

THE HERALD



BROWN MEMORIAL
WOODBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the



From the Pastor...Randy Clayton

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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

During this season of Lent I have been talking about intersections. We worship at the intersection of Woodbrook Lane and North Charles Street; our lives and our hopes intersect with God's desires; our need for wholeness and peace intersects with God's care. We have also recently passed through another intersection—the intersection of leadership changes in our church as some Ruling Elders and Deacons have completed their terms of service and others are beginning a term of service on those Councils.

As we have passed through this intersection, we give thanks for the gifts, skills, and vision of those who serve on the Session and the Board of Deacons. We offer our deep and sincere gratitude especially for those who have completed their terms of service. Jean Van Buskirk and Selwin Gray have served faithfully as Ruling Elders. Patricia Short and David Boersma have served faithfully as Deacons. This church has been enriched by their service to this congregation.

In January this congregation elected people to fill vacancies on the Session and the Board of Deacons. We are now in the process of getting all of those elected installed to active service on these Councils. At this juncture, I pray that all those who serve on the Session and the Board of Deacons finds a measure of joy in service, and feels the support and prayers of this congregation as they seek to lead with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

But if this church is to continue to thrive, it takes more than the energy, intelligence, imagination and love of those people who serve on the Session and the Board of Deacons. It takes all of us, participating in the life and work of this congregation to help us faithfully proclaim God's love in Jesus Christ in words and in actions. And so, I invite each of you to consider participating on one of our Teams. Many of our Teams meet after church on the second Sunday of every month. Feel free to stop in and see if the conversations and work of a particular Team connects with your heart and your skills. This year we have

added a Team which we are calling Worship, Music & the Arts. This Team will typically not meet on the second Sunday following church to enable the full participation of both Pastor and Music Director. If you have an interest in participating on this Team, please contact me.

Whether we are gathering to worship, sing, pray, or study at the intersection of Woodbrook and North Charles, or whether we have moved beyond this intersection into the world around us to share the Gospel and God's love in very concrete ways, opportunities abound for participation. I continually give thanks for the participation of so many people in the worship and mission of this congregation.

Randy

CLERK'S CORNER

- At the Annual Meeting, held after church on Sunday February 28, 2016, Rev. Clayton shared with the congregation information about our history and our relationship with Kol HaLev.
- Also, at our Annual Meeting, the congregation unanimously approved the Session motion to amend the section of the By-Laws pertaining to the Annual Meeting. In the future, the Annual Meeting will be held "following the last morning worship service on the second Sunday in October of each year, or on such other date of October or November of each year as shall be determined by the Session, for the transaction of any business properly coming before such meeting". This will align the Annual Meeting with the fiscal year which now runs from July 1 to June 30.
- The chair lift in the West Wing was successfully used for the first time to enable everyone to attend the delicious lunch and the Annual Meeting.
- Thanks to Tony for providing a delicious luncheon!
- During worship on Sunday morning, February 28, 2016, Elena Storey was ordained and installed as a Deacon and Linda Bluth and Karen Ceanfaglione were installed as Elders. We welcome them and say thank you for assuming these offices.
- If you have not received an Annual Report, please pick one up at the church. It is a great way to see who we are and what we have done in the previous year.

See you in church,
Betsy Toole

Several members have requested that we publish the “Charge” that Katherine Stanka gave at our Pastor’s installation service in December. Her words were eloquent and her ideas were powerful:

Charge to the Congregation by Katherine Stanka

So, congregation, we’ve come full circle. It was 2 years ago at this time that we were saying farewell to Jamie and Ann. Now we are welcoming Randy and Tim. Our PNC experienced too the full circle of life together during our time with the birth of a grandchild, seeing a first child off to college, rushing a recent college grad to the hospital for a fractured jaw, suffering a broken leg, the death of a father who knew how to minister to the marginalized and lead others to do the same, and the death of a grandmother who shared her recipe for molasses cookies.

As one of our last acts, the Pastor Nominating Committee decided that we would like to present a gift to Randy at this Installation Service. I know I personally hoped that it would be something that might set the tone for our ministry together. Thank God for clergy spouses, for when I emailed Tim as to whether he had any thoughts; he not only had suggestions but provided website links. It was an easy decision for me, but I held back while gathering consensus, as I didn’t want my personal bias to get in the way. This pectoral Celtic cross is what we chose to give you.

A month before the PNC gathered together, my husband Michael and I traveled to the Isle of Iona, Scotland and spent a week with other pilgrims from around the world at the Iona Community. There, outside the restored abbey are tall, stone Celtic crosses that have stood, defiant to the sun, wind and rain of Scotland, since the 8th century. They are also reminders of those early Christians who stood defiant to Vikings who attacked again and again over the course of 200 years, murdering relatively defenseless monks and nuns for their faith. They thought they could wipe them out, but it didn’t work. We are all living proof of that.

Once you are at the abbey, creating amazing community in a short amount of time with strangers who’ve also traveled from around the world; you realize you don’t want to ever leave. But that was never the point. The point is for you to be come and learn and go and serve.

And thus I give my charge to you, the congregation, to us, the congregation:

--Be willing to be led in ways that we have not been led before. Know that we called Randy to lead us, to look for new opportunities that we haven’t noticed before, to take us places where we haven’t gone before.

--Recognize that Randy’s main task is to equip us for ministry. I am still working out how to truly feel comfortable engaging in evangelism without being evangelical. Maybe you are too.

-- Listen to hard, cold facts and make risk-taking decisions. We have to be willing to be honest with ourselves and with our brothers and sisters in Christ here at Brown.

--Pray for Randy—and I mean, pray in earnest. Pray for Tim too. We are in a new chapter, with a clergy couple who is managing their life together from a distance, although it’s not the first time for them. We need to embrace them, knowing that Randy is eating dinner alone on some nights and might like some companionship. We also need to encourage them to keep burnout at bay, finding time for recreation and re-creation.

--Continue to thank each other for the things we do, but feel valued if no one does, remembering that we act in response to so much more than we could ever give.

Continued on page 5

From the Director's Office

Allison Bond

I recently read an article from The Atlantic titled "The Joyful, Illiterate Kindergartners of Finland." The author of the article makes comparisons between the academically rigorous American kindergarten and the play based kindergartens of Finland. In Finland, kindergarteners fill their day with pretend play and lots of outdoor time. The author quotes one of the Finnish kindergarten teachers: "Children learn so well through play. They don't even realize they are learning because they are so interested in what they are doing." Not only do Finland's kindergarten programs recognize the cognitive benefits of play in learning but also they stress the importance of joy in learning.

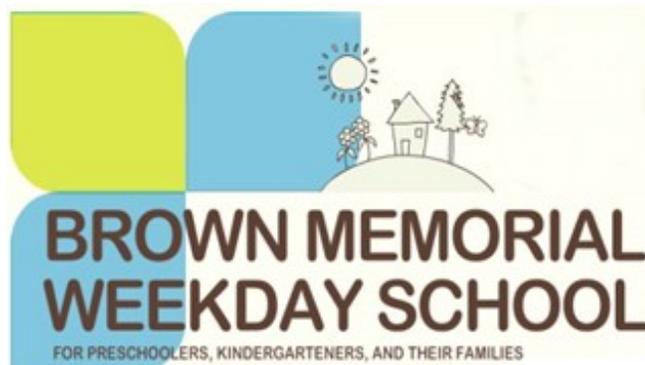
Like the author, I worry that the push for early academics actually diminishes our children's natural curiosity and quest for discovery and knowledge. Higher levels of thinking do not come from rote learning activities that include long periods of sitting and completing dittos. Kindergarteners need plenty of time to participate in pretend play, block building, story building, art and outdoor experiences.

The article also recognizes that Finland's performance on international tests are consistently one of the highest in the world. Although play based learning is not as commonly recognized in the United States, our push for early academics is not shared by most other industrialized nations in the world. So the questions arise: Why are we the exception, and does our push for early academics show benefits down the road in our students? And why does kindergarten feel like the new first grade in our country? We all want the best education for our children -- an education that will inspire them as thinkers and learners. We need to look for ways to maintain the joy of learning that will allow our children to not only pursue their interests but go beyond their limits.

Here at Brown we see play as a necessary form of learning in Early Childhood Education. Learning through play is not limited only to our younger students. Play serves an important role in our kindergarten curriculum as well. Kindergarteners should not be short changed the social, emotional, creative, language, problem solving and reasoning skills that this form of learning provides. As much as I appreciate and agree with the article mentioned above, I recognize that our children are

attending American schools. Therefore, BMWS works very hard to create a balanced program that provides direct instruction in math, writing and literacy activities while allowing kindergarteners plenty of time for their most important work of their

day in play activities. Allowing children to develop these skills through a variety of play scenarios will not only prepare these young minds for elementary school but a lifetime of learning.



BOOKENDS will meet on
Friday, March 11 at 10 AM
This month's selection is
"The Emerald Mile"
by Kevin Fedarko

Continued from page 3

--Tell our stories, to Randy and Tim and to each other. It is probably shameful how little we know about each other, even as small as we are. We have wonderful stories in this congregation of purposeful living for the Gospel—they are inspirational and the next generations need to hear them. I highly encourage you, Randy, to read the memoir John Carpenter's dearly departed wife Maria wrote about her refugee's journey from Hungary to Baltimore and ask Sita Smith to share tale of a refugee's journey from Armenia. Randy and Tim have stories as well and we will want to hear them.

--Revel in the fact that we are a connectional church. Rejoice in the joys of our sister churches in this city and in this Presbytery. Attend Presbytery events, even if it is just the worship service. Rejoice in the joys of all houses of worship that praise God and see the Light in the other.
(hold up silver Celtic cross)

--Let this cross be a reminder of all who have gone before, sacrificing so that we can be here in this place to do God's will.

--Let the circle remind us that in Christ's name we are meant to gather together, but ever widen the circle of God's love to all, not just to those who are easy to welcome. Come and learn, go and serve.



The Fellowship Hall is now much more accessible thanks to the installation of a lift. Those who have difficulty using stairs now have the option of using the lift to get into and out of the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all who had the lift possible.



Ruth...an Uppity Woman.

Join us on Monday nights at 7:00 PM, February 15 – March 21, as we explore the Book of Ruth. Utilizing a DVD based curriculum, we will reflect on the message and meaning of the book of Ruth, and examine the vulnerability of widows and the difficult situation of foreigners in biblical times. We will explore themes of loyalty, bitterness, courage, poverty and seduction.

At the Intersection of Our Lives and Holy Week



Palm/ Passion Sunday, March 20, 10:30 AM
Remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with palms, stories and music.

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 7:00 PM
Remembering the last week of Jesus' life and his last supper with his disciples with music, the Lord's Supper, and stories

Good Friday, March 25, 12 Noon – 3:00 PM:
Remembering the crucifixion in silent prayer and meditation.

On Good Friday the sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from 12 Noon – 3 PM. There will be a guide available to help direct your prayers and meditations.

We are hoping to have at least one person in our sanctuary at all times during this time and are inviting those who know their schedules to sign up for a particular 30 minute segment. A sign up sheet will be in the Lobby as of March 14.



EASTER

2 Services of Worship on Easter Morning at Brown Woodbrook

7:00 AM -- a brief service of worship that will begin in our Lobby and move to the Columbarium to greet Easter morning

10:30 AM -- a celebration of the Resurrection in Word and Music, including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



THE GREAT EASTER EGG HUNT!



WHEN: Friday, March 18, 2016 4:30 PM-6:30

WHERE: BROWN MEMORIAL WOODBROOK
PLAYGROUND

Egg hunt, games, and crafts.

If you would like to volunteer please contact
Karen Bartell at kbartell@bmwpc.org or
410-377-7232 ext. 12

YOU ARE INVITED

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2016, 10:30 AM

THE CHILDREN WILL HAVE A
STORYTELLING TIME WITH DEBBY HUGHEYAND
AFTER CHURCH WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO RIDE
ON A PONY. (Weather permitting)



This year we will be using Eco Palms in our celebration of Palm Sunday.

While Eco Palms do look different than the palms this church has typically used, Eco Palms promote social justice and environmental stewardship. Harvesting palms is an important source of income for those who grow them, but the growers of Eco-Palms receive a higher price for their “fair trade” palms than they would otherwise receive, which helps improve their income. Eco-Palms are sustainably harvested in such a way that they protect both the palms and the forests that they need for shade. While they may look different, our use of them is a way of caring for the environment, improving the lives of the growers and a witness to the world of our commitment to compassion and justice.



YOUR MISSION DOLLARS AT WORK

A THANK YOU FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Thank you for your generous support of Genesis Zaheer and Rubab Romani at Christian Girls' High School, Martinpur, Pakistan. Because of your support, Genesis and Rubab are able to be educated. It is an amazing accomplishment in a country where quality education is rare. The difference you have made in their lives is beyond measure.

In addition to receiving an excellent education PEB students have opportunities beyond what is available to most Pakistani children to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities outside the class room. Annually students from PEB's 14 schools compete against each other in a science fair, carol singing and sports competitions, and English and Urdu debate.

The Brown Packers vs. Childhood Hunger!



Sunday, March 6, was the kickoff for a new mission of Brown Woodbrook. Partnering with Food for Thought, an arm of ATCT that is connecting schools with various types of non-profits, we will be packing drawstring backpacks with shelf-stable foods that will provide meals for a child over the weekend. Receiving children have been identified by school personnel as experiencing food insufficiency on the weekends. Packing will occur right after church in the narthex. All members young and old are asked to

assist. Younger members and older members will be partnered to fill the backpacks.



We have adopted West Towson Elementary and they are very excited to have us as a new neighborhood partner. Several members have volunteered to be shoppers and drivers for upcoming months, but we need more to lighten the load for all. Shopping is a once a month task and drivers are needed between 9:30 and 4 on a Thursday (this has some flexibility as well) to drop off a week's worth of backpacks. If you are available see Katherine Stanka at church or email her at kstanka@verizon.net. A sign-up sheet will also be available. Help bring home a win!



Our weekly email is an important way that your church has of communicating with you. In recent weeks we have been reformatting it in an attempt to make it more personal and meaningful. We welcome feedback on it as we seek to improve it. If you are not on our weekly email distribution list, please sign up for it.



You can sign up on our website or you can call or email the church office and request to be added.



Keep up with what's going on at our church by checking our Facebook page, Brown Memorial Woodbrook PC USA. And, while you are doing that, please "Like" us.

You can help us spread the word about this congregation by "checking in" on Facebook when you come to worship or to a meeting or an event.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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



**Deadline for the April Herald will be
9 AM Friday, March 25**

Please submit all information, articles, and reports to the Church Secretary via e-mail:
office@bmwpc.org

MARCH

Birthdays



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

Sunday

3/6

9:15	preChurch (Peter's Net)
10:30	Worship & Communion
11:30	Fellowship (Lobby)
3:00	Woodbrook Players Performance
7:00	Boy Scouts

3/13

9:15	preChurch (Peter's Net)
10:30	Worship & Communion
11:30	Fellowship Lunch (Chapel)
7:00	Boy Scout (Catacombs)

3/20

Palm Sunday

9:15	preChurch (Peter's Net)
10:30	Worship & Communion
11:30	Fellowship (Lobby)
11:45	Pony rides
12:00	Session (Library)
7:00	Boy Scouts (Catacombs)

3/27

EASTER

7:00	Sunrise Service
10:30	Worship
11:30	Fellowship (Lobby)

Session

Class of 2016

Betsy Toole, Clerk
Elizabeth Ceanfaglione
Katherine Stanka

Class of 2017

Elsie Wong
Tom Crawley
Bobbie Cook

Class 2018

Karen Ceanfaglione
Linda Bluth
Paul Voreacos, Treasurer

Board of Deacons

Class of 2016

Tom Eastman
Dottie Phipps
Anne Stone

Class of 2017

Edie Cleaves
Mimi Cooper
Phyllis Ross

Class 2018

Jane Houck
Elena Storey
Bob Gist

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:45 Wkday School Parent/Child Class (L) 7 PM Compassionate Friends (L, PN, P, Ch, NA) 7 PM Woodbrook Players (FH)	3 7 PM Choir Practice (CR)	4 8:00 PM Common Ground on the Hill Concert (FH)	5 7:00 PM Woodbrook Players (FH)
6 9:15 preChurch (PN) 10:30 Worship (S) 11:30 Fellowship (N) 11:45 Adult Education (Ch) 1 PM Woodbrook Players (FH) 7 PM Boy Scouts (C)	7 11 AM Staff Mtg. (PN) 7 PM Lenten Study (L) Easter Flower Deadline	8 9:30 & 10:30 AM Story Time Play Group (NA) 10 AM Broadmead Bible Study 7 PM Canticle Singers (CR)	9 10:45 Wkday School Parent/Child Class (L) 7 PM Woodbrook Players (FH)	10 7 PM Choir Practice (CR)	11 10 AM BookEnds (L) 7PM Friedrich's Ataxia (FH)	12
13 9:15 preChurch (PN) 10:30 Worship (S) 11:30 Fellowship (N) 11:45 Team Meetings 1 PM Woodbrook Players (FH) 7 PM Boy Scouts (C)	14 11 AM Staff Mtg. (PN) 7 PM Lenten Study (L)	15 9:30 & 10:30 AM Story Time Play Group (NA) 10 AM Broadmead Bible Study 7 PM Canticle Singers (CR) 7 PM CST	16 9 AM Egg Stuffing 10:45 Wkday School Parent/Child Class (L) 7 PM Woodbrook Players (FH)	17 7 PM Choir Practice (CR)	18 4:30 PM Egg Hunt (c)	19
20 9:15 preChurch (PN) 10:30 Worship (S) 11:30 Fellowship (N) 11:45 Session (PN) 1 PM Woodbrook Players (FH) 7 PM Boy Scouts (C)	21 11 AM Staff Mtg. (PN) 7 PM Lenten Study (L)	22	23	24 7PM Maundy Thursday Worship 8 PM Choir Practice (CR)	25 12 Noon -3PM Prayer (Sanctuary)	26
SPRING BREAK FOR WEEKDAY SCHOOL						
27 EASTER 7 AM Sunrise Service 10:30 Worship (S) 11:30 Fellowship (N) 11:45 Adult Education (Ch)	28 Office Closed 11 AM Staff Mtg. (PN) 7 PM Lenten Study (L)	29	30	31 7 PM Choir Practice (CR)		
SPRING BREAK FOR WEEKDAY SCHOOL						

**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. Randy Clayton, Minister
Peter Morey, Director of Music
Karen Bartell, Intergenerational Ministry Coordinator
Anthony Mason, Sexton
Michele Hanna, Church Secretary
Cindy Zhao, Financial Secretary

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