



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Tidings

AUG/SEPT 2019

Pastor's Reflections

Rev. Michele Ward

Associate Pastor



This summer has been full of sticky fingers, belly laughter and a heavy heart—at least it has for me.

This has been a summer in Baltimore full of the highs and lows that come with what it means to be a citizen of this city.

As a pastor in this city, it looks like the following list—the deep joy of leading the communion liturgy at Massanetta Middle School Conference and watching our youth make new friends. The wonder of our partners from The Center and the students from Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School discovering the cycles of the moon together. The anguish of our immigrant siblings leaving our city, one of the only growing populations in Baltimore City, due to the fear of raids, detention centers and deportation. Seeing my neighbors in Greenmount West work together across racial and socioeconomic boundaries to make our community a little more beautiful and a little friendlier every day.

Some moments, I feel the tide pulling me back into the daily lull of routine, of the inbox, of chores, of

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Welcome Back Sunday

On Sept. 8 a new church year begins

by Rachel Cunningham

Join us for our Welcome Back Sunday, September 8, when the program year officially begins. All of our education classes resume (9:45 a.m.), the choir returns (9:45 a.m. rehearsal), and worship moves back to 11 a.m. The Nursery opens at 9:30 a.m. for everyone's convenience. Following worship join us for a potluck picnic on the church front steps. We will provide fried chicken, beverages and dessert. Please bring a side dish to share.

A lot is happening this fall—community potluck lunches on the first Sunday of the month, “Ignite” talks over lunch on the third Sunday of the month, small groups, dinner gatherings, environmental talks and events, Tiffany Series concerts, the All Church Retreat and more. If you are looking for ways to stay or get connected with others at Brown Memorial, then consider taking part in some of these activities (see the calendar on the back page).

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Tiffany Series: Mark your calendars for four concerts this season. See *page 3*.

Welcome New Members: Read about nine new families. See *page 5*.

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Pastor's Reflections

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to-do lists. I feel the childlike qualities alive inside of me vying for space with the other parts of me that demand order to accomplish tasks or be responsible. I see our youth and young adults get caught up in this from the other end of the spectrum. I see them toying with what Jurgen Moltmann calls the "question of the adult in the child who doesn't want to play anymore but needs goals in order to make something respectable of [her]self."^[1] Our God is a playful one, Moltmann argues, and it is at our peril that we "...confuse the enjoyment of God and our existence with goals and purposes."^[2]

God did not create us to make check lists and five year plans (although I am a good Presbyterian who deeply loves everything to be "decent and in order"). I imagine I am not alone in this area of spiritual growth—the "Pay attention./Be astonished./Tell about it." kind-of-growth.^[3] Summer is a time to pay attention to the small and the expansive within and around us. It is a time to experience astonishment at the interior and exterior worlds we traverse. And it is a time to tell others about it; perhaps, beginning with ourselves, our loved ones and our God.

Play is not distraction. It is not dissociation, like binging on a show on Netflix. Play is resistance. Play is the concerted decision to choose joy. Moltmann argues that to play is to choose life: "Life as rejoicing in liberation, as solidarity with those in bondage, as play with reconciled existence, and as pain at unreconciled existence demonstrates the Easter event in the world" (31).^[4] When we play, we embody the resurrection life of Jesus Christ. In our laughter, in our decision to believe that no street is a lost cause, that no child is without a future, and no city worthy of abandonment.

In this spirit of resurrection, join us in playful resistance. Come play with us in September at our All Church Retreat on Saturday, September 21. Andrew Foster Connors will present on his sabbatical journey

and lead us in conversation. Special guest re:create from the Arts, Recreation and Worship Conference at Montreat Camp and Conference Center will lead the remainder of our retreat, and we will wrap up with a youth group lock-in. The Worship Committee invited re:create to collaborate with us on our retreat because they specialize in teambuilding and the theology of play. They will lead activities for all ages, a discussion on the theology of play, a party and a vespers service. Through ARW (the Arts, Recreation and Worship Conference), re:create hits the road and takes their unique approach to theology, spirituality and the arts to communities all over the country. Re:create "cultivates building community through ARW, Playology, networking, and resourcing ... re:create stands for Connecting, Recreation, Experiential Arts, Theology, and Education."^[5] Re:create boldly functions like this articulation of Moltmann's—"we study theology properly because we are curious and find pleasure in the subject" (66).^[6] Their mission is to "to spread contagious joy by providing intentional leadership development accomplished by connecting and resourcing people interested in using recreation and arts in settings where groups gather."^[7] Theology and play are even more enjoyable when they happen together. Will you come play with us? ♦

[1] Jurgen Moltmann, *Theology of Play* (HarperCollins, 1972), 18.

[2] Moltmann, 19.

[3] Mary Oliver, "Sometimes," *Red Bird* (Beacon Press, 2008).

[4] Moltmann, 31.

[5] www.re-create.cc

[6] Moltmann, 66.

[7] www.re-create.cc



michele@browndowntown.org

Youth Group Dates to Remember

Sunday, Aug. 25, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

Tri-Church End of the Summer Pool Party
Bolton Hill Swim and Tennis, 1120 Park Avenue

Sept. 21-22, Drop off and pick up at 12 pm

All Church Retreat & Youth Lock-in

Save the Dates: Sunday Night Live! Fall Schedule

Oct. 27, 6-8:30 p.m. & Nov. 24, 6-8:30 p.m.





MUSIC NOTES

by Michael Britt

We invite you to be a part of the Music Ministry this program year. Opportunities are available for all, regardless of age or musical experience.

The Chancel Choir sings weekly at Sunday worship and rehearses on Thursday evenings, 7-8:45 p.m. **Our first rehearsal is on Thursday, Sept. 5.** Singers in all voice parts are welcome.

The Handbell Choir rehearses on Sundays after worship in the labyrinth. Again, no handbell experience is required. All training is provided! Please consult the Sunday bulletin for the rehearsal schedule.

Our other ensembles—**Soulful Revue, Soulful Sisters and the Instrumental Ensemble**—rehearse as needed in preparation for Sunday worship. Again, please look for additional information in our e-newsletter, *This Week @ Brown*, and the Sunday bulletin.

TIFFANY SERIES Save the Date!

The Tiffany Series is pleased to announce its 2019-2020 concert schedule. All concerts are Sunday at 3 p.m.

October 27: Mickey Thomas Terry, Organist

Classical organ pieces and works by African American composers

December 8: Michael Britt, Minister of Music and Organist

Holiday Pops organ concert

March 22: The Catonsville High School Steel Drum Band

April 26: BMPA's 150th: Getting a Handel on the Celebration!

Featuring the church's Chancel Choir and soloists

Welcome Back Sunday

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Several small groups that began this past year will continue, including Literature and Faith, Singing for the Soul, David and Goliath (for young families) and Contemplative Hiking. Other longstanding groups that you can expect to see include Theology on Tap, Wednesday Bible Study and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

In July, a need request for hosts for our monthly dinner gatherings went out. If you missed it and would like to host a dinner, contact Rachel Cunningham (rachel@browndowntown.org). Look for more information in the Sunday bulletins and welcome folders found in the pews about new groups that are developing, as well as announcements regarding dates and times for all groups.

If you have a particular interest or idea that could be the seed to start a new group, let someone from the small groups planning team know (Gayle Barney - traveltwins@aol.com; Rachel Cunningham - rachel@browndowntown.org; David Lascu - dmlascu@aol.com; and Bonnie and Elden Schneider - bonnieeldens@verizon.net). They will help you grow an idea into an opportunity for others with similar interests to gather with you. ♦



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:

- Met with member Dr. Betsy Nix, Associate Professor of History at the University of Baltimore, to consider how we as a church could approach our 150th anniversary in 2020. In addition to sharing historic maps of our neighborhood (including its place in “redlining” practices), she helped us think about how to include humility and honesty in the real stories of our history. Our anniversary is an opportunity to know our history, which, in turn, helps us understand how God moves in our community in the past, present and future. Note: The anniversary celebration will begin in January 2020. Reaffirmed our commitment to posting the “Welcome Immigrants” banner in the front yard. This proclaims that we are the welcoming community we strive to be. “We can’t not exclaim who we are,” summed up the feeling on this.
- Received reports from the Emergency Preparedness Task Force, which is considering how to help the church be prepared to respond to emergencies (e.g., medical, fire, weather, or intruder). Mike Reed (chair), Kelsie Riegel Morgan, Bill Sheridan and Jonathan Hensley are on this group.
- Received reports from the new Facilities Use Task Force, which is updating the 2010 guidelines on how church members, community groups and other individuals can use our facilities. David Nyweide (chair), David

Miller, Diane Hodges and Rachel Cunningham are on this group.

- Approved request from Light Street Presbyterian to serve as an official “Partner Congregation” for the purpose of supporting Light Street’s seed grant from the denomination as a New Worshipping Congregation.
- Endorsed and signed the three-year Partnership Agreement between Brown Memorial and the Cuban Presbyterian Reformed Church in Camajuani. Brown’s delegation to the church in Camajuani, Cuba, in February returned with a partnership agreement signed in Cuba by Pastor Marielys Cabera. This is a statement of what we believe and what we covenant together to do (e.g., pray, learn, communicate, share faith, visit at least once a year, participate in the life and mission of our churches in their contexts).
- Adopted the Sabbatical-Acting Head of Staff Responsibilities for Michele Ward as presented for May through August while Andrew Foster Connors observes 16 weeks of sabbatical.
- Authorized Brown Memorial’s Immigration Outreach Team to use the David Uriah Fund (a separate social justice fund that accepts contributions to support social justice causes or projects) to help defray out-of-pocket costs of Baltimore Immigration Transit Assistance (BITA) volunteers who meet Greyhound buses several times/week to provide welcome, hospitality, snacks, water, cell phone use, diapers, etc. to immigrants passing through our city.

Join the Next Delegation to Cuba

The Cuba mission team is beginning the process of organizing a delegation to visit our sister church in Camajuani during the first quarter of next year. We have proposed two possible trip dates to our Cuban partners: January 16-24 or March 19-24. If we were to move forward with a January trip, deposits and materials required to solicit visas would be due in late September. For a March trip, that deadline would be in early December.

We encourage you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider joining the delegation. Although Spanish language abilities are helpful, they are not required. Our Cuban partners have a spirit of hospitality that would make anyone from Brown feel welcome there. **If you have questions or are interested in possibly joining the delegation, please feel free to contact Jody Shaw at jodyshaw@gmail.com.**

Welcome New Members



Reginald Carroll

Reginald grew up in Baltimore and was raised by his grandmother until age 9 when she died. From that point on he was essentially on his own, in and out of prison for a total of 26 years—the longest term was 17 years. While in prison, he was baptized and five years ago Reginald sang with “The Bible Boys” quartet which traveled throughout Maryland and Delaware singing in various churches. He found Brown Memorial through a childhood friend, Franklin Witcher, who was also a friend of Brown Memorial. Franklin had recently been released from prison and needed a place to live so Reginald offered to share his apartment with him. A recent diagnosis with ALS has prompted him to deal with issues of mortality as well as his history with drug addiction and recovery. At Brown Memorial, he has found a community which offers him strength and support toward his life goals.



Bruce Curtis & Tracy Lingo

Bruce and his wife Tracy grew up in the same church in Annandale, VA, (at slightly different times). Nudged into their first conversation by an online dating app that matched them while Bruce was visiting from Austin, they moved to Baltimore in 2013 and got married the next year. Virginia burst onto the scene in 2016. After five years’ work on their home in Reservoir Hill, there is now less to be done on it than when they began. Bruce’s career path has led him through international development, Braille publishing, education and technology in Sri Lanka, Washington, Haiti, Boston and Austin before focusing on construction for the past decade. He is now excited to be joining George Brown at Greenleaf Construction! Bruce has been an active member of both UCC and Presbyterian churches, particularly in Austin, where he served as an elder and chair of the facilities team. Visiting a number of churches in Baltimore, Bruce found himself comparing them all to Brown’s progressive theology/traditional style, community outreach and gifted music and preaching. Brown was the natural choice.



Kathy Kaneda

Kathy is a transfer member from Pine Street Presbyterian Church (USA) in Harrisburg, PA, where she served as Deacon, Chancel and Bell Choir Member, Stephen Minister, and served on many mission trips and assisted with the Downtown Daily Bread. Kathy moved to Baltimore in 2014 as a newlywed to Keith Kaneda (a former 7th grade classmate) who is now retired from Johns Hopkins. She is a music teacher for Baltimore County Schools and has been a volunteer for the Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary Choir Camp at Brown, performed in the Brown Handbell Choir and Brown Symphony Orchestra. Kathy feels having Brown as a spiritual home fosters a sense of identity and belonging to something outside of herself. She has found several members at Brown who understand her spiritual journey, providing an invaluable connection to a church community. Kathy looks forward to being involved in volunteer work which, for her, expands her learning and spiritual growth. Kathy enjoys music, creating greeting cards, teaching, the outdoors, cooking, decorating and reading.



Peter Kirschgraber & Lisa Logan

Lisa and Peter have called Baltimore home since 1997. Lisa was born in Bergen County, NJ, and lived all over the U.S. before moving to England for high school. Now a pathologist at Mercy Medical Center, Lisa's an avid reader, and recently took up knitting. Peter, a native of Buffalo, is a writer and editor, and serves on the board of Itineris, an organization that supports adults with autism. He's also learning Spanish and producing short videos for OCHO, a medical nonprofit that works in Honduras. They have two sons—Noah, 21, is currently in the Single Step program at CCBC; Aidan, 19, is wrapping up freshman year at Oberlin College.

Lisa and Peter feel fortunate to have found a new spiritual home at Brown. They were attracted by the lush, gorgeous liturgical music and by the preaching—heartfelt, illuminating and profound, but always tethered to daily life. They appreciate the congregation's work for peace, social justice and environmental restoration. Both are members of the meditation circle and have begun working with the Green Team, the immigration committee and the Cuba partnership. Peter just joined the Soulful Revue.



Yvette Matthews

Yvette joined the Chancel Choir in 2015, bringing 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 southeast 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.

After graduating from Coppin State, Yvette began teaching at Oliver Cromwell Elementary School #74 in east Baltimore. She loved teaching and was good at it. But God had another plan for her life. Yvette went to a choir rehearsal at St. James Episcopal Church Lafayette Square with a classmate to meet the new

director, Maurice Murphy. He was teaching the "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten to a group of middle and high school girls. She took a folder of music, sat in the back of the room, and stayed for the next 37 years, raising her daughters there. Maurice Murphy went on to mentor her singing career. Now, in the sixth decade of her life, she feels God is not finished with her yet. She cannot express how grateful she is to be here at Brown Memorial where she has been accepted just as she is and where it is a joy to use her gift to worship God.



Elizabeth Nash & Salvatore Pappalardo

Elizabeth, Salvatore and their daughter Penelope moved to Baltimore from Philadelphia in 2014, and Veronica joined the family shortly thereafter. After trying out a few neighborhoods in Baltimore, they recently settled in Guilford, just north of the Johns Hopkins University Homewood campus. Salvatore grew up in Germany and Italy and came to the United States 13 years ago. He is a professor of English and Comparative Literature at Towson University. Elizabeth is an urban planner specializing in community development and mapping and works at a Benefit Corp in Philadelphia. Penelope is a

first grader at Midtown Academy, a public charter school in Bolton Hill. Veronica is in Pre-K at the Wilkes School in Mount Vernon. The Nash-Pappalardo family found Brown Memorial after a long search of Philadelphia and Baltimore churches and were drawn to the family-friendliness and social justice focus of Brown. You may recognize the family as they love to bike to church in the warm weather!



Brad & Suzannah Norris

Brad and Suzannah met 10 years ago at a friend's wedding in Chicago, and they started a long distance relationship, Suzannah in Baltimore and Brad in the Windy City. Within two months of very long phone calls, they were engaged, and they were married just eight months later, with Brad relocating to Baltimore to start their life together. Suzannah has a master's degree in music education and teaches in Baltimore City Schools,

as well as at the American Kodaly Children's Chorus, and regularly provides Music Together Classes for infants. Brad is the Executive Director for Cohesion Theatre Company, which he co-founded five years ago. He also works part-time as Production Manager in CCBC's Performing Arts Department. Together they have three sons, Isaac (7), Gideon (5) and Silas (2). Though they come from different faith backgrounds (Presbyterian and Baptist) they have found deep connection through God's presence in their lives. They have looked for a church family in Baltimore to call home for a few years now, and are excited about getting connected to the community at Brown and to serve the city of Baltimore together through faith.



Brittany & Caleb Soeun

Brittany and Caleb both graduated with honors from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2015 and got married shortly after. They moved to Maryland two years ago. Brittany is a licensed social worker in the state of Maryland and Caleb is a Nuclear Engineer. They both currently work at the Nuclear Ship

Savannah. They have a dog named Aphra who is 3 and a half. Brittany is currently going back to school for nursing and Caleb is working on learning different skills to renovate a home. They enjoy hiking, backpacking, reading and spending time together. They are very excited to start this new chapter with a new church family.



Harry & Carey Thomasian

Harry and Carey have been married for 30 years, having lived in Charlotte, North Carolina, San Jose, California, and Tokyo, Japan, prior to their move to Baltimore County in 2005. They moved into the Homeland neighborhood in Baltimore City in 2017 as they were becoming empty nesters. Their two children, Elizabeth and Harry III, live in Baltimore and Arlington, VA, respectively. Harry is a partner at Ernst and Young and Carey is a community volunteer, currently involved with three organizations in the city focusing on literacy (Brown Memorial Tutoring among them). She is also the Secretary of the Homeland Association Board of Directors. Harry is also active in the community, currently serving on the Board of Directors for The YMCA of Central Maryland

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Sabbatical Summer

Andrew Foster Connors is currently on a sabbatical that has taken him to Massachusetts, France, Norway and back to Maryland. He returns to Brown Memorial on August 25.



Andrew in Norway.

"Human beings are never more fully human than when they give themselves to God. God is never more fully God than when God gives Godself to human beings."

This paraphrase of Irenaeus, one of the early "Church Fathers," serving and writing during the 2nd century, hit me in a profound way one morning in the rolling hills of the Taizé community in southeastern France. Perhaps the thrice daily prayer had opened me in a new and different way, as I joined thousands of mostly youth from all over Europe kneeling each day, our singing drawing us deeper into the mystery of the self-giving God of Jesus Christ each day.

Or perhaps it was the conversations I entered into each day with travelers from Finland, the Netherlands, Germany, the United States, France and Peru who made up my small group. Maybe it was the conversation I enjoyed one morning with a bunk mate, Peter, a German middle-aged man who had bicycled with his buddies on their annual trek to Taizé. Peter shared with me that he is not a church-goer but started a Bible study that now meets weekly. Hmmm, I told him, "That sounds suspiciously like a church to me."

Whatever the reason, Taizé had a profound impact on me in both centering and disruptive ways. I was moved by the convictions of the founder (the late Brother Roger) that Taizé should avoid becoming too permanent. His rationale was both practical and theological. Young people are less attracted to permanent institutions, he

reasoned, because there is no space for their ideas, their thoughts, their struggles and their dreams. Furthermore, the people of God have always been a wandering people, called out from slavery, or home to God's promises, or to travel two by two with few provisions SO THAT they (we) might pay attention to the way God is always meeting us along the journey. So committed was Brother Roger to this vision that the summer after the completion of the first permanent church building on the property, they tore down the front wall of the church and its newly installed stained glass windows to make room for more young people. Tents were set up outside the demolished wall welcoming more.

I could go on and on about the structure, program and rhythm of daily prayer at Taizé and the way all of this impacts the "team building" research that I've been up to—and I will! But for now, it is sufficient to say that my well was renewed in that space, and I found the courage to face some important spiritual and personal work in my own life. For that I am grateful. From Taizé I traveled to Paris for some magical days at the Louvre, the Orsay, the Eiffel Tower and Montmartre, just to name some highlights, then flew to Oslo to be reunited with Kate, Anna and Aidan. While I have tried to stay off social media during the sabbatical, I simply could not resist posting a few photos and videos to Facebook. (Anyone is welcome to friend me at any time!)

Our family loves the outdoors and hiking has always brought to us a particular joy. We were blessed by time in Kristiansand (where Kate's great, great-grandparents

emigrated from to Minnesota), as well as a few iconic hikes in the southern part of Norway. We flew to Lofoten, an archipelago above the Arctic Circle where we hiked some extraordinary mountains. Norwegians, we quickly learned, have a much higher tolerance for danger than Americans and typically downplay the severity of most hikes. “You probably won’t need ropes” quickly translated for us into, “If you fall from certain spots you will die. Be careful.”

The sun never disappeared in Lofoten and we enjoyed the beauty of this region. From there we flew south to Trondheim where we were hosted by some old family friends who we pressured into political conversations beyond the polite boundaries offered to us by most Norwegians. A few highlights—“Bernie Sanders looks like a conservative to most Norwegians.” And in response to our insistence to hear a few Norwegian views of Americans—“You drive everywhere! Why does no one walk?”

We then joined the Jenkins family for an epic hike through the Jotunheimen National Park where Norway’s highest peaks rise toward the heavens. One of the things we learned as a family is that we do not have to do everything the same way everyday, everytime. Some of us are, “Let’s get to the top of this mountain, rain, sleet, or snow,” while others of us are more mindful practitioners, enjoying the journey. There were ample moments to be shared and others to be enjoyed individually or in smaller groups. In fact, sometimes time apart is needed to facilitate time together. I continue to reflect on what

this means for team building more broadly.

Our last days were spent in Bergen and Oslo, Norway’s second largest and largest cities respectively. In between we enjoyed the “Norway in a Nutshell” journey that included a bus drive down an impossible series of mountain switchbacks, a ferry ride across one of Norway’s largest fjords, and the old Bergen railway, a mountain stretch of rail built by hand in the 1940s.


Home again, I am shifting toward the integration phase of the sabbatical, reflecting, writing and reading each day. All of that continues to be shaped by daily prayer and important family conversations that are proving decisive for this part of my vocational and life journey. I continue to hold much love and gratitude in my heart for our congregation and for this incredible opportunity. ♦





August Birthdays

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

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

PICTURE PAGE



(Top) Michele Ward and Ian Munds interact with young campers at the annual Soaring Eagles Learning Camp at Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary in June. (Bottom) Participants of the Eutaw-Marshburn Choir Camp in July.

Welcome New Members

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and CenterStage. Harry is originally from Boston and Carey is originally from Greenville, Mississippi. They met while working together in Charlotte. Harry was raised in the Presbyterian Church and Carey was raised as a Southern Baptist. They have both been active members of Presbyterian churches since being married. They are joining Brown Memorial via letter of transfer from Towson Presbyterian Church, where they both served on the Session. Harry and Carey enjoy traveling and Harry spends a lot of time on the golf course when the weather is warm. They are looking forward to getting to know more Brown members and finding additional ways to serve the community. ♦

Brown Memorial Tutoring Program Celebrating a Successful Year

by Martha Socolar, Tutoring Program Director

As I write this, Amy Munds (Tutoring Program Assistant Director) and I are sitting outside at the Park Café enjoying some iced tea and reflecting on a whirlwind of a year. It's hard for us to believe that we accomplished the seemingly insurmountable task of packing our entire program, moving into the temporary home at the Church House, only to then pack again and move into our beautifully renovated tutoring space.

All the while, our 75 fabulous tutors continued to provide exceptional reading intervention for 88 students! We are pleased to report that 92 percent of our students made documented progress and 26 percent of those jumped at least two reading grade levels.

We capped off the year with a joyous celebration attended by over 200 people, including students, families and tutors. We shared a delicious meal, laughed heartily with our circus clown entertainer and smiled with pride as we listened to the children sing our song of the year composed by our very own Debby Phinney.

After enjoying a quick breather, Amy and I will be excited to begin the 2019-2020 tutoring year. Believe it or not, preparations have already begun! Stay tuned for information on how you can get involved. ♦



September Birthdays

09/01	Catherine Sewell
09/02	Monica Rakowski
09/02	Mary Randall
09/02	Gregory Trimble
09/03	Hilda Imhoff
09/04	James E. Cox
09/04	Ang Robinson
09/08	Amy Dahl
09/09	Nicole Mitchell
09/11	Kathy Arnold
09/10	Azra Sara Bartell
09/10	Jacqueline L. Cole
09/10	Micheline McManus
09/12	Alex Norton
09/12	Susan Stroupe
09/13	Emma Fesperman
09/14	John Burton
09/14	Youngmi Organ
09/16	Nannette Mitchell
09/16	Karen Nelson
09/16	Jody Shaw
09/16	Linell Smith
09/18	Amy Munds
09/20	Trevor Bishai
09/21	Kirk Fulton
09/22	Lynn Clippinger
09/22	Dylan Smith
09/24	Luke Clippinger
09/24	Barbara Hull Francis
09/24	Ed Richardson
09/25	Jack Burton
09/25	Mia Davis
09/25	Sabine Davis
09/25	Grace Peng
09/26	Salvatore Pappalardo
09/28	Keiffer Mitchell, Jr.
09/28	Donna Senft
09/28	Jim Veatch
09/29	Elizabeth Garcia-Bunuel
09/29	Lisa Hoffberger



BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City
and the World*

The New Church Year
Begins Sunday Sept. 8

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

Every Sunday, "MOTHRAA" Meditation on the Hill Reading Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 p.m. Church House parlor. A meditation/AA big book study style meeting open to anyone, whether or not one identifies 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 AI Anon Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Church House Parlor. Open to family and friends of problem drinkers.

Aug. 25, Soulful Revue Sunday, 10 a.m. Join us for our end of summer worship tradition featuring the music of the Soulful Revue music ensemble.

Aug. 25, Tri-Church End of Summer Youth Pool Party, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Bolton Hill Swim and Tennis, 1120 Park Avenue.

Aug. 25, Theology on Tap Summer Fun, 1 p.m. Full Tilt Brewery, 5604 York Rd. Enjoy an afternoon of board games and brew.

Sept. 8, Welcome Back Sunday, 11 a.m. See page 1 for details.

Sept. 15, Lunch & Ignite Talks, 12:15 p.m. Assembly Room. Join us for lunch following worship where we'll hear from several members about their summer adventures in Ignite format - short presentations accompanied by visual images.

Sept. 19, 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 information about location and to confirm dates.

Sept. 21, All Church Retreat, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Assembly Room. This year we are taking advantage of our newly renovated space to come together for food, fun and fellowship. Andrew will take part of the time to share about his sabbatical adventures. We'll close out the day with our Quiz Night tradition.

Sept. 21-22, Youth Lock-In, 9 p.m. Assembly Room. After the All Church Retreat, we'll turn the place over to Michele Ward for a youth lock-in.

Sept. 22, David & Goliath Dinner Gathering, 4:30-7 p.m. This is a monthly dinner gathering for parents and children. Parents participate in a Bible study following dinner while children have activities of their own with Rachel and Tida from the church nursery. Contact Rachel Cunningham, rachel@browndowntown.org, for more information, including location.

Tidings

*Good News from Brown
Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church*

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Associate Pastor

Jennifer Michael,
Editor

Submit Tidings articles to
jmichael@browndowntown.org.
Due dates this year: **Sept. 10**
(Oct./Nov. issue), **Dec. 1** (Jan./Feb.
issue), **Feb. 10** (Mar./Apr. issue),
Apr. 10 (May/June/July issue)

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