

THE HERALD



BROWN MEMORIAL
WOODBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the



The Rev. Dr. Scott Wilson, Interim Minister

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Pastor's Letter
- Mission News
- What's happening at Brown Memorial Woodbrook

Our puppy, Jack is a cross (we think) between a Beagle, and a Terrier. Maybe some other things as well. Whatever the breed(s), he does everything with enthusiasm. He treats each meal of ordinary dog food as if it were gourmet. He greets people with unconditional and sometimes unwelcome affection. Petting him is a contact sport. He plays tug of war with his toys as if the future of our household depended on the outcome.

Last year while engaging in some rough play, he opened up a tiny cut on the very tip of his ear. Every time we would put a bandage on it, he would shake his head so hard that the bandage would fly off. When that happened, tiny drops of blood would be sprayed around the walls, the floor, and the furniture, and us. It made our house look like a crime scene. So we had no choice but to take the poor fellow to the vet, where he was bandaged up, with one of those "Elizabethan collars" placed around his head to keep him from getting to the bandage.

For a whole week, Jack was depressed, unable to express his love for all things in the way he liked. Finally, when the bandages came off, and he returned to living life to the fullest, it occurred to me just how enthusiastic he really is. Before we rescued Jack, he was in a difficult situation, according to Washington Animal Rescue, the shelter who was caring for him. He was one of about 90 dogs being hoarded in a single location somewhere in Mississippi. Maybe that is why now even everyday things make him happy.

In the bleak midwinter, in our Arctic January, just maybe this is an example we can learn from.

The Puritans of old had an interesting saying: "God loveth adverbs." The author Philip Yancey writes about this attitude, and he says that what the Puritans meant by this is that a *holy life* is all about the way we approach our day - to - day tasks, regardless if they seem mundane and

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Intergenerational Ministry continued	2
Weekday School News	3
Leasing News	4
Mission	5
BMW most recent members	6
Happenings	10

Christian Education News

By Karen Bartell

Christmas Eve Pageant

The Christmas Eve Family Service with a pageant celebrating Jesus' birth included people from two to 80 years old participating. As the Christmas Story unfolded, participants joined the pageant. We truly had a multitude of angels of all ages and sizes, including two who came in their own costumes with wings. One small shepherd arrived with his own stuffed sheep. It was delightful to see him joining the pageant with his father and grandfather. Even a camel arrived with the Wise Ones. Some of the smaller angels were a bit skeptical of the camel. We even had a little "kitten" present for surely there was one hanging around the stable to keep control of the mice. As the final scriptures about the Wise Ones were read, we had nearly 30 people gathered around the manger. A special thank you to all who participated and helped make the old, old Christmas story come alive, once again. Our three narrators guided us smoothly through the story. The congregation of more than 100 people got strangely quiet as we lit candles and sang "Silent Night." at the close of the service. There will be a photo display of the Pageant, just outside the Sanctuary door.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your support
of the Assistance Center of Towson Churches.
Your help has brightened the lives of many in need!

Cathy Burgess, Executive Director



The renovation of the Speers Chapel has been underway for some time - with caulking windows, replacing tiles, as well as an engineering study of air conditioning of the chapel. The much-needed building improvements will make our chapel usable for more functions and will be more hospitable.

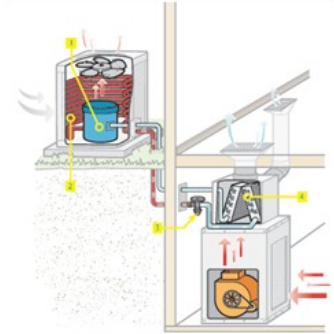
We are grateful to the team of members who have helped to plan the project but now we need to finish it. Our fund raising goal is \$36,000 to install the air conditioning.

Now it is time to secure your personal pledge of support.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider this opportunity, reflect on God's blessings, and support this growth project.

Giving is a spiritual adventure. The building improvements that we are making to our church will honor those who went before us and insure the future generations of the church.

We ask that you take up the challenge of deepening the mission of Christ carried out here at Brown Memorial Woodbrook.



Continued from cover

ordinary, or exciting and stimulating. Thomas Merton once remarked: "You can tell more about a monk by the way he uses a broom, than anything he says." *God loveth adverbs* because God cares about the *spirit* in which we live, even more than the concrete results. Do we connect our work, and our play, as well as our spiritual life to its source in God?

With what kinds of adverbs are we living our life with God? I like to remember the vows taken upon ordination, which are the same for Pastors as for Elders and Deacons, asked of our own Officers on January 11th: One of the last questions asked is "Will you serve...with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?" If *God loveth adverbs*, we might tweak those words just a little to ask, "Are you living energetically, intelligently, imaginatively, and lovingly?" That is what I would call living with enthusiasm – *en Theos* - in the Spirit of God!

See you Sunday!
Pastor Scott

NOTICE

**Annual Congregational Meeting is
scheduled for Sunday, January 8
immediately following worship.**

Speers Chapel

Have you ever visited Speers Chapel for a worship service, Youth Program, Adult Lecture in the past 50 years? Don't be embarrassed if the answer to that question is "No." Not many members have ever spent much time in the Chapel. When Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church was originally conceived, the Speers Chapel was thought of as a space for small, informal worship activities for groups up to 100. In actuality, our intimate informal space has never been a part of active programming or use. The space was leased to several outside religious groups as "temporary" worship homes until they were able to build or purchase permanent ones. Over the years this attractive space has been largely unused and forgotten. A few years ago the suggestion that removing the pews would provide for more flexible use, resulted in opening our eyes to all kinds of possibilities. Our biggest stumbling block to turning dreams into reality was the lack of air-conditioning which meant the room was unreliable for rental from April to September or October. KolHaLev has been interested in using this as their worship space for their Friday evening and Saturday morning services but the inconsistent temperatures has forced them to move to other rooms when the temperature rises.

In 2014 Session hired the Henry Adams Engineering firm to conduct an evaluation of our basic operating systems to include heating, cooling, electrical and plumbing. Their firm was part of the original team that built BMWPC. John Morrell will be presenting this report and their recommendations to the congregation. One of the instructions to the study group was our desire to move quickly with updating the Chapel as a stand-alone project, while we prioritized the rest of the recommendations.

The Leasing Committee has done the basic work of repairing, reglazing, cleaning and painting the windows and repairing the stained glass windows. In the process of removing the faded red carpeting, we discovered pristine oak flooring on the raised area. We quickly cancelled the new carpeting we had ordered and have repaired and polished the floor which glows in the sun—filled room. We have installed new cork on the unfinished concrete spaces and sanded/refinished the old cork tiles in an effort to make everything look new. Tom Rafael donated his time and labor to work on refinishing the old tile since we didn't own the equipment to sand the tiles and our budget didn't include the refinishing work. We will reuse the blue rug from Rehobeth Place, which miraculously fits beautifully into the Chapel. The blue rug and blue chairs emphasizes the blue in the stained glass.

We are now in the process of receiving estimates for cooling the Chapel, and we need your financial help in taking the next step to fulfill our dream of having a wonderful year round flexible meeting room. Estimates have been for \$36,000 although we hope to bring that lower as we explore various options. If you are looking for a worthy use of your giving for this year, we hope you will consider this as one. Please note on your check "Chapel Fund."

Elsie Wong, Chair of Leasing Committee



Turnaround Inc.—provides emergency shelter, counseling, community education, emergency room companions, legal services and a 24-hour hot line for victims of rape, domestic violence, children sexual assault and adult survivors of child sexual abuse. 410-377-8111. www.turnaround.org

WISH LIST

Nonperishable food items, diapers, hats, gloves, scarves, gift cards and gas cards, household cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper



Read how we became involved with the Habitat Project. The Uptown Metro Ministry Group includes pastors from our area.

Uptown Metro

Strengthening the McCabe Neighborhood Partnerships

The Uptown Metro Ministry Group continues to be actively involved with the McCabe Neighborhood in northern Baltimore City (just south of Govans Presbyterian) through Habitat for Humanity (H4H). H4H is currently at work to rehab more than 20 properties, offering the opportunity for individuals and families to own a home and thereby helping to anchor neighborhood revitalization. But we have always understood our commitment to this neighborhood as more than construction. The vision is that our engagement might contribute to the creation of a vibrant, safe, and mutually supportive neighborhood in a place that has been plagued by gangs, drug dealers, and decay.

Working with the McCabe Neighborhood Association and the Greater Homewood Community Corporation we have chosen to hire a community organizer to work directly with the neighborhood and to facilitate a more robust engagement of the churches in our ministry group. We are excited about this new level of commitment as a tangible way of living out the Gospel of loving neighbors.

The project's steering committee, comprised of pastors in the Uptown Metro Ministry Group, continues to meet at a monthly lunch for fellowship, planning, and support. We are seeking ways to bring ruling elders into leadership positions in the group as well.

ADULT ED – February 22 in chapel

Come for light lunch and to hear our former member Kelly Dale speak on her experiences and work.

She is back in Baltimore after 27 months in the Peace Corps in Benin where she served as a Rural Community Health Volunteer, where she creating and implementing projects with local community counterparts. She is currently working at Jhpiego as a Senior Program Coordinator for West and Central Africa. Jhpiego is an international, non-profit, health organization affiliated with Johns Hopkins. Her role is coordinating their programs related to malaria, maternal and child health, health systems strengthening, HIV/AIDS, etc. in Rwanda, Liberia, Nigeria and South Sudan.

THE CRAWLEY FAMILY



The Crawley family (Sarah, Tom, Anna and Evelyn) has enlivened life at Brown in more ways than one! Anna, age 5, and her sister, Evelyn, age 3, bring smiles to our faces with their enthusiastic participation in All God's Children time during worship. Sarah is a member of the Spiritual Growth and Nurture team and a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee as well, having previously served on the Ministry Assessment Committee. She also teaches Sunday School on a regular basis. Tom is our new Boy Scout Troop liaison (being an Eagle Scout himself) and a member of the Property Team.

Sarah, who was born in Louisiana, but raised primarily in New Jersey, received a BA from Bucknell University, an MA from Catholic University and a PhD from Temple University and is currently a psychologist at The Forbush School at Glyndon, which is part of Sheppard Pratt Hospital. Reading with her children and for pleasure is her hobby for now. Tom, a native of Pennsylvania, is a civil engineer and also graduated from Bucknell. He currently works for McLaren Engineering Group and enjoys reading and cooking. Their family has camped together and would welcome some church family camping in the future.

They began attending at the invitation of Ralph and Bobbie Cook, whose niece was their former pastor in Pennsylvania. Kudos to the Cooks.

THE GRAY FAMILY



Anileen and Selwin Gray are members who have joined in recently times, although it feels as though they have been part of Brown Woodbrook for much longer, considering their important contributions. Selwin is a Ruling Elder on Session, chairs the Property Team (and now seems to know every nook and cranny of our property) and was instrumental in the formation of the Community Garden on the Hill. He and Anileen are beekeepers and have shared their knowledge with the Week Day School as well.

The Grays traveled “across the pond” from South Africa to Canada and eventually made their way to Baltimore in 1996. Anileen teaches at St. Paul’s School, having received BS and MS degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics. Selwin, a geologist with an MBA, is employed by Cristal, a titanium mining company. Besides beekeeping, Anileen sews and quilts and Selwin sails as recreation. They have twins, Simon, who is studying medicine at Yale, and Frances, who is a pharmacist in Little Rock.

The Grays began attending Brown because they wanted to find a church where they could worship as a couple, feel welcome, and learn. We are so blessed to have them in our midst.

THE ALLSTON FAMILY



Our newest member, Sheelagh Allston, is the granddaughter of Francis O'Hara, a Presbyterian minister who left Northern Ireland in search of employment in the U.S. She began visiting Brown in 2013 and found, "a warm and friendly church." She joined in March 2014 and has become a member of the Administrative Team, offering her skills as a transactional law attorney.

Sheelagh, who was born and raised in New York City, received her undergraduate degree from her law degree from the University of Virginia and University of North Carolina School of Law. She is a partner at Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP. She is also on the board of Young Audiences of Maryland. Her husband, Adam, is an Epidemiologist at the District of Columbia Department of Health. Their children, Ayden and Chase, are welcome additions to the life of Brown as well. Ayden attends Roland Park Middle School and Chase attends West Towson Elementary. We look forward to their baptisms in the near future.

BOOKENDS

February 13th: The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd, a novel about slavery in the deep south and the intertwining lives of a white girl and her black slave girl.

March 13th: God's Hotel by Victoria Sweet, a doctor's remarkable journey to the essence of medicine.

April 10th: My Beloved World by Sonya Sotomayor, her amazing autobiography from poverty to Supreme Court

Everyone is welcome to join BookEnds discussions. We suggest reading the books we will be discussing first. We meet on the second Friday of each month, at 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact Ajax Eastman

410-323-2999 or

ajaxeast@msn.com

COMMON GROUND ON THE HILL

presents...

Southwestern Folk Troubadour

Teodoro "Ted" Ramirez

February 6, 2015

Ted Ramirez is the premier Southwest folksinger/songwriter, committed to telling the powerful story of his homeland with original and traditional music and stories. He is the Official Troubadour of his hometown Tucson, Arizona and a recipient of the prestigious "Arizona Culture Keeper Award" and the Artist-In-Residence at the Tubac Presidio Park & Museum in Tubac, Arizona and the recipient of many culture preservation awards. He presents a mixture of Indigenous Mexican, European and American music styles framed with personal views into the people and places of the Southwest portion of the United States. He founded the celebrated folk group "The Santa Cruz River Band" a legendary Southwestern folk music band, but now records and performs as a solo concert artist. Ted popularized the term "Southwestern Folk Music" to describe a concert presentation of authentic storytelling and folk music having a foundation of classic Mexican styles, e.g. son, huapango and corrido, mixed with American cowboy era ballads and poetry. The music style is performed by both, solo performers and musical groups using traditional Mexican folk instruments, e.g., the guitar, jarana, accordion, vihuela, guitarron, requinto, flute, harmonica, Mexican harp and strings.





Birthdays



Pauline Piper	1
Jean Van Buskirk	5
Bob Wong	5
Prescilla Stieff	7
Ruth Williams	19
Nancy Waller	26
David Peck	28
Caroline Stanka	30
Ted Nuckolls	31



Deadline for the February Herald will be January 22 by 9 AM.
Please submit all information, articles, and reports to the Church Secretary
via e-mail: office@bmwpc.org

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

has resumed on Sunday mornings at
9:15 AM in Peter's Net.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Woodbrook at Broadmead
Tuesday 10 AM

Contact Sally-lyn Duff at 443-578-8387 or
wduff925@comcast.net for more information.

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Yoga	6 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadhead 7PM PNC Meeting	7 7 PM Compassionate Friends 7 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal	8 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 8 PM Common Ground on the Hill Performance	10 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal
11 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship & Team Meetings 7PM Boy Scouts	12 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Yoga	13 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadhead 7PM PNC Meeting	14 7PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting 7 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal	15 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal	16	17 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal
18 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12 PM Session 7PM Boy Scouts	19 11 Staff Meeting	20 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadhead 7PM PNC Meeting	21 7 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal	22 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 2:30 PM Spiritual Direction	24 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal
25 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 7PM Boy Scouts	26 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Yoga	27 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadhead 7 PM PNC Meeting	28 7 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal	29	30	31 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal

**BROWN MEMORIAL WOODBROOK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
6200 North Charles Street at Woodbrook Lane
B a l t i m o r e , M D 2 1 2 1 2

Herald

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly



**BROWN MEMORIAL
WOODBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

A Congregation of the



CORE VALUES

We commit to living out God's love through:

Compassion
Learning
Inclusion
Faith

VISION 2016

In five years God will see us

- 1) welcoming all God's children;
- 2) sharing Christ's love with others;
- 3) intentionally and actively building our faith to understand God's purpose for us;
- 4) using our physical resources sustainably to honor God; and
- 5) celebrating God's love with abandon.

Staff:

The Rev. Dr. Scott Wilson, Interim Minister
Susan Gonzalez, Director of Music
Karen Bartell, Intergenerational Ministry Coordinator
Anthony Mason, Sexton
Michele Hanna, Church Secretary
Cindy Zhao, Financial Secretary

Website: www.bmwpc.org
Phone: 410-377-7232
Fax: 410-377-9115
E-mail: office@bmwpc.org