■ Agreed to form a Brown Anniversary committee to plan congregational-wide activities for the church's 150th anniversary in 2019-2020. Laura Urban will serve as convener, with help from many in the congregation.

Audio Tour

Continued from Page 1

the four Evangelists. Another interesting fact—inside the Chancel walls are 3,000 pipes that give the Skinner organ its incredible sound.

Brown Memorial's sanctuary provides, in the words of Andrew Foster Connors, "visual magnificence" to worship every week. But look a little closer and every window and wood carving tells a story related to scripture, a story about the artisans who crafted them, and stories about the people who commissioned or restored them in honor of loved ones.

A new cell phone audio tour shares these stories with members and visitors who are interested to learn more about the church's Tiffany and stained-glass windows, wood carvings, Skinner pipe organ and labyrinth. The tour also includes history about Brown Memorial and a welcome message from Andrew.

The highlight of the tour is Brown's collection of early 20th Century American art glass, including 11 Tiffany windows. Two of the Tiffany windows—one in each of the church's transepts—measure 16 feet wide by 32 feet tall and are believed to be among the largest windows created for a church by the Tiffany Studios. The audio tour allows listeners to step close to the windows and learn about the biblical themes they explore, as well as the artistry that went into their creation.

In the tour's welcome message, Andrew Foster Connors, says, "The church community that gathers here in this otherworldly space is shaped each week by the visual magnificence of our Tiffany and stained-glass windows collection. These windows exist not just for the inclusive community

that gathers here each week, but also for the good of the city and the world that we serve... We invite you into this space even as we invite you into this work of celebration and critique, appreciation and evaluation, which is part of the life of this community, week in and week out."

We thank WYPR host and Brown Memorial member Tom Hall for lending his voice to the tour. We also thank all those who have studied and documented the history of Brown and its windows—including James E. Schuman, L. Irving Pollitt, Joan S. Feldman, Lois Zanow and Sally Johnston, among others. Their collective knowledge and writings about the church was used to create the tour. ♦

—Jennifer Michael is Brown Memorial's former communications manager, currently providing communications consultation for the church.



AUDIO TOUR DETAILS

Brown Memorial's audio tour phone number, 410-630-4298, can be dialed from anywhere but is best followed from inside Brown Memorial where audio tour listeners can move through almost 30 audio stops around the sanctuary. Most stops are less than three minutes each. The entire tour takes approximately 45 minutes. You can listen to as many stops as you like and in any order. Each tour stop allows for feedback by pressing zero, followed by the # sign.

Session News & Notes *continued...*

■ Approved a recommendation that two short pews on the Sanctuary's south side (near the Assembly Room door) be removed to accommodate worshippers with disabilities, including wheelchairs or other assistance devices. Earlier this year, two short pews were removed at no cost to the church on the north side. That area has successfully been used by those in wheelchairs and their companions.

■ Agreed to maintain a pen pal relationship with our sister

church in Cameroon (West Africa), with one elder writing the pastor and church each Easter and Christmas. While this relationship has been ongoing, in recent years BMPA members have not traveled to Cameroon and it is difficult to maintain close ties due to communication challenges. Yet to honor our years of connection and to support our brothers and sisters in Christ, we agreed that we would work to maintain communication by letter. ♦

Renovation Update

The renovation of the Fellowship Building and South Tower continue on schedule, with a completion date near the end of 2018. Andrew Foster Connors reflects here on a key feature of the renovations.



One of the things that gives me the most pride about being a part of Brown is the way our church continues to ask the question, “How are we welcoming others? Where are we doing a good job and where can we do better?”

These questions grow out of a deep theological conviction about the nature of God’s grace surpassing our human understanding and attempts. It pushed Brown to open one of the first racially integrated nursery schools in the city and support its pastors and some members in civil disobedience for racial integration in later years. It guided the church’s decision to declare itself a “More Light Church,” explicitly affirming the gifts of LGBTQ Christians in our fellowship and leadership.

Even today it pushes us to ask questions about the implicit barriers in our community so we can address them together. Yet we all know there are times when we have failed as individuals and as a church to extend that welcome as wide as God’s grace because of a lack of understanding or knowledge, fear or resistance to change.

My own lack of awareness came into focus as our construction team began to work with the architects to pull

together plans for our new restrooms on the Fellowship Building first floor.

When the plans were near completion, I was running them by folks when a few youth happened to overhear my exuberance about our new restrooms. “The men’s restroom is going to have two toilets and the women’s is going to have three stalls with changing stations in both! It’s amazing! No more traffic jams on Sunday mornings!”

The youth looked less thrilled. “A men’s room and a women’s room? Really?” Soon the youth were re-educating me on people for whom men’s and women’s restrooms present major barriers to participation—queer folks whose sex (assigned at birth) doesn’t match their gender identity or who do not identify in such a binary manner along what we now know is a continuum of gender identity and expression.

“Why not make all the restrooms inclusive for everyone?” they asked innocently and truthfully. “You’re not taking away anything from people who are comfortable in a men’s or women’s room, but you’re making our church more welcoming for people who aren’t comfortable in those spaces.” Plus, “you’ll have a restroom that is not out of date as soon as it’s been completed.”

The construction team was eager

to investigate this more inclusive opportunity, as was our architect who commended us for the move. “We have done this for many, many colleges and universities,” they told us, “but never for a church. You are truly ahead of the curve.” The result is six private, individual stalls, one that easily accommodates a wheelchair, plus a baby changing station, with a double-sided communal sink in the middle.

Since those plans were hatched, I have visited now at least six university campuses, confirming what these youth expressed. Gender neutral restrooms are a growing expectation, something that young people, in particular, look for in their quest for communities of greater inclusion and justice. I’m pleased that when our facility renovation is complete, our youth will have led us more deeply into our core conviction that God welcomes all. ♦

I encourage us all to educate ourselves on the challenges that confront queer or transgender people. Primers can be found here:

■ hackingchristianity.net/2016/12/primer-on-sex-and-gender

■ everydayfeminism.com/2016/08/transgender-101

REFLECTION: Rob Brown, 1944-2018

by George Brown

Church facility maintenance isn't glamorous or exciting. When things are going well and the building is in working order, it's not something many of us pay attention to. We expect our church buildings to be warm in the winter and cool in the summer, have running water and toilets that flush, clean and tidy pews, and well-maintained grounds. However, these things don't just happen. They require a team to plan, solve problems, and coordinate repairs that take place behind the scenes.

As a Trustee, I have found over the years that the real magic happens in the relationships that are formed when people share a passion for something and come together to work on it. This was how I got to work with and know Rob Brown, Brown Memorial's facilities manager for the past seven years until he passed away in April. Secretly, over the years, I would always look forward to something breaking or going wrong at church because it gave me an opportunity to bond with Rob and spend time with him brainstorming how to fix it. It's funny how relationships sometimes are. I couldn't just call him up to see how he was doing or invite him to lunch; we needed a project to work on together.

I really admired Rob. He was tough, spoke freely, enjoyed a challenge, always doubted and questioned things, and was passionate about helping others. Rob was a "behind the scenes" person, truly humble, and not one to flaunt his successes. It wasn't until much later when Rob got sick and was fighting cancer that he opened up to me more and offered a window into all the things that he had accomplished.

At church we knew Rob as a facilities manager and handyman-fixer, but this was really just a small part of who he was. Rob came to our church with a wealth of knowledge of historic buildings and hands-on experience in maintenance and repairs. He managed the historic restoration of his own home, "Cambria," built in the late 1700s on Merrymans Mill Road, and he oversaw restoration work



for years at the Hampton Mansion. Rob was a merchant marine who worked his way up the ranks to captain large cargo ships through the Panama Canal. After his time in the service, he devoted himself to business and healthcare, developing the first franchise of urgent care facilities in this area. Successes in business then led Rob to invest in real estate throughout Maryland.

Rob's true passion was community and international service. Rotary International was his vehicle to accomplish this. Rob dove headfirst into Rotary and worked his way up the ranks to become a district governor, overseeing thousands of club members in the Maryland area. He became one of the largest donors to Rotary, funding peace centers throughout the world and scholarships for international students to come to the United States.

I watched Rob mentor many of the members of the Rotary Club of Towsontowne in developing leadership skills. He led best by example and was usually the first

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MUSIC NOTES

Internationally acclaimed trumpeter, composer and educator Sean Jones and friends will present a jazz concert, October 21, at 3 p.m., to start the 2018/19 Tiffany Series season.

Jones, who is the new chair of Peabody's Jazz Department, comes to us fresh from leading the Carnegie Hall National Youth Orchestra Jazz's inaugural European tour. He was featured on the 2007 Grammy Award-winning album, "Turned to Blue," by Nancy Wilson, and has many albums of his own.

Jones is artistic director of the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, Artist-in-Residence at San Francisco Performances, and a member of the SFJAZZ Collective. Jones previously was chair of the Brass Department at Berklee College of Music.

Tickets are \$20 (\$50 for patrons) and can be purchased online at www.browndowntown.org/current-season or at the door. All proceeds from the Tiffany concerts support Brown Memorial's mission work in Baltimore and beyond.

THE TIFFANY SERIES 2018-19 SEASON

Learn more and purchase tickets at www.browndowntown.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 7 PM
BSO Brass and Organ Concert

SUNDAY MARCH 27, 3 PM
Christopher Creagan, Organist

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 3 PM
Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms"

Rob Brown

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person you could count on to volunteer for a community project or take on a task that no one else had time for. We remodeled bathrooms and whole houses together for Rebuilding Together Baltimore, built wheelchair ramps, conducted mock interviews at the Helping Up Mission, built giant parade floats in my garage, and countless other projects.

Family and church were also important parts of Rob's life. I remember the stories about cooking for hundreds of people at funerals for St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, where Rob, his wife Eileen and his family were active members. Rob also enjoyed spending time with Eileen, children and grandchildren at their house in Ocean City during the summer.

Rob spent years at our church working with the Trustees to develop relationships with vendors and contractors, and he helped to put systems into place for maintenance. One of his most important contributions was the idea of doing a Reserve Study to plan and budget for maintenance and improvements.

The Trustees will begin working on the Reserve Study this coming winter after the capital construction work is complete. It would have been fun to work on this project with Rob, but I am comforted to be part of an amazing group of Trustees who are working together to keep our buildings safe and accessible while planning for the future. ♦

Welcome New Members

We had a large class of new members over the summer. Learn about their backgrounds and gifts here, with more new member profiles to be shared in the January/February issue of the *Tidings*.



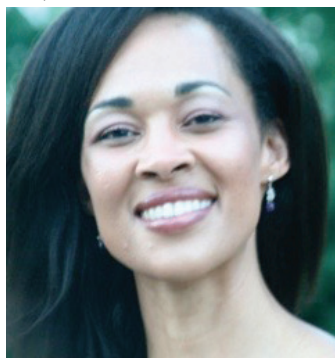
Kim Beers

Kim moved to Baltimore last fall from Chicago, after working in Mexico City, attending college in DC, and growing up in Florida. She learned about Brown's work in the city with Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), and was drawn to Brown as an institution that practices what it preaches—embodying the notion that faith is a series of actions, rather than a set of unequivocal beliefs.

Kim is grateful to have found such a vibrant and purposeful community in Brown. She has spent her career in international human rights, working especially with LGBT leaders to address violence, discrimination and criminalization on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Currently, she works for a Chicago-based non-profit to develop its global programming with refugees and internally displaced persons, persecuted religious and ethnic minorities, LGBT persons, and survivors of violence and torture.

Kim is a former rugby player, forever athlete, and a fair-weather cyclist. Spanish speakers at Brown—please find Kim. The only thing that brings

her more joy than speaking Spanish is climbing waterfalls. She would love to hear your tips on the best hikes (with falls) in the DMV area.



China & Josh Boak

China and Josh recently moved from Washington, DC, (where they attended New York Avenue Presbyterian Church) to Bolton Hill with their daughter Elaine. China is CEO at American Communities Trust (ACT), a national community development partner committed to serving low-income urban communities with improved infrastructure, new amenities and targeted services. Josh is a reporter covering the U.S. economy for The Associated Press. House renovations and parenting are keeping them busy these days.



Brian Boles & Whitney Washington Boles

Whitney and Brian have been attending Brown for about three years. Whitney moved to Baltimore from DC for her job at Constellation Energy and met Brian soon after coming to Baltimore. Brian is a Baltimore native and grew up in the Mt. Washington neighborhood. Brian is Director of Major and Corporate Gifts for Catholic Charities. Whitney is originally from Los Angeles, but she has lived on the East Coast since college. Whitney and Brian enjoy traveling and spending time with family and Brian is a lifelong lover of the game of baseball. They are both excited to formally join the Brown community.

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New Members *Continued from Page 7*



Morgana Kinlan & Matt Mickel

Morgana grew up in South Central Pennsylvania in the Gettysburg area. She earned her bachelor's from King's College and moved to Maryland a few years later for work. She is currently employed as a business technologist in the Columbia area, and is pursuing a graduate degree from Notre Dame of Maryland University. Morgana and her fiancé, Matt, recently moved to Bolton Hill. Matt grew up in rural Wisconsin before moving to Maryland where he completed his undergraduate and graduate education. Matt is currently working as a computer vulnerability and malware researcher. In their spare time, they both enjoy rock climbing, reading, listening to jazz and swing dancing. Matt and Morgana are excited to join Brown Memorial and be a part of its efforts to serve the Baltimore area and the global community.



Eddie Satterfield

Eddie Satterfield is a native Baltimorean. He is the fifth child of eight siblings and was raised by a single mom. He graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar Sr. High School, where he developed his love for music. He has a passion and goal for singing on Broadway. He is a two-time Showtime at the Apollo winner, has a recurring role on the hit sitcom *The Parkers* as "Rufus," and has played the leading role as Teddy Pendergrass at Arena Players.

Eddie is excited about the next chapter of his spiritual journey and being a part of the Brown Memorial family where he feels the spirit of God permeates the atmosphere with loving, welcoming people guided by a pastor that displays that love of God in every message he delivers. Eddie loves the credo that says; "True Greatness is not a matter of level, nor is it a question of degree, it is individual and supreme." Let's all be Great for God.



Lucy & Phil Sorensen

Lucy and Phil Sorensen live at Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville. Before moving three years ago, they had a retirement farm in Garrett County and raised sheep, llama and chickens together with their two Golden Retrievers and several felines. Lucy is a retired early childhood educator who directed nursery schools, taught kindergarten and, during those years, earned national teacher accreditation. She and Phil have four grown children and two grandchildren. Lucy is becoming an affiliate member of Brown while keeping her membership at Trinity United Church of Christ in Grantsville, Md. Phil (Rev. Dr.) is a retired Presbyterian minister of the Baltimore Presbytery, having served churches in New York state, suburban Philadelphia, Cumberland, Maryland, South Bend, Indiana and Fairfax, Virginia. He taught in the doctoral program at McCormick Seminary in Chicago and in 2000-2002 served as Interim Executive Presbyter of the Baltimore Presbytery. The Sorensens love to travel, read, spin and knit (Lucy), and play golf (Phil).

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New Members *continued...*



Bill Sheridan & Carole Tayman

Bill Sheridan and Carole Tayman were married in Fort Worth, TX, and have one daughter, Kate, who went to school, and now lives and works, in Chicago. Bill is originally from Denver and Carole grew up outside Chicago. They met in Phoenix and have lived all

over the United States. Currently Bill and Carole live in Annapolis. Bill works for Amtrak as Assistant Vice President for Market Research and Analytics. Carole is a designer as well as a master gardener and has enjoyed a career designing interiors, kitchens and retail spaces, as well as being an art teacher and arts administrator for nonprofit organizations and private arts organizations. Bill and Carole love to travel, search for delicious food experiences, garden, read and both are members of an international, non-denominational Bible study. They are transferring their church membership from Woods Presbyterian Church in Annapolis. ♦

Share a Moment of Prayer Every Thursday at 5:30 pm

by June Fletcher-Hill

If you were to walk into the Sanctuary on any given Thursday at 5:30 p.m., you would be greeted by a small group of people gathered in a circle, candle lit on a table, preparing to share a moment of prayer. We lift up concerns, intercessions and pleas from written prayer cards. It is a powerful moment to speak aloud prayers for others—prayers for lament, loss, healing, guidance and thanksgiving. We open our hearts, as well, to our own deepest prayers, adding those to the concerns already spoken aloud.

We can never be sure that prayers are answered—and most likely they are not answered as directly as we would like them to be—but we experience the strength and spirit of sitting together, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20) The beauty of the Sanctuary at that hour of day offers peace and stillness, a bridge between the busyness of the day and the evening.

Know that if you write your prayer on a prayer card, we will hold it with deep trust and responsibility. Know, too, that you are welcome to join us on any Thursday. It is an open circle, as wide as the many prayers among us all. ♦

BROWN MEMORIAL PARK AVENUE
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Prayer Request

Date: _____

Requested by (optional): _____

Please pray for: _____

☐ Include this prayer request in the Weekly Prayer Service.
☐ Add this request to the printed bulletin prayer list.
☐ If this prayer is about others, I have their permission to include their names in the request.

Place this card in the offering plate, or in the Prayer Request box at the back of the sanctuary, or email to Rachel Cunningham at rachel@browndowntown.org.


Weekly Prayer Service
Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m., in the Sanctuary
 God's touch upon our lives often takes the form of a call to us to pray so that we ourselves become a new opening for God's power in the world. In the simple act of praying together—joining together in our minds and hearts to God—community is strengthened. Sitting in a circle, saying aloud or holding in silence the prayers of our own hearts, of our community and the world, we feel closer to one another and to God.

browndowntown.org



October Birthdays

10/01	Brantley Davis
10/03	Yabi Wagener
10/04	Nick Forward
10/04	Morgana Kinlan
10/07	Katie Artes
10/07	Hannah Munds
10/08	Judy Jones
10/0	Jennifer Michael
10/11	Will Fletcher-Hill
10/11	Diane Schaming
10/12	Gayle Barney
10/12	Darin Crew
10/12	Amalie Nohe-Moren
10/1	Anne Holland
10/15	Jayne Mauric
10/16	Daryl Plevy
10/17	Cal Jackson
10/1	Jackson Setty
10/18	Paul Dagdigian
10/20	Hannah Murphy Buc
10/21	Matias Calderon
10/21	Julia Christen Luljak
10/21	Peter Christen Luljak
10/21	Matt McNabney
10/22	Jessica Campbell
10/23	Paul Fletcher-Hill
10/24	Yani Robinson
10/24	William S. Ryan
10/24	Caitlin Schneider
10/25	Jeremy Snyder
10/26	Deondra Asike
10/26	Sarah Cook
10/2	James Logan
10/28	Nadia Hensley
10/28	Sue Hughes
10/31	Julie Hanks

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



November Birthdays

11/01	Anne Heuisler
11/01	Julianna Lucas
11/02	Jack Davis
11/02	Andrew Hughes
11/04	Michaela Murphy-Buc
11/05	Alex Reichelt
11/07	Barbara Cook
11/09	Miranda Hall
11/11	Danny Flores
11/11	Spencer Scaglione
11/12	Kate Foster Connors
11/13	Warner Brockman
11/14	Jonathan Hensley
11/14	David Luljak
11/16	Betsy Nix
11/16	Dave Urban
11/17	Jamie Cunningham
11/18	Jason Murphy Buc
11/18	Shirley Parry
11/18	Bert Schmickel
11/19	Luther A. Clark
11/19	Willard Graves
11/19	John Walker
11/20	Kevin Cross
11/20	Bonnie Schneider
11/20	Jennifer Rakowski
11/21	Claire Inglesby
11/23	Marcos Calderon
11/24	Patrick Riorda
11/25	Beth Gregory
11/25	Deborah Richardson
11/25	Ally Vitale
11/26	Peter Jackson
11/26	Maureen Kelly
11/28	Luke Inglesby
11/28	Natalie Kelly
11/29	Eva McNabney
11/29	Carolina Mills
11/29	Amanda Slagle



BROWN TUTORING

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

by Lisa Hoffberger

It's no secret that Brown Memorial has an exceptional history of building relationships with its neighbors across Baltimore City. Our church website posts seven ministries supporting those in need. The Brown Memorial Tutoring Program is one of its longest running.

It's also no secret that many Baltimore City school students are failing to thrive, and the Tutoring Program can attest to the extent of their deficiencies. We see fourth graders reading at a second grade level, and even fifth graders who still cannot decode simple words because in some cases, children have not yet mastered how short versus long vowel sounds are used. It follows that their reading comprehension and writing skills—not to mention spelling—suffer greatly. When new students have referred to their reading, we've heard, "It is hard for me," "I know, I'm stupid," and, "It comes out crooked."

Again this school year—the program's 55th—Director Martha Socolar and Assistant Director Amy Munds, along with 70 volunteer tutors, will skillfully apply techniques to help "straighten" the critical tasks of reading and writing. On top of customized instruction, they plan to present a Picture of the Week group exercise. Using a list of structure words, each student will practice verbally describing that week's picture so that their tutor can visualize it. A variety of exercises throughout the year will focus on visualizing and verbalizing, two skills that are essential for good comprehension and written expression. We will keep you apprised on our progress!

For information on Brown Tutoring's recent progress, please see the Tutoring Progress Report, a "scorecard" of sorts, which is featured in our annual fall appeal mailing, or email martha.socular@comcast.net. You can also find us at browntutoring.org where your support to help bolster public education in our community is welcome and exceedingly appreciated, whether as a volunteer or as a contributor.

Brown Memorial has much to be proud of as it ministers to its neighbors and to the larger community, helping to paint a brighter picture of our beloved city. ♦

I am thankful for my tutor and the community for helping me with my work. My teachers and parents noticed that I am doing better with my spelling and reading. That makes me feel happy because work will be easier.

—5th grade student in the Tutoring Program

Silent Film & Organ Concert

Friday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary



Enjoy a silent film classic in the Sanctuary—the 1929 film "The Iron Mask" starring Douglas Fairbanks. An original organ score by our Minister of Music, Michael Britt, will accompany the film. Come hear our Skinner pipe organ become a "Mighty Wurlitzer!"

Admission is by suggested donation at the door—\$15 for adults and \$25 for families. All proceeds benefit Brown Memorial's Capital Campaign that is raising funds for the church's Fellowship Building renovations.



December Birthdays

12/01	Lynda Burton
12/01	Nicholas Imparato
12/02	Matthew Mickel
12/03	Cheryl Finney
12/03	Maggie Phenicie
12/04	Adam McNabney
12/05	Eloise Crew
12/05	Alexandra Mihalski
12/05	Jenny Williams
12/07	Warren Grayson
12/07	J. Courtland Robinson
12/07	Brough Schamp
12/08	Nancyellen Brennan
12/10	Viviane B. Thorpe
12/11	Cal Buikema
12/11	Katie Rhodes
12/11	Sally S. Robinson
12/11	Samuel Todd
12/13	Stewart Finney
12/15	Augie Brown
12/15	Matt Mitchell
12/16	Nate Hubler
12/16	Chip Riegel Morgan
12/16	Henry Taylor
12/17	Harry Hinkle
12/17	SueJeanne Koh-Parsons
12/18	Nicki Artes
12/18	Caroline Cross
12/18	Stephanie Shapiro
12/19	Richard Proctor
12/19	Jair Williams
12/20	Gillian Babb
12/21	Sam J. Kelly, III
12/22	Judith Arnold
12/22	Narka K. Ryan
12/23	June Carr
12/25	Robert Gorham
12/25	Kelsie Riegel Morgan
12/25	Matthew Stremba
12/26	Carole Tayman
12/27	Juliette Goodwin
12/27	Martha Thomas
12/28	Josh Boak
12/29	Macy Branch
12/29	Rachel Cunningham
12/30	Ruth Brennan Taylor
12/31	Phyllis McIntosh



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.

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

Every Wednesday, Bible Study,
10:30-11:30 a.m. Church House. 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.

Every Friday, Hope on the Hill
Al Anon Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Church
House Parlor. Open to family and friends
of problem drinkers.

Oct. 7, BUILD Kirwan Training,
12:30 p.m. Members of the BUILD
Core team will offer a learning session
for people who believe all children have
a right to an excellent education. Learn
how you can help transform education
in Baltimore City. You'll learn about the
work of the Commission on Innovation
and Excellence in Education (sometimes
called the "Kirwan Commission") and
what you can do to ensure the Commis-
sion's work results in lasting change.

Oct. 14, Congregational Lunch:
Climate & Pulpit, 12:30 p.m. Members
of the Green Team will give a presenta-
tion over lunch.

Oct. 16 & Nov. 20, Theology on
Tap, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Motor House, 120
W. North Avenue. Casual discussion on
theological topics. The topics are TBA.
Contact Chip at cmorganriegel@gmail.com
for more information and to confirm
dates. [Note: Theology on Tap is now the
third Tuesday of every month.]

Oct. 18 & Nov. 15, Prayer Shawl
Ministry, 1-3 p.m. Enjoy support and
fellowship while making prayer shawls for
those in need. Contact Dianne Ross at
rossinbalt@verizon.net for more informa-
tion about location and to confirm dates.

Oct. 21, Congregational Lunch:
Cuba Team Presentation, 12:30 p.m.
Delegates from the Cuba Study Team
will share about their most recent trip to
Cuba.

Oct. 21, Tiffany Series Concert, 3
p.m. Sanctuary. *See pg. 6 for details.*

Oct. 28, Congregational Meeting,
12:30 p.m. The congregation will elect
new church officers

Oct. 28, Pumpkin Carving is Back,
5:30-8 p.m. All middle and high school
youth are invited to join us in the Sanctu-
ary for Sunday Night Live style dinner
and pumpkin carving. Please bring a
pumpkin to carve.

Nov. 10, Youth Canoe Trip, All day.
The November youth gathering will take
the form of a canoe trip led by the Ches-
apeake Bay Foundation.

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

Michele Ward
Associate Pastor

Jennifer Michael,
Editor

*Have an article to submit to the
Tidings? Email Jennifer Michael,
jmichael@browndowntown.org.
Due dates this year: Dec. 1 (Jan./
Feb. issue), Feb. 10 (Mar/Apr. is-
sue), Apr. 10 (May/June/July issue)*

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Week @ Brown, on the home page
at browndowntown.org.*



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