

Tidings

JAN/FEB 2019

Pastor's Reflections

Rev. Michele Ward
Associate Pastor



"That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around

him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen..."
--Matthew 13:1-3 (NRSV)

The dinner table at my grandmother's house was the place where stories were born. My siblings and I would sit in her dining room covered in floral wallpaper and lace curtains, enraptured by her tales of growing up on a dairy, traveling all over the world, cooking whatever game my grandfather would bring home, and the wild mockingbirds my father trained and named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Telling stories kept us connected to one another around that table. And now, my family members tell stories that way, too. Granted, we're telling them over the phone or via text, but we're still telling them! Screens and schedules have the tendency to take us away from those meaningful

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Get Involved in 2019

Join us at the Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp and other mission activities in the coming year.

by Ian Munds

This past summer marked the sixth year of the Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp, one of several Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps.

The Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps are a partnership between churches in the Baltimore Presbytery and churches within the Dakota Presbytery. The Dakota Presbytery is comprised of all Native American churches and is the only non-geographical presbytery in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Learning camps are designed to meet the specific needs of each community. Pejuhutazizi was the first camp to invite families from Baltimore to participate as both staff members and campers. The first year I went to Pejuhutazizi, I went as a camper and my mom was a staff member. I've been a camp counselor at Pejuhutazizi for the past two years, going on three.

Pejuhutazizi, like the other learning camps, is a camp for kids to learn in a fun way and build connections with the people they meet. I decided to go to

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Pastor's Reflections

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moments in our living rooms and neighborhood street corners, but they also signal for us that storytelling can adapt and find its way, no matter the medium.

Much of what we read about the ministry of Jesus is in narrative form. The stories that he told, the encounters that disciples passed along to others, and the oral tradition of the church point to the deeply embedded power of story. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells seven parables in chapter 13 alone. Although historical critical scholars know Jesus did not tell all of these stories in this particular order, and this is a collection of his teachings, the imaginative part of me pictures Jesus excitedly rattling off parable after parable, caught up in metaphor and symbol. It is in this “caught up in it” spirit that I am inviting you to join us for a story slam style Lunch Connections after the 11 a.m. services on Feb. 10 and March 10.

A story slam is a live storytelling event, one that is focused around a specific theme, and requires the storytellers to speak for up to five minutes. They cannot read any notes, and they must tell the story while looking at the audience. Rather than everyone sharing stories from the front, everyone will share stories at their tables with a group of 5-8 people. Then a few brave souls will share their stories with the larger group. We will not be competing for prizes in this story slam, but that typically happens in a traditional one. A story slam is an opportunity to get to know others, tell our stories in fresh ways, and capture some of that parable energy that Jesus readily shared in his ministry.

Nigerian writer and entrepreneur Chimamanda Ngozi

Adichie told some stories of her own in 2014 during a Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) talk called “The Danger of a Single Story.” In this TED talk, she describes the single story that she had of Fide, the young man that worked for her family. Her mother had described him as poor, and so she was surprised to see such beautiful handiwork in his village when she visited his family.

Adichie had a “single story” of Fide, and did not know a different one until she experienced it. She describes her experiences as an international student and the stereotypes that others had about her when she told them she was Nigerian. Their “single story” of her was of poverty and disease, illiteracy and ignorance.

Adichie says, “Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.”[1]

So come and tell your stories on Feb. 10 with our theme of “Risk”—because your stories matter. And who knows? Maybe you’ll disrupt a “single story” someone has about you or you have about them. That’s the power of a story—it can change the world around you. ♦

[1] https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story/transcript?language=en



michele@browndowntown.org

Small Group Connections Continue

by Rachel Cunningham

This Fall we launched several new small groups, including Literature and Faith, Feed My Sheep and Contemplative Hiking, while continuing with some old stalwarts, such as Theology on Tap and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Members and friends gathered in homes and restaurants to hear one another’s stories and learn together. Others gathered at service organizations, working side-by-side. Some sought the great outdoors and still others met to raise their voices together in song—all in an effort to help the congregation get connected.

If you missed out on participating in a small group activity, or one of the monthly Dinner Gatherings, you’re in luck because we’re continuing our connections effort into the new year. Watch for more detailed information coming soon. If you have an idea for a small group or activity, we are always looking for suggestions and leaders. Contact any member of the small groups planning team: Gayle Barney (traveltwins@aol.com), Rachel Cunningham (rachel@browndowntown.org), David Lascu (dmlascu@aol.com) or Elden and Bonnie Schneider (bonnieeldens@verizon.net). ♦

Pejuhutazizi

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Pejuhutazizi because a couple of my friends had convinced me to go. I wasn't sure at first if it was the best choice, but the memories I've made have been some of my favorite.

The first year as a counselor at Pejuhutazizi I really connected with a little 4th grader named Boston. We would joke around together and play games. The year after, I came back to some news that he was going through some troubles. When I first saw him that year he remembered me right away and he really seemed to lighten up. The second or third day he told me I was his best friend.

I've really grown to love all these kids and Boston is just one of many relationships I've formed over my short time there. And it's not just me, many of my good friends are also counselors and we are always ecstatic to go back.



This year's camp takes place July 27 to August 3, 2019.

We hope you or your family will consider joining us.

For information, contact [Chrystie Adams, cladams22@verizon.net](mailto:cladams22@verizon.net) or visit the [Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps website—baltimoredakotalearningcamps.org](http://BaltimoreDakotaLearningCamps.org). Read about more youth events in the new year on page 7.



Photo Captions: Top right: Middle school campers pose for a picture prior to their LEGO robotics battle. Middle right: Boston with his LEGO robot. Bottom left: Pre-K - 1st Grade campers and counselors showing off their solar rotation models. Bottom right: Baltimore youth staff and campers. Front page caption: Pre-launch photo of an Alka Seltzer film canister rocket.

A Conversation

with Rev. Michele Ward

Michele joined the staff at Brown Memorial in September and she will be installed as the new Associate Pastor on January 13, 2019, at 4 p.m.

by June Fletcher-Hill



Michele with the youth group on an outing in November with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Michele and I sat down together to talk about her work as Associate Pastor and her new life in Baltimore.

I asked her about her philosophy of youth ministry. Michele explained that many scholars of spiritual formation use the terms “Moral Therapeutic Deism” to describe the typical experience of faith for mainline Protestants, their typical view of how people relate to God, and what motivates them.

For instance, one might say, “I go to church to learn how to be a good person or how to be a moral person.” Or, “I go to church when I am hurting, in crisis, or need a therapeutic answer to a problem I am having.”

Deism came out of the Scientific Revolution and took greater hold during the Enlightenment. It is the idea of God as the great clockmaker in the sky, who sets the world spinning and says, essentially, “I’ll be around in an emergency, but I am not involved day to day.” Underlying principles of Deism have found their way into mainline traditions, which are steeped

in Enlightenment values, even to this day. These principles, whether many of us know it or not, impact the way we understand and talk about God.

For Michele, there is more—much more—about relating to God and to other people than these three terms would imply. What is missing in this “church as therapy, church as ethics training, and God as distant” worldview is something deeper, relational and transformative—something that teaches us how to love God, love others and love ourselves well. For Michele, this something is desire.

She mentioned a book, “Woo: Awakening Teenagers’ Desire to Follow in the Way of Jesus,” by Morgan Schmidt, a Presbyterian youth pastor in Bend, Oregon, who has been involved in youth ministry for over a decade. For Schmidt, youth ministry is about awakening the desire in young people to know and love God. We are all made with built-in passions or desires, longings to connect with something bigger than ourselves. For some people, fulfillment of that longing is met in their connection with God.

Youth ministry, for Michele, is about connecting young people with God in a deeper way, relationships with others, powerful worship experiences and partnerships with people who have diverse life experiences and perspectives.

Part of Michele’s role is to help enable all of this through opportunities for fellowship together, play, talking about big questions that matter, service opportunities and having regular time together in Sunday School and monthly youth group gatherings.

Michele and I also discussed spiritual practices that nourish her. She meets with a spiritual director and continues to participate in a regional clergy group that meets once a month in Philadelphia. These are communal practices that help her to reflect on her ministry and her personal spiritual life. Yoga, for Michele, is also grounding and centering. Yoga helps her to be less distracted and more focused, to access a still place of prayer within.

She writes in a journal, sometimes writing her prayers as a way to bring focus to them. She also writes poetry

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Welcome New Members

We continue our introduction of the many new members we welcomed in 2018 and the backgrounds and gifts they bring to our church family. These members joined us in July 2018.



Rachael & Sam Edgin

Almost six years ago Rachael and Sam were married on the Chesapeake Bay and, after some time out-of-state, they returned to Maryland for grad school. Baltimore has been home for the past three years and they just recently settled in the Oakenshawe neighborhood. Rachael is a Nurse Practitioner at R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center, and Sam is the Technical Services Manager at Ceremony Coffee Roasters.

They love to explore new places, hike, rock climb and play board games. They both grew up in church communities and have been a part of several more throughout their journeys. For the better part of two years they have attended Brown and have truly appreciated it. They look forward to continuing to be a part of small group experiments, as well as BUILD.



Joyce Edington

Joyce is a widow with three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She is currently retired, but in the past has owned a bookstore, been a travel agent, taught school and traveled around the world with her husband. Joyce's three favorite pastimes are golf, bridge and reading. She loves the Orioles in spite of their current problems.



Diane & Jack Hodges

Diane and Jack are new residents to Baltimore, having lived in Pennsylvania and Oregon prior to moving here. They have two children that reside in

Wallingford, PA, and Baltimore with their families. Diane grew up in Los Angeles and is a lifelong Presbyterian. In her professional life she taught elementary school and has a masters degree in special education. Jack is a retired Presbyterian pastor, and a member of Baltimore Presbytery. Over his career they have served six churches in Oregon and Pittsburgh. Now they are happy to join Brown Memorial. They look forward to meeting new friends and finding ways to live out their faith as a part of this congregation.



Judy Jones

In retirement, shortly after the death of her husband, Judy began tutoring a young Guatemalan immigrant at Patterson High School. Exel Estrada was a skinny little guy who showed up in the library for their first meeting with his hat skewed sideways, a huge grin on his face and an unapologetic determination to improve his English. They worked every week on grammar, mechanics, writing and speaking. No

matter what Judy asked, he worked hard and without complaint. And he did well. In his senior year, he transferred to Poly, and Judy became his guardian. In 2017, he came to live in her home, a move that has turned out to be a good one for both of them. Judy feels most fortunate—to have built a long and satisfying career first as a teacher and then as a business owner, to write, golf, travel and enjoy the blessings of friends and family, to gain a “son,” and now to find Brown.



Maureen & Sam Kelly

Maureen is originally from Rochester, New York, where she was raised Catholic with her seven siblings. She moved to Baltimore in 1987 to attend The University of Maryland, and earned her master's degree in social work. Since 1989 she has been working for Balti-

more County Department of Social Services and has worked her entire career in child welfare. Maureen is married to Sam Kelly and they have two children, Ryan and Natalie. She enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with her family.



Maggie Phenicie

Maggie has been a middle school English teacher in the Baltimore City School System since 2013. Outside of teaching, her greatest hobby is performing and teaching improv comedy through the Baltimore Improv Group. Maggie grew up in Harrisburg, PA.



Amanda Mathews & Kyle Rae

Amanda and Kyle are excited to join the Brown community. They were married in October and felt Brown was the

perfect place to start their faith journey together. Amanda graduated from James Madison University where she played lacrosse and Kyle graduated from Furman University where he played football. They both met while working at the College of William and Mary in their athletic department. Amanda and Kyle currently live in the Canton area in Baltimore and they both work at the headquarters of Under Armour. They are excited to learn more about how they can help in the Baltimore community through Brown.



Martha Thomas

Martha grew up in New Hampshire and lived in New York City for many years before moving to Baltimore in 2000. She is an editor of two magazines—one for women in Howard County, and one that covers food and drink in Maryland. She teaches food writing at the University of Maryland, College Park. Martha loves reading, painting and the outdoors. She has a 19-year-old daughter, Mary, who she knows is part of a future of compassion and justice.

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A Conversation with Michele

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and often will pen a poem when researching and preparing a sermon.

At the New Year, Michele takes a yearly silent retreat for three days. She started doing this about seven years ago, following the example of a professor who went away to a small cabin on an island in Puget Sound. Michele uses her silent retreat to reflect on the previous year and the year ahead. As an extrovert, Michele said that the discipline of silence is hard for her but important; silence helps her to connect to her inner voice and the Holy Spirit.

We also talked about Baltimore. Michele likes how many neighborhoods there are; how you can turn a corner and be in a completely different community. She is excited about the strong grassroots organizations and the opportunity to create positive change together.

She is drawn to the funky, DIY art scene and the buildings that are being reclaimed and transformed into new spaces. She sees a freedom in creating new things, and an openness to innovation.

While Seattle has coffee roasters and good hiking, she has found both on the East Coast. And she discovered The Charmery in Hampden for ice cream.

What Michele misses by being so far from Seattle is watching her friends' children grow. She also misses Chocoflati, a favorite place for hot chocolate in Seattle.

So, share your favorite hot chocolate places with Michele! Email her at michele@browndowntown.org. ♦

New Members

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Tom & Yabi Wagener

Tom and Yabi Wagener are a Navy family with three children all in college and beyond. Tom is a professor at the Naval Academy and Yabi is the finance director for a private equity firm. They have lived all over the United States and several foreign countries. Tom is originally from Iowa and Yabi is from Venezuela. They enjoy meeting new people from different backgrounds and cultures. They speak multiple languages. ♦

YOUTH EVENTS IN 2019

Winter Retreat (Feb. 1-3)

Our annual winter weekend at Massanetta Conference Center complete with skiing, snow tubing (subject to ticket availability) and water park fun. A few chaperones are needed, particularly those with advanced skiing abilities. Cost is \$150. Due Jan. 13.

Youth Sunday (Feb. 24)

Planning for this service will begin in February.

Massanetta Middle School Conference (June 20-23)*

A middle school conference in Virginia for rising 7th-9th graders. Chaperones are needed for this trip.

Soaring Eagles Learning Camp (June 24-27)

The summer learning camp held each June at Eutaw Marshburn Elementary School in conjunction with The Center. Youth volunteers are needed. Contact Chrystie Adams (410-744-6481) if interested.

Baltimore Dakota Learning Camp (July 27-Aug. 3)

A learning camp with our Native American partners at the Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church in Granite Falls, MN. Contact Chrystie Adams or Rachel Cunningham (410-523-1542) if interested. Cost \$450 plus airfare with opportunities to fundraise. Application with \$200 deposit due by March 30, 2019.

Montreat Youth Conference (July 28-Aug. 3)*

A high school youth conference in North Carolina for rising 9th-graduating 12th graders. A second chaperone is needed for this trip.

Contact Michele for more info: michele@browndowntown.org or 443-977-7155. *These trips are currently in need of chaperones. If chaperones cannot be found the trips may be canceled.

SPOTLIGHT ON: YVETTE MATTHEWS, CHANCEL CHOIR MEMBER

Brown Memorial is blessed with an amazingly talented Chancel Choir. Members of the church, and possibly even some members of the Chancel Choir, may not realize that Yvette Matthews, who joined the choir in 2015, brings with her a resume that includes singing performances at The Metropolitan Opera, Radio City Music Hall, the Houston Grand Opera and La Scala in Milan, Italy.

Last spring during a Sunday in Lent, Yvette shared with the congregation the story of her career and her faith journey. She told us how she grew up the oldest of six children raised by a single mother in the projects of Cherry Hill in southwest Baltimore. She and her siblings were raised in St. Veronica's Catholic Church, and it was there that she first learned how much God loved her.

Yvette said, "According to the powers that be, since I was poor, black and female, my chances for success were slim." But teachers throughout her schooling inspired her and nurtured her love of singing. She went on to graduate from Western High School and then Coppin State.

Here we share an excerpt from Yvette's story that she shared with the congregation for those who may have missed it, or want to hear it again.

After graduating from Coppin State, I began teaching at Homewood Elementary School #74 in east Baltimore. I loved teaching, and I was good at it. But God had another plan for my life. A classmate of mine invited me to her church to meet Maurice Murphy, their new minister of music. So, I went with her to choir rehearsal at St. James Episcopal Church Lafayette Square. He was teaching the "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten to a group of middle school and high school girls, and oh, the sound they made together! I took a folder of music, sat in the back of the room, and stayed for the next 37 years. I raised my daughters there.

In my second year with the choir, Maurice told me he could not in good conscience keep me singing in the choir when he knew I had a gift that needed to be developed and nurtured. He asked if I would consider studying voice with him. I was married, with a three-year-old daughter and a full-time job. He told me to go home and talk it over with my husband. He said, "I will teach you everything I know about classical music, but if we go down this road, it may change your life."

And thus, began the most exhausting, exhilarating, difficult and rewarding time of my life. Maurice Murphy became

my teacher and my friend. Under his guidance I learned vocal technique, English and Italian art songs, German lieder, French chansons, oratorios and opera arias in five different languages.

When he felt we were ready, I began entering vocal competitions, and winning. There were song recitals and oratorio performances all over the Baltimore-Washington area, performances with the Baltimore Opera, the Baltimore Symphony, the Baltimore Choral Arts Society and a Verdi Requiem with Southern Maryland Choral Arts.

Maurice sent me to my first New York audition, and I got the job...Miss Lily in Sherwin Goldman's production of "Porgy and Bess" at Radio City Music Hall. Soon after, there was an 11-week engagement with Houston Grand Opera, and a position with their touring company for the next three and a half years.

You may ask, "How did you manage touring for so long with a young family at home?" I didn't. God did it. The company manager knew there were 15 of us in the cast who had young children or teenagers at home. He arranged our schedule so that we were never away from home for longer than three weeks at any one time. He did that for three and a half years. We performed in 17 cities in the United States,

three cities in Canada, London, Paris, Florence, Milan, as well as Tokyo, Nagoya and Sapporo, Japan.

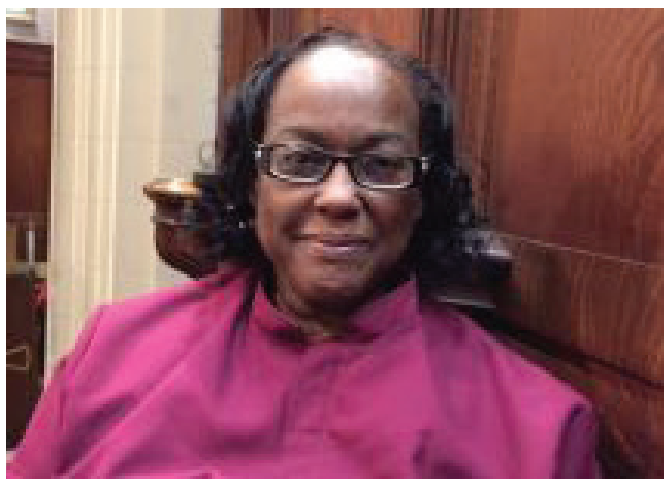
On opening night at La Scala in Milan, Italy, I came to the theater a full two hours before our call. The theater was dark except for a few work lights onstage, but I walked to center stage and stood there looking out into the empty house. Have you ever been in a space where you felt you were exactly where God wants you to be? That is how I felt that evening. I was standing in the same spot that Maria Callas, Luciano Pavarotti and Leontyne Price had stood before me. Not bad for someone from the projects in south Baltimore. I cried like a two-year-old...tears of joy and gratitude. For God had opened doors for me that I could not possibly open for myself.

Not long after our return from abroad, word was out. The Metropolitan Opera company at Lincoln Center was about to premier its first production of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." Six of us went to the audition from Baltimore, and all six of us got the job! You cannot imagine my excitement to be part of that ensemble...48 classically trained black musicians handpicked by David Stivender, chorus master of the Met Opera, singing music that was especially written for our voices.

All 16 performances sold out that season to rave reviews in the *New York Times*. They brought us back the next year, and again all 16 performances sold out. It had never happened before in the history of that opera house.

So, here I am church, in the sixth decade of my life and God is not finished with me yet. I cannot express how grateful I am to be here at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church. You have accepted me into your midst just as I am. What a joy it is to use my gift to worship God in this place.

You know, it is hard to be sure of anything these days, for we are living in very uncertain times, but let me tell you what I am sure of. First, we serve an awesome God who loves us dearly. Secondly, it is His good pleasure to give us the desires of our heart. Thirdly, all He requires of us is a little faith, and then obedience. For me, obedience is the hard part. And last of all, I am positive that when God has His hand on your life, even if you are poor and black and female, nothing . . . NOTHING is impossible. ♦




"I cannot express how grateful I am to be here at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church. You have accepted me into your midst just as I am. What a joy it is to use my gift to worship God in this place."

- Yvette Matthews



January Birthdays

01/01	Fred Lazarus
01/02	Deb Baer
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 Javier
	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 Wagner
	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
01/30	Ben Anderson

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



Tutor Bobbie Cook "visualizing and verbalizing" with her student.

BROWN TUTORING

Teaching a Visual Approach to Reading

by Rob Kasper

On a rainy November morning about 30 adult tutors sat around the top floor of the Brown Memorial Church House staring at a simple drawing of a little boy and a duck.

It was a training session and the tutors listened as Amy Munds and Martha Socolar, directors of the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program, got Amy, playing the role of student, to describe the drawing to Martha, the tutor. The concept they were demonstrating was called visualizing and verbalizing. In broad terms this meant that rather than asking students what they were "thinking," tutors asked the students what they were "picturing." It drew on the work of Nanci Bell, a noted language comprehension researcher and author of "Visualizing and Verbalizing" (Gander Publishing 2007).

Studies have found that there is a relationship between imagery and cognition and that some students lack the ability to form what is called a concept image, Martha explained. Put simply, when students read there should be an image in their minds about what they are reading. For some students that concept isn't there, she said. That makes learning difficult.

In a choreographed demonstration, Martha and Amy showed the room full of tutors how an exercise called Picture of the Week could help students strengthen their descriptive skills and help form mental concepts.

The "picture," a line drawing of a boy and a duck, was held by the student. Rather than showing the picture to the tutor, the student kept it hidden. Responding to questions from the tutor, the student used words to help the tutor "see the

picture in her mind.”

Starting with the concept of “what,” the drawing depicted—a boy and a duck—the tutor continually asked the student to “help me picture” such details as the color of the boy’s hair, the color of his clothes, his posture and his mood.

Near the end of the exercise, the tutor placed 12 cards on a table. These cards were labeled with “structure words” that described important parts of the picture. They asked questions about the image: its what, its size, its color, its number, its shape, its where, its movement, its mood, its background, its perspective, its when and its sound. The student began by picking up the “what” card, recalling that it was an image of a boy and a duck, then turning the card over, “putting it to sleep.” The remaining cards got similar treatment.

Finally the tutor summarized what the student’s words “made me picture” and the student revealed the image to the tutor. They compared versions.

Armed with the Picture of the Week technique, Brown Memorial tutors tried them out in the following weeks on some of the nearly 80 students enrolled in the tutoring program. The picture changed each week.

Bobbie Cook, now in her 11th year as a Brown Memorial tutor, was initially pleased with the way the technique worked with her fifth grade student. “He was really attuned to more details and used so many more adjectives in his descriptions,” Cook said.

Instead of merely saying “the boy in the picture was just sitting in the grass,” the student noted that the boy was “wearing Converse tennis shoes and that the view was from a horizontal perspective,” she said. Their conversation built on an earlier exchange in which they had defined the meaning of “perspective.” Increasing the student’s vocabulary and employing his newfound use of details can eventually improve his writing skills, she said.

Lauren Loran, a first-year tutor, also reported good early results. Her student, a 7-year-old boy, struggles with the standard approach to reading and learning, she said, but he delighted in the visual approach this technique employed. “He was

very observant, very engaged,” she said.

Moreover, the 7-year-old relished the feeling of “being in charge,” of holding the picture while his tutor tried to figure out what it was. Kids this age are “in charge of so little,” Loran said, that they jump at the chance to be the boss.

In the ensuing weeks, as tutors and students became more familiar with the technique, the results leveled off. Some students soared one day, then struggled at the next session. The consensus among tutors seemed to be that this technique was a good new tool, but just one of many that they had to have in their tool box. ♦



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
02/10	Phil Sorensen
02/12	Bob Babb
02/13	Tom Hall
02/14	Wally Anderson
02/14	Patrick Francis
02/14	Allan Riorda
02/15	Geoffrey Parsons
02/16	Andrew Liang
02/17	Anne Arnold
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	Kyle Rae
02/26	Steve St. Angelo
02/28	David Nyweide



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 Monday, Meditation on the
Hill for Women-AA Meeting, 6:15
p.m. Church House parlor. An open
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

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.

Jan. 13, Installation Service of
Michele Ward, 4 p.m. Celebrate the
installation of new Associate Pastor Mi-
chele Ward.

Jan. 17 & Feb. 21, 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.

Jan. 27, Annual Congregational
Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Friends and mem-
bers of the congregation are invited to
gather in the Assembly Room to discuss
Brown's year ahead. Childcare available.

Jan. 27, Sunday Night Live, 5:30-8
p.m. SNL kicks off the year in our newly
renovated Assembly Room! January is the
launch of a five-part SNL series based on
Peter Block's "Community: The Structure
of Belonging." We will talk about *possibil-*
ity, play games and have dinner together.

Feb. 1-3, Youth Winter Retreat. See
pg. 7 for details.

Feb. 10, Lunch Connections:
Story Slam, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Assembly
Room. We invite you to lunch and to tell
a story for up to five minutes. Theme:
Risk (based on lectionary texts for that
Sunday). See *Pastor's Reflections*, pg. 2, for
details.

Feb. 24, Youth Sunday, 11 a.m. Our
youth will prepare and lead us in all
aspects of worship this day.

Feb. 24, Sunday Night Live, 5:30-8
p.m. Assembly Room. This is the second
part of a five month series based on Peter
Block's "Community: The Structure of
Belonging." We will talk about *ownership*,
play games and have dinner together.

Note About: Theology on Tap.
Theology on Tap is reconfiguring for
2019 due to scheduling conflicts with the
Motor House. Please email Chip,
cmorganriegel@gmail.com, for more in-
formation if you are interested in partici-
pating. More details are forthcoming.

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: Feb. 10 (Mar/
Apr. issue), Apr. 10 (May/June/July
issue), July 10 (Aug./Sept. issue),
Sept. 10 (Oct./Nov. issue).

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