

# 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

This past August I was in a big-box store purchasing cleaning supplies and I thought I heard the sound of Christmas carols over the store's PA system. At first I thought that someone had mis-programmed their sound system, but then I discovered that the store already had their Christmas Shop set up. Before baseball season was over, our air conditioners were turned off, school started back and the lifeguards at the beach had all returned to college, you could purchase a Christmas tree, ornaments, blinking lights and Santa costumes. I wondered, what happened to Labor Day, or Thanksgiving, or Advent? As I walked past the display of holiday trinkets and decorations, I wished we could just wait at least a little while to start Christmas. Why the rush?

We live in a world that seems to be in a constant rush to get from one place to another. And, most of us find it hard to wait. Waiting in traffic irritates us. We get impatient when we have to wait in line at the grocery store. When our internet connection is slower than usual, we get frustrated as we wait for a page to load. I wonder sometimes if we rush into Christmas because waiting is not easy for us.

While waiting is difficult, it can also be a time of reflection and rest. What if while waiting in line at the grocery store we looked around and lifted up those standing in front of us and behind us in prayer? What if while waiting for a traffic light we paused to give thanks for our blessings? What if while waiting for a child to finish soccer practice we opened a Bible and did some reading? What if we let the time we are waiting become a time of renewal and reflection?

We are now in the season of Advent, which is in many ways a season of waiting. As we mark the days toward Christmas, lighting an additional candle each week on the Advent wreath to mark our journey toward Bethlehem, we do so slowly, carefully, deliberately, and prayerfully. While our world might want to light all the candles on the wreath at the beginning of

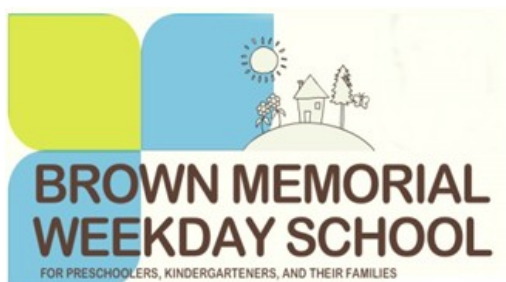
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## **CLERK'S CORNER**

- The Session is delighted with the wonderful Sunday turnouts from Broadmead via the Broadmead van. We love seeing and worshipping with these friends who have played such a significant role in the history of our church.
- The Nominating Committee is in full swing as they seek nominees for the offices of Elder and Deacon. We expect that an election to be held in January, with Installation and Ordination in late January or early February.
- Don't forget that we are having our Christmas Dinner/Lunch after church on December 6. Please plan to stay for good food, fellowship and fun.
- The Session is excited about the Installation of the Rev. Randall Clayton on December 13, 2015 at 4PM. Please mark your calendars for this exciting time in the life of our congregation.
- Once again, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus at our popular Christmas Eve Service at 4 PM. Bring your friends, children, grandchildren to this wonderful celebration.

See you in church,  
Betsy Toole, Clerk of Session

The highlight of our November chapel was meeting Pastor Randy. The children sang for him and presented him with a small version of our mascot, Brownie, a stuffed dog who lives in our school lobby. The children also made a welcome banner to go along with the gift. We all look forward to getting to know Randy better and welcoming him to the school community.



The weather has dramatically changed and hats and gloves are the order of the day. The children continue to feed the birds, look for seed pods, and play in our newly renovated sandbox. Many thanks to the Eagle scouts for making necessary repairs to the sandbox and building. The sail above the building provides shade on warmer days.

*December 6<sup>th</sup>*  
*Advent Festival*  
*and*  
*Christmas Luncheon*

Immediately following worship  
Sign-up to bring a side/dessert  
Fun, food, and festivities for all ages

*9:30 AM on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>*

*Deck the Halls*

We need some able-bodied volunteers to  
hang wreaths, freshen bows, loop garlands  
and fill vases with greenery. If you have some greenery to share,  
Please deliver before December 10.

*Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>*

Installation Service for our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Randall Clayton, at 4pm;  
Reception to follow in the chapel.

*Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Lessons and Carols*

Hear the Christmas story and enjoy beautiful music. Sing some beloved carols and share the joy and anticipation of Christmas with friends and family. Please join us for a special Service of Worship on Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 10:30 AM.

*Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 4 PM*

**Informal, Brief, Interactive, Welcoming**

***All are invited to take part in this informal service celebrating the birth of Jesus.***

As children and adults arrive, they are invited to select a costume for an angel, a shepherd, an animal or a wise person. Then, as the story is told and carols are sung, adults and children are invited to come forward and take part in creating a pageant of the Christmas story. The service ends after costumes are Removed. There is a traditional candlelight service while we sing *Silent Night*. If you are looking for a place to be on Christmas Eve, please join us.

## Garden on the Hill Update

The 2015 Garden on the Hill has been put to rest for the winter. Much was accomplished on our October 31<sup>st</sup> workday: raspberries cut back, all beds weeded and cleaned out—some topped off with new soil—and the aisles between the beds weeded and mulched. A few herbs and some kale were left to winter over. The weather was perfect and the company most congenial.

This was our 5<sup>th</sup> year growing vegetables and herbs in raised beds on the hill. Except for our disappointing tomatoes and squash, the garden again produced everything green beans to African Gem Squash and much in between. Our primary purpose has always been to donate a significant part of our produce to ACTC and GEDCO. This year we made weekly trips to one or both of these food pantries plus we had some to share with the congregation on numerous Sundays.



When we originally envisioned this project, we hoped to engage others in the community in planting and caring for the garden. In our first year, we worked with some of the Boy Scouts and helped them earn a Gardening Badge. We also helped the Week Day School start a little garden. During the past five years a collaborative

partnership has evolved in which we each benefit from the sharing of ideas, information, and labor. Because of the dedication of the director and her teachers, the school's garden is now a fanciful place where the children can observe plant and insect life up close.

Winter is a good time to imagine trying some new things. You never know what can happen in a garden.

The Woodbrook Gardeners

### **Continued from cover**

the season of Advent, in the church we have the opportunity to let the journey toward the manger unfold during a period of four weeks. Advent is, in many ways about waiting --waiting and hoping for a Savior, waiting and hoping for a world of peace and joy. During Advent we wait with anticipation and faith for that time when the "hopes and fears of all the years are met" (O Little Town of Bethlehem) in the birth of Jesus Christ. In the mad rush that leads us toward Christmas, I've come to believe that the invitation to wait during Advent may be just what we need – a moment or two to relax during a busy season, a time to reflect on our own lives and our world, the opportunity to step back from shopping and entertaining and the busyness of the season and listen anew for God's direction.

May the wait for Christmas this year be filled with much joy and anticipation! May it also be a time of reflection and prayer, a time of rest and renewal, a time of hope and peace, for us all.

May each and every one have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas,  
Randy



**The Presbytery of Baltimore  
cordially invites you to a**

**Service of Installation  
for Randall T. Clayton  
as Pastor  
Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday, December 13, 2015  
4:00 PM  
in the Church Sanctuary**

**Reception to follow in the Chapel**

**Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church  
6200 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21212**

**Clergy are requested to robe with red stole**

# **Christian Education News**

from Karen Bartell

## **Family Friendly Events in December**

### **Christmas Luncheon and Advent Fest**

**December 6, 2015**

We are launching Advent with a double event. On the second Sunday in Advent, the Christmas Luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall. Surrounding the room, the Advent Festival centers will be set up. We're planning some group singing at the end of our lunch and then you are invited to explore the various service and mission projects. There will be activities for all ages. You can make a card for someone, The SERRV/ Fair Trade shopping experience will be available, with a small table for young children to do a bit of free-trade shopping. As usual there will be a nice selection of merchandise to entice us to purchase a gift that gives back in two ways, to your friend (the receiver) and to the artisan in another country who supports their family and educates their children through our purchases. This Advent Fest experience may seem a bit different, but the opportunity to reach out to others at this Advent Season still will be primary in our planning.

We welcome all to join us as we launch the Advent Season in a slightly different way this year.

## **Christmas Eve**

### **Informal Family Pageant**

**4 p.m. service**

A special thanks to Bobbie Cook and the team of volunteers who signed up to organize, set up costume pageant participants and clean up following that special service. This informal worship experience has developed quite a following on Christmas Eve. You are encouraged to take part or encourage another person to be a part of this growing pageant. It is truly inspirational to watch the old, old story come alive before our eyes.

Can you imagine the impression this experience makes on young children as they take part in retelling this story?



# Common Ground on the Hill

Presents...

Scottish - Appalachian Holidays

**Pete Clark & Gregor Lowrey**  
with **Walt Michael & Co.**

December 4, 2015

8 PM

Fellowship Hall

Scottish musicians Pete Clark and Gregor Lowrey cross the pond to join forces with Walt Michael & Co.

in this special holiday event! Fiddler Pete Clark has performed and recorded with many notable musicians including

Dougie MacLean, Rod Paterson, John Watt, Tich Frier, Jim Malcolm and the rock band Nazareth. Accordion player Gregor Lowrey has worked with many bands including: Blackeyed Biddy, Cantychiels, Clan Terra, Ceilidh Minogue and Rusty Nail.



He played with the Scottish Show Shehallion that opened the new Clyde Auditorium and has toured all over from Azerbaijan to Ecclefechan. Famed for their dance music in Scotland and the UK, Pete Clark and Gregor Lowrey add the sparkle and toe-tapping rhythms of their native land to the Southern

Appalachian, bluegrass, and original music of hammered dulcimer virtuoso Walt Michael & Co. A great way to launch the holiday season! Tickets \$25/\$20. Tickets available at the door or at

[commongroundonthehill.org](http://commongroundonthehill.org)

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of snow or ice, which would cause us to cancel services or meetings, we will make every attempt to put a notice on the homepage of our website, [www.bmwpc.org](http://www.bmwpc.org), notify via email those who are on our distribution list, and put a message to that effect on the church's Facebook page and the church voicemail system. While we hope that inclement weather doesn't affect our schedule, we also recognize that everyone's safety is vitally important.



**Get your Christmas gifts for OrchKids now**

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra  
**ORCHkids**  
planting seeds for a bright future



**THE FOURTH ANNUAL ORCHKIDS BOOK SALE**

will take place Sunday, December 6th, 9:30 to 10:30  
(before the church service) and from 11:30-noon (after the  
church service).

It will take place in the church lobby. Each book will sell  
for \$15. Checks should be made out to Brown Memorial  
Woodbrook Presbyterian Church. (In case it snows, we will  
do this on Dec. 13th.)



**THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

The total gifts to ACTC for Thanksgiving baskets were  
as follows: Weekday School - 12 bags plus additional  
canned items

Congregation - 16 bags and \$1222 (used to purchase  
additional baskets AND turkeys)

Thanks to all who contributed. Special thanks to Bill  
Hughey for delivering bags to ACTC, to Michele Hanna  
for her part in providing information in the bulletin and  
to Andrea Hoppe from the Weekday School.





## CALL FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Please donate your childrens' no-longer-used musical instruments-- or any instruments you may own and do not use. There will be a large box in the lobby in which to place them; however, if you have something huge, for example, a cello or drum set, please let me know and I can arrange for someone from OrchKids to pick it up at your home. You may declare this on your taxes.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra  
**ORCHkids™**  
planting seeds for a bright future



### WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH MCCABE AVENUE HABITAT PROJECT

December 19th: Construction day

If you are going to work at the construction sites,  
you will need to fill out a waiver, available on the Mission table.



Anne Allen Dandy	12/03	Anna Morrow	12/16
Tanya Morrel	12/05	Ralph Cook	12/20
Edith Cleaves	12/07	Anne Minowski	12/20
Louise Bowman	12/10	Ralph Strock	12/24
Marilouise Moore	12/11	Alice Hughes	12/27
Lynne Agress	12/14	M. Lynn Lafferty	12/27
Barbara Moore	12/14	Thomas Powell	12/28

facebook®



Keep up with what's going on at our church by checking out 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.



**Deadline for the January Herald will be 9 AM Wednesday, December 23.**

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

# December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group 7 Canticle Singers	<b>2</b> 7 PM Compassionate Friends	<b>3</b> 8 PM Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 8 PM Common Ground on the Hill	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Communion 12 PM Advent Feast & Christmas dinner	<b>7</b> 5:30 PM Yoga	<b>8</b> 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group	<b>9</b> 7 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:30 Greening of the sanctuary 8 PM Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 10 AM BookEnds	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 4:00 Installation Service	<b>14</b> 5:30 PM Yoga	<b>15</b> 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8 PM Choir Practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship—Lessons & Carols 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 Session	<b>21</b> 5:30 PM Yoga	<b>22</b> 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4 PM Family Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas OFFICE CLOSED	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	<b>28</b> 5:30 PM Yoga	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	HAPPY NEW YEAR	

**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*

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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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