



2021

# Annual Report



## — OUR MISSION —

Emboldened by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, we strive to bear witness to the reconciling love of God by nurturing an inclusive community, wrestling with Scripture and tradition, and working for justice and peace.

# Ministry Staff Message

*2021 was a mixed year for Brown Memorial.*

Being honest about it gives us the best chance of facing our current situation with courage and compassion for ourselves and others in our community. There is much to be thankful for including the fact that our community, at its foundations, continues to demonstrate all kinds of stability and strength. We are blessed with so much in the way of resources — intellectual, financial, and spiritual; resources that are directly attributable to the commitment of so many of you who give yourselves freely to God's ministry and mission through the church. Leadership of our congregation continues to dig in across so many different aspects of the life of the church from the Return to Brown committee which continues to help us navigate our transitions in and through the pandemic, to the Anti-Racism Steering Committee, to the 150th Anniversary Committee which produced an incredible Stories of Hope and Faith book and a successful celebration of our 150th Anniversary in the middle of trying times. A new Christian Ed community worked tirelessly around a new Sunday morning schedule and then shifted completely when the pandemic returned with a vengeance. Worship has taken us on all kinds of journeys through faith that connects with our current times and struggles — from Democracy and Faith in January to the Habits of Faith Stewardship series culminating in a successful capital campaign which met our goal of \$600,000 just before the printing of this report! The Green team has plowed ahead with all kinds of opportunities to assist in the healing of God's good earth while the music ministry has demonstrated heroic efforts in bringing all kinds of music making back into the sanctuary and then out of it again as conditions dictated.

We've also struggled, most notably with attendance, in all areas of the life of our church particularly in education with children and youth. Our staff and leadership have gone above and beyond trying all kinds of approaches beginning with zoom Sunday School then shifting to recorded lessons for families with young children whose schedules have been completely upended, then finally to outdoor Sunday School this past fall. Several rounds of intentional listening underscored the fact that many families have been pushed beyond the edges of their margins, both in terms of

their tolerance for covid risk (when most children were vaccine ineligible), and in terms of their time and energy. While zoom has been an invaluable tool for the church, it's also not the ideal environment for children. All of us are sick of zoom, but some have had as much as they can take.

The larger church continues to struggle with meaningful connections beyond our gatherings for worship. Our very well attended church picnic at the end of the summer demonstrated our hunger for connection, alongside a congregational climate survey which revealed some important fissures in the fabric of our connection. Our annual stewardship campaign hasn't yet reached its goal. Early information suggests that while most families have increased their giving, the numbers of people who are giving is slightly down.

All of these challenges make sense, given the reality of where we are in the world. And while we continue to try various approaches of engagement, there is also the reality that no program, discipline, or activity that we create together can change the underlying reality of the trauma that we are all living through to various degrees. Together we can process the significance of this time in history together and find spiritual resources to cope as we work through it, but processing and coping will, in the end, be less than satisfying to a congregation that actively seeks ways to transform the world around us, not just adapt to it.

And yet, as Andrew shared in a recent sermon, all of the adapting and flexing that we have practiced together in the last couple of years may also be strengthening muscles that we need the most to face not only the current situation, (I think) the ongoing democratic instability and changes to the climate that are part of our future missional reality. The pre-pandemic church wasn't as prepared to meet these challenges as we are today and will be tomorrow.

The real question, then, for the coming year is how do we care for ourselves and each other in the face of so much overwhelming anxiety, trauma, and personal and public turmoil? While the staff doesn't have the answers, we do have some food for thought and conversation that we hope to process with you and



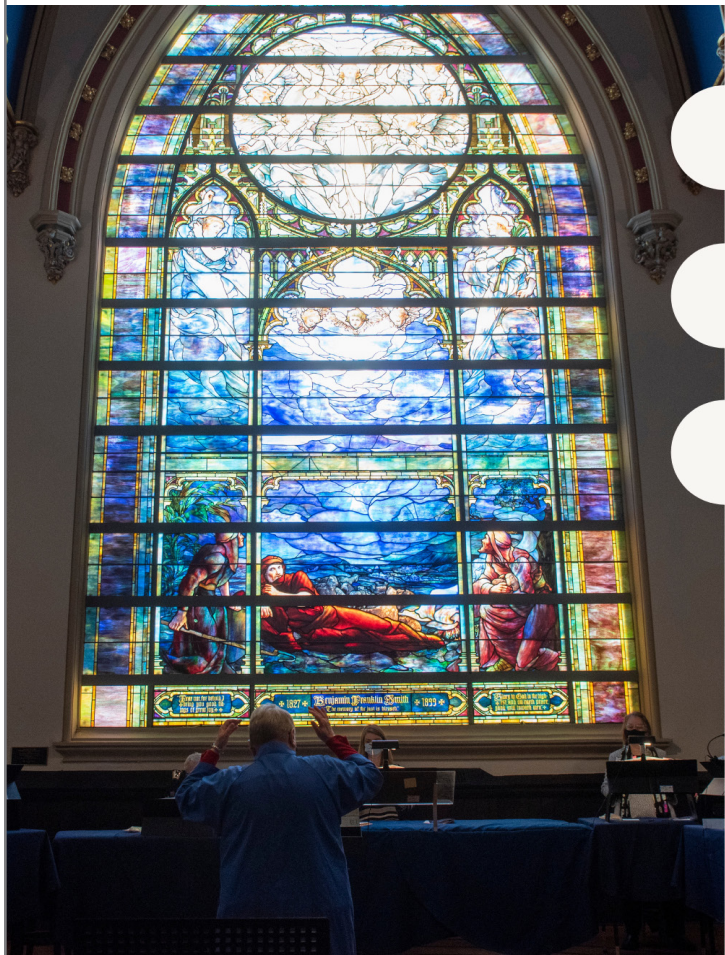
# Ministry Staff Message *Continued from Page 1*

with leaders from our congregation on Sunday, January 30 during the education hour and beyond. The first is to be attentive to your own need for rest, safety, and compassion. What relationships do you need in your own life and how might you reorganize your time to make sure you are taking steps to prioritize those needs? This compassionate stance toward yourself will put you in a better position to extend compassion for others in your life including fellow church members who are likely struggling in their own ways which may be similar or different from you. Finally, what do you need from your church and what kind of energy and time would you enjoy sharing in order to make this a reality for you alongside others? The church, after all, is not a business that extends products to consumers. It's not a nonprofit program created to assist particular groups of people. It is the people of God — the body of Christ —formed and shaped by members who are connected to one another through the grace of God.

As your staff we share many of our community's frustrations in surviving this pandemic. We have learned ourselves what it means to redefine success at a time when so much is outside of our control. We remain committed to working together to create the kind of spiritual depth and community connections that we can while accepting limitations outside of our control. We hope to see many of you on January 30 when we take stock of where we are, celebrate what we've been able to accomplish together, and look forward to the coming year.

Brown Memorial Ministry Staff

Andrew Connors, Senior Pastor  
Michele Ward, Associate Pastor  
Rachel Cunningham, Christian Educator  
Michael Britt, Minister of Music



# CHURCH LIFE

## *throughout the months of 2021*

### WORSHIP THEMES

- Democracy and Faith Series (January)
- Again and Again Lent Series (February/March)
- Sacred Ground Environmental Series (April/May)
- Habits of Faith Stewardship Series (October/November)
- Close to Home Advent Series (December)

### ADULT EDUCATION TOPICS

- Lectionary Bible Studies led by Tom & Taylor Stewart
- Pandemic & Suffering led by Matt Taylor
- Race, Caste, Brown, Baltimore led by Tom & Taylor Stewart and the Anti-Racism Steering Committee
- Brown Memorial's Activism — Then and Now panel discussions with various members including: China Boak Terrell, Luke Clippenger, Michael Reed, and Elizabeth Reichelt
- Art That Honors God reflection on our stained glass windows led by Jim Schuman
- "A Wilderness Like Eden - Stories of Food & Faith" documentary screening with Derrick Weston.

### YOUTH

- Care packages delivered door to door and also by mail during the pandemic for Lent and Advent
- Youth elders and youth group members led the congregation in the first ever Zoom only Youth Sunday with a pre-recorded sermon by youth elders Liam McConnell, Joseph Reichelt, and Yari Armand.
- Confirmation Sunday 2021 was our first Sunday back in 2021 with confirmation students and their family since we stopped worshipping in person in March 2020. What a special way to come back!
- Youth group took place on Zoom in the winter and spring, outside in the spring and summer, and back on the church campus in the fall.

### CHILDREN

- Zoom Sunday School — 30 minutes of fellowship, Bible lessons, and games (Jan-May, Sept)
- Children's Faith Formation for Pandemic Times — weekly email with Bible Story videos and activity pages. (Jan-May)
- Outdoor Sunday School (Oct-Nov) — Sunday School moved outdoors to allow for in-person gathering
- Tween Fridays — New monthly outdoor fellowship gathering for 3rd-5th graders with Miss Rachel & Pastor Michele (Sept-Dec)

### PANDEMIC CONNECTIONS

- Small groups like the Mid-Week Bible Study, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Literature & Faith, and the Mid-Week Prayer Service continued gathering via Zoom.
- Theology on Tap returned this fall to a new location — Guilford Hall Brewery
- Lent in a Box take home materials for the congregation



## Church Life *Continued from Page 4*

- Outdoor Summer Activities including kayaking in the Inner Harbor, hiking the Gunpowder Falls followed by a swim in an old fashioned swimming hole, and a church barbeque at Lake Roland
- Storm Drain Art Workshop
- COVID-19 Booster Clinic

### GREEN TEAM PROJECTS

- Watershed Canoe Cleanups at Waterfront Park
- Courtyard improvements including stormwater cisterns and native plants funded by a Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant
- Rocks N Rows Charity Garden tools, supplies, and renovations funded by a Commission on Reconciliation Grant and Myers Foundation Grant
- Rocks N Rows Charity Garden grew hundreds of pounds of produce

### TUTORING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- After a year of Zoom learning the Tutoring Program returned to in-person tutoring this fall
- 41 tutors serve 54 students Monday-Thursday from three local schools — Mt. Royal Elementary, Dorothy I. Height, and Baltimore Montessori.
- Martha Socolar continues to lead the program as Director.
- In May, Tracy Cerrato became the first Development Director.
- In August, Assistant Director, Amy Munds retired and moved to London.
- Molly Higgins joined the team in July to become the new Assistant Director.



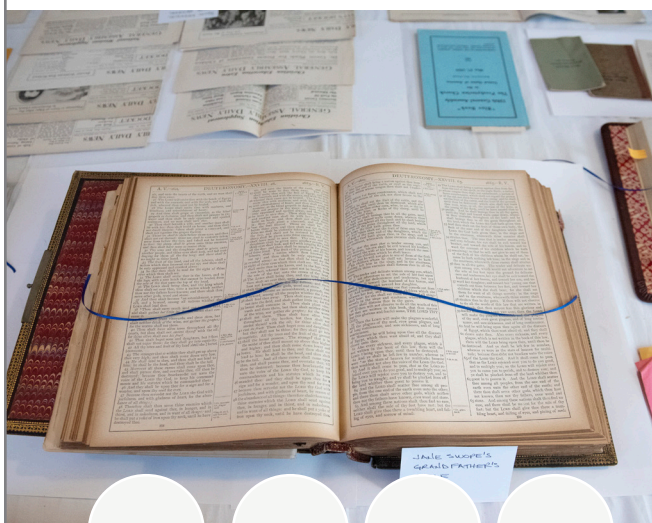


# 150 ANNIVERSARY

## *Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church Re-Dedication*

On December 5, 2021 we marked the end of our 150th year on the corner of Park and Lafayette Avenues. The Celebration began at 9:30 a.m. with the creation of a time capsule which is now housed in the columbarium for future generations to open and learn about our past and present. The worship service that morning at 11 a.m. featured music from the very first service of worship in 1870, highlights from our recently published, *Stories of Hope and Faith*, and music from our Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Soulful Revue. We celebrated the second Sunday of Advent that day as well as communion.

Following the worship service, members, friends and visitors were invited to explore some of Brown Memorial's history displayed in the church house, the assembly room and the chancel. Emily Davidson, archivist at T. Rowe Price, donated an in-service day to Brown Memorial in order to set up the exhibit in the Speers Room in the Church House, and we appreciate her time and expertise. Light refreshments, aligned with COVID safety protocols, were served. Later, in the afternoon at 4 p.m., a special music concert was held at the Christadelphian Chapel located in Catonsville, Maryland. The Chapel houses Brown Memorial's original pipe organ (1870) built by Hall and Labagh in New York City.









# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES 2021

## 50 YEARS AND MORE

- John Burton
- Lynda Burton
- Juliette Hanks
- Hilda Imhoff
- Margaret (Peggy) Obrecht
- J. Courtland Robinson
- Sally S. Robinson

## 45 YEARS

- Paul Dagdigan

## 40 YEARS

- June Carr
- David Rollison

## 35 YEARS

- Robert (Bob) Babb
- Karen Nelson
- Cynthia (Cyndi) Tift

## 30 YEARS

- Cheryl Finney
- Stewart Finney

## 25 YEARS

- Nichole (Nicki) Artes
- Barbara Cates
- Rachel Cunningham
- Patricia (Patti) Flowers-Coulson
- Carol Newill

## 20 YEARS

- Andrew (Andy) Johnston
- Kerry Johnston
- Elena Kirkpatrick Mills

## 15 YEARS

- Brantley Davis
- Barbara Hull Francis
- Lisa Hoffberger
- Robert (Rob) Marshall
- Henry Taylor

## 10 YEARS

- Deborah (Deb) Baer
- James Cavallon
- Julian Finney
- Susan Flanigan
- William (Will) Fletcher-Hill

- Lucille McCarthy
- Eva McNabney
- Hannah Munds
- Joyce (Joy) Price
- Michael (Mike) Reed
- Patrick Riorda
- Stephen Ruckman
- Jair Williams

## 5 YEARS

- Manuel Alvarez
- Christine Calderon
- Omar Calderon
- Amy Dahl
- Matthew Dahl
- Darrell Glaser
- Roberta (Robbie) Health
- Lynn Heller
- Thomas (Tom) Ingelsby
- Kelly Knock
- Ryan Moran
- Tida Nelson





# CLERKS REPORT

## NOTEWORTHY

In 2021 the congregation continued to worship via the Zoom online platform each Sunday morning until late May, when hybrid services began.

## BAPTISMS

- March 14, 2021 Isabella Jane Rainey, daughter of Gillian & Justin Rainey
- March 21, 2021 Titus Alexander Soeun, son of Britany & Caleb Soeun
- May 16, 2021 Natalie Kelly (youth baptized during confirmation), daughter of Maureen and Sam Kelly
- May 16, 2021 Ella Palmer (youth baptized during confirmation), daughter of Amy Bonitz Palmer and Addison Palmer
- June 13, 2021 Meike Schlieff
- June 20, 2021 Christopher Kelly Arnold, son of Anne & Judson Arnold
- June 20, 2021 Crawford Travis Clark, son of Amanda & Travis Clark
- November 14, 2021 Brian David Boles, Jr., son of Whitney & Brian Boles
- November 21, 2021 Sloane Alice Stieff, daughter of Elizabeth & Clinton Stieff. Blair Victoria Stieff, daughter of Elizabeth & Clinton Stieff

## YOUTH CONFIRMATIONS

Cecelia Reichelt, Claire Inglesby, Ella Palmer, Karoon Armand, Mia Davis, Natalie Kelly, and Sabine Davis.

## NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Marks, Mary Peeler, and Louise Wagner on January 10. Clinton Stieff on November 21.

## WEDDINGS OFFICIATED BY REV. ANDREW

**CONNORS** Heidi Lee David & Joseph Patrick Francella on June 25, 2021 at BMPA. Christa Marie Carlton & Fraser Ridgely Dachille on October 8, 2021

at BMPA. Nora Wilhelmina Conklin & Adam Orvis Tobin on August 29, 2021.

## WEDDINGS OFFICIATED BY REV. MICHELE

**WARD** Mallory Clites and Mikhail Kluev, Paul Povolock Memorial Park, September 18, 2021. Ashley Henry and Hakim McMillian, Annapolis, MD, October 16, 2021.

## DEATH OF MEMBERS

Martha Jane Thomas May 4, Reginald Carroll July 2, and Ernest Imhoff December 1.

**ELDERS** Gayle Barney, Liz Bowie, Jody Shaw, Laura Urban, and Andi Zumbrum completed their service as elders on Session. Other Session members in 2021 included: Al Fisher, Brad Norris, Amy Bonitz Palmer, Michael Reed, Bill Sheridan, Lyndsay Taylor, Vi Thorpe, and Rev. Michele Ward. Rev. Andrew Connors served as moderator. Laura Urban served as Clerk.

## YOUTH ELDERS

Aidan Connors and Joseph Reichelt.

## TRUSTEES

Barbara Christen, Christine Calderon, Bruce Curtis (co-chair), Beth Gregory, Kelly Knock, David Miller (co-chair), and Malinda Peebles served as Trustees.

## DEACONS

Kathy Arnold (co-chair), Page Campbell, Rachel Clark, Ryan Moran, and Eddie Satterfield completed their deacon service. Jim Cox, Rebecca Crew, Kathy Kaneda, and David Lascu (co-chair) also served as deacons.

## LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR FUND

Since April 2020, the congregation has contributed a total of \$63,324 to a dedicated fund to assist our neighbors in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Distributions have been made in 2021 to these recipients: BUILD/Turnaround Tuesday, Camajuani (Cuba) Presbyterian Church, Eutaw Marshburn Elementary School & community, Farm to Stoop Project, Meals on Wheels, No Boundaries Coalition, Our Daily Bread, Red Shed Village, North Avenue Mission, Sacred Heart Families in Need Fund, and Samaritan Community Financial Assistance Fund.

# MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

**RECITAL GIVEN** by Michael T. Britt in honor of the 90th anniversary of our 1931 Ernest M. Skinner Pipe Organ. The concert featured a commissioned work by Alfred V. Fedak entitled "Triptych". This event was hosted by Tom Hall. Colonel Peter Scott, the grandson of Ernest Skinner was in attendance and was interviewed.

Our 4 ½ octave set up **WHITE CHAPEL BELLS** were restored thanks to a generous donation by Chrystie and Doug Adams. Handbell Choir began rehearsals and will premiere a commissioned work by Wayne L. Wold in 2022 in honor of their restoration.

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR** began singing this past summer and began regular rehearsals in September for the weekly worship services.

**SOULFUL REVUE** led worship on October 17 in our sanctuary. In 2020 this annual event did not take place due to COVID.

**A HOLIDAY CONCERT** for organ and brass was presented on December 12 featuring a brass ensemble from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

**A CONCERT FEATURING** choristers/instrumentalists from the Brown Memorial Chancel Choir was given at the former Christadelphian Chapel in Catonsville, MD. The Chapel houses Brown Memorial's original organ which was built in 1870 by Hall and Labagh in New York City.

**ACKNOWLEDGED** the wonderful work of our staff singers and paid tribute to those who were moving on from their position on the music staff: Bailey Galindo, Claire Cooper, Lorenzo Zapata and Baajah Mohammed. This past fall we welcomed Elisheva Pront, Zoe Sheller, Katelynn Cherry, Joshua Coleman and Lachlan Miller to our music staff. Continued thanks for our soloists: Natanya Brennan, James Cox and Robert Tracy for their outstanding work in our music ministry. Baritone Lachlan Miller was hired thanks to a generous gift by Dr. John Burton and his family in honor of choir member Lynda Burton.





# OPERATING BUDGET

Approved by Session

	2022 Budget	2021 Actual	2021 Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>			
General Fund Pledges & Plate Income	630,000	606,904	651,500
Rent, Use, & Miscellaneous	15,022	16,229	13,831
Endowment Income & Draws	438,603	331,982	403,883
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,083,625</b>	<b>\$955,115</b>	<b>\$1,069,214</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>699,229</b>	<b>659,764</b>	<b>669,070</b>
Salaries, Housing Allowances, & Bonuses	503,160	471,373	474,250
Medical, D&D, & Retirement Benefits	145,009	143,164	140,630
Payroll Taxes & Workers Comp	38,660	36,793	41,790
Professional & Recruitment	12,400	8,435	12,400
<b>Education</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>15,758</b>	<b>23,500</b>
Children & Family	2,800	1,193	3,500
Junior & Senior High Youth	13,000	12,067	13,500
Christian Education	5,800	1,660	5,000
Adult Education	1,900	839	1,500
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>24,260</b>	<b>24,190</b>	<b>24,350</b>
Worship	6,200	7,533	6,200
Membership	2,600	609	3,100
Music Program	7,760	5,876	7,550
Diversity	500	500	500
Transportation	7,200	9,672	7,000
<b>Mission</b>	<b>91,406</b>	<b>88,285</b>	<b>92,892</b>
Brown Memorial Tutoring Program	38,632	38,632	38,632
General Mission	22,274	22,760	22,760
Global Mission	7,500	4,892	9,500
Urban Mission	23,000	22,000	22,000
<b>Operations</b>	<b>245,230</b>	<b>254,301</b>	<b>259,401</b>
Session	0	1,465	1,342
Communications	10,000	9,016	13,659
Office	35,508	37,020	37,600
Building	199,722	206,800	206,800
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,083,625</b>	<b>\$1,042,298</b>	<b>\$1,069,213</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-87,183</b>	<b>1</b>



1316 Park Avenue,  
Baltimore, MD, 21217. 410.523.1542.

*Alive in the City  
and the World*

## Clergy and Staff 2021

Andrew Connors: Senior Pastor  
Michele Ward: Associate Pastor  
Michael Britt: Minister of Music  
Rachel Cunningham: Christian Educator  
Sharon Holley: Administrative Assistant  
Sharon Lucas: Financial Administrator  
Keith Moore Sr: Facilities Manager  
Lisa Roca: Communications Consultant  
Anastasia Kupstas: Media Specialist  
Robert Tracy: Director of Children's Music  
Henry Owens: Custodian  
Martha Socolar: Tutoring Program Director  
Tracy Cerrato: Tutoring Development Director  
John Walker: Music Minister *Emeritus*

## Stay Connected

Websites:

Public: [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org)

Internal: [browndowntown.ccbchurch.com](http://browndowntown.ccbchurch.com)

Newsletters: (sign up at [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org))

Weekly E-Newsletter: *This Week @ Brown*

Bimonthly Print Newsletter: *Tidings*

Social Media

Public Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/BrowndowntownBaltimore](https://facebook.com/BrowndowntownBaltimore)

Brown Memorial Facebook Group:

Email [andrew@browndowntown.org](mailto:andrew@browndowntown.org)  
to be added.

