

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

The season of Lent traditionally focuses on spiritual disciplines; prayer, contemplation, giving something up and fasting are some of the common ones. It seems to me that the word "discipline" has a negative connotation in our modern world; it suggests some sort of corrective, or punishment, or at least an uncomfortable sacrifice. However I don't believe that spiritual disciplines are really intended to be anything like these negative connotations.

At the PC(USA) conference in January which I attended on the Foundations of Discipleship, a wonderful book was highlighted by Mark Thibodeaux, called "Armchair Mystic", which details some of the first steps of the practice of contemplative prayer. In the first chapter, the author describes the value of ritual, or discipline that in his mind is anything but a chore or a sacrifice. He shares a wonderful story which has stuck with me when considering my own daily prayer life. Here is the essence of the story:

An elderly widow friend once told me that she thinks of her husband most when crossing a bridge. She explained that early in their life together she and her husband developed a habit of kissing each other every time they crossed a bridge. She could not remember how this little ritual began but they were always faithful to it. "If he was driving and the traffic was heavy, we would have to wait for the next stop, but we never forgot our kiss" she said. To this day she cannot cross a bridge without sensing his presence. (Thibodeaux, Armchair Mystic, 2001, p. 11)

Thibodeaux writes that a ritual such as the lovely one described above "sacramentalizes" the concrete world. If you pardon the pun, it creates a "bridge" between the transcendent (love) and the ordinary (driving across a bridge). So he says it is with our daily prayer lives. Many people say they have little rituals or disciplines in their prayer lives. They sit in the same chair and begin at the same time every day. This is to help the bridge between the transcendent and the ordinary. But the purpose is to help us to keep a regular time and place so that we keep in regular touch with one who loves us – God through Jesus Christ. The discipline of that regular time and place becomes not an obligation or a chore, but an avenue of spiritual

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Weekday School Up Date...

Keeping Our Kids Safe

Recently teachers and staff at the weekday school had a meeting to review playground policies. If adults other than teachers/staff need access to our school, we require them to check in at either the church or the school offices and receive a lanyard (identification tag) that is easily recognizable to school staff.

Teachers have been asked to approach anyone who is not wearing a Brown Memorial Lanyard and ask them to check in at either the school/church office if they are in either the playground or inside school areas.

Teachers also reported situations this year where cars have tried to come through the playground gates or driven on the hill near the playground area. Please make sure that any organizations that are associated with or hired by the Brown community are aware of these school policies.

On another note, for those people who need access to the boiler room next to the vault, please be careful to either wipe your feet or not walk on the school lobby rug after exiting this area. I have a note on the door that references these concerns, but people are continuing to track the greasy residue from this area onto the school lobby rug. Needless to say, it is very difficult to clean and the sight of many black footprints across the rug is not very attractive.

Continued from cover

growth. As I mentioned last month, Lenten worship this year at BMWPC will focus on small parts (petitions) of the Lord's Prayer. Praying that prayer is a good "discipline" as a way to cross the bridge to the transcendent from the ordinary in our daily prayer lives. I hope you can join us to deepen our spiritual disciplines this season, in order that we can keep growing as followers of Jesus.

Each Christian needs half an hour of prayer every day, except when we are busy...then we need an hour.
—St. Francis de Sales



The renovation of the Speers Chapel has been underway for some time: caulking windows, replacing tiles, studying air conditioning the chapel. The much-needed building improvements will make our chapel usable for more functions.

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 in order to install the air conditioning.

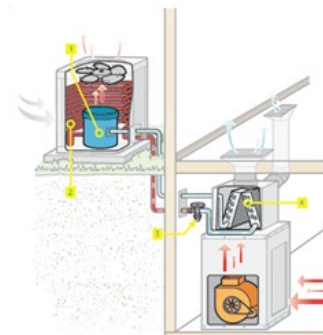
Now it is time to secure your personal pledge of support.

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.

The Session.

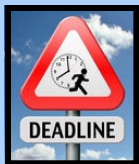


ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Woodbrook at Broadmead
Tuesday 10 AM
Contact Sally-lyn Duff at 443-578-8387
or wsduff925@comcast.net for more
information.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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



Deadline for the April Herald will be Monday, March 23 by 9 AM.
Please submit all information, articles, and reports to the Church Secretary
via e-mail: office@bmwpc.org



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 help 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.



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, child 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

ADULT EDUCATION

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

Kelly is back in Baltimore after 27 months in the Peace Corps in Benin where she served as a Rural Community Health Volunteer, 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.

ON THE TRAIL OF THE REFORMATION

The Rev. Ralph Cook will lead an adult study session on this topic

Sunday, March 22, after worship.

A light lunch will be served in the chapel. Please plan to join us.

Gifted Biblical Storyteller

Tracy Radosevic

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 7 pm

Second Presbyterian Church

Telling the Gospel of Mark, by heart

BOOKENDS

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

April 10th: Lowlands by Jhumpa Lahiri, a saga of two very different Indian brothers bound by a tragedy.

May 8th: My Beloved World by Sonya Sotomayor, her amazing autobiography from poverty to the 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

NEW IN THE NARTHEX!

Pick up your copy of
Sacred Space
for Lent 2015

A devotional for use during
Lent. One copy
per family please.



THE IRISH JESUITS  Sacred Space
from the website www.sacredspace.ie

“Inspired by one of the most successful spirituality websites around (and for good reason), *Sacred Space* offers readers short but profound meditations on the daily scriptures. Friendly, concise, and consistently thought provoking, these books are perfect for anyone

who would like to pray more and be more connected to God, but may feel too busy to do so. In other words, everyone!”
Rev. James Martin, S.J.
Author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*

Christian Education Highlights

By Karen Bartell

Lent has arrived and with it several special events that are posted on the calendar. ***Sacred Space***, a Lenten Meditation booklet is available for pick up on the Christian Education table, near the office. You are encouraged to use this to give a focus to your time during the next six weeks before the celebration on Easter Sunday.

Biblical Storyteller, Tracy Radosevic will be dramatically retelling the Gospel of Mark on Wed., March 11 at 7 pm at Second Presbyterian Church.

We have another great experience for the children on **Palm Sunday**. We have made arrangements for **Oreo, the pretty pony** to join us again and offer rides to all children, immediately following worship. It is one concrete way to connect children to the story of the triumphal entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday.

There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** with the WDS and the church. It will be held on Sat., March 28 Children and families from the school and church are invited to attend. We may be calling for volunteers to help fill eggs the week before the event.

A recent personal highlight was attending the **Association for Presbyterian Church Educators, APCE** who gathered for their annual meeting in Baltimore. There were 750 educators from across the country gathered In Harbor East, downtown. For five days we attended worship daily, were challenged by a couple of interesting keynoters, recognized the persons who were honored as Educators for the year and newly certified Christian educators, dined on crab cakes at a banquet, attended several workshops, browsed through book-stores and exhibits offering numerous resources and contacts for mission. I even reconnected with an educator from a Presbyterian church in Southern Illinois I had worked with when we lived in St. Louis years ago.

Of the four workshops I attended, ***What to do when the Numbers are few***, and ***Developing Spiritual Centers for Children*** were the most intriguing. I'll be sharing those ideas at the next Spiritual Growth and Nurture Team meeting.

As the host committee, we directed the participants to various sites in the Inner Harbor and suggested some favorite eating places. Many were looking forward to having seafood in Baltimore. With the view of the Inner Harbor out the window behind our local activities table, it was very inviting and easy to direct people as they explored Baltimore.



Andrew Nuckolls	1
Phyllis Ross	5
Stewart Wolff	10
Mary Messmore	30



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:30 Fellowship 7PM Boy Scouts	2 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Yoga	3 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadmead 7PM PNC Meeting	4 7 PM Compassionate Friends 7 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal	5 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 8 PM Common Ground on the Hill Performance	7 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal
8 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:30 Fellowship & Team Meetings 7PM Boy Scouts	9 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Yoga	10 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadmead 7PM PNC Meeting	11 7PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting 7 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal	12 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal	13	14 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal
15 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 Session 7PM Boy Scouts	16 Deadline for Easter Flowers 5:30 Yoga	17 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadmead 7PM PNC Meeting	18 7 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal	19 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 2:30 PM Spiritual Direction	21 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal
22 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 Session & Adult Ed. 7PM Boy Scouts	23 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Yoga	24 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadmead 7 PM PNC Meeting	25	26 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal	27	28 1 PM Woodbrook Players rehearsal
29 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 Adult Education 7PM Boy Scouts	30 9:15 AM Weekday School Chapel 9:30 Parent discussion Group 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Yoga	31 9:30 & 10:30 Story time play group 10 Broadmead 7 PM PNC Meeting				

**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

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**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

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