

# THE HERALD



**BROWN MEMORIAL**  
WOODBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the



## From the Pastor...Randy Clayton

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Letter

Mission

Happenings

Calendar

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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

Like most years, I suppose, 2015 had its ups and downs. Although fear seems to have this country in a tight grip, 200 nations agreed to try to save the environment in 2015. While there were earthquakes, floods and droughts in many places across the globe, marriage equality became the law of the land in the United States. Despite increasing numbers of refugees fleeing terrorism and war, a South Carolina judge threw out the convictions of nine civil rights protestors from 1961. Although there were riots in Baltimore this spring and gun violence is setting records across the nation, gas prices are low and the economy is improving.

For us at Brown Woodbrook, 2015 was a year of change. Scott Wilson completed his Interim service with this congregation, and I was called and installed as your Pastor. Susan Gonzalez retired and her gifts and service to this congregation were celebrated, while Peter Morey was welcomed as our new Music Director. In the midst of these changes, we supported ministries that improve lives, we gathered for worship each week, made improvements to our facilities, and prayed and studied together.

No one knows what 2016 will hold. But I think we can be pretty certain that there will be highs and lows, celebrations and hard decisions, times of laughter as well as times for tears. But through it all there is a God who invites us to have no fear and to trust that our God is with us always.

May our journey through 2016 be one of peace and blessings, and may we trust in God's presence and God's care regardless of what we may encounter in the coming months.

## Christian Education & Mission Highlights

*Karen Bartell*

### ***Special thanks -***

***to the 10 children actively enrolled in our program***

***to all the people who took take a turn teaching for the last six weeks.  
The children appreciate your leadership.***

***to all who helped make the Christmas Pageant so special this year, by participating in a variety of ways.***

***to all who made the Advent Fest and the Christmas Luncheon so successful in early December.***

***To Lynne Agress who organized the OrchKids book sale, 50 books were donated.***

***to those who will lead a church school class in the next several months.***

***to those working on the Guatemalan project on behalf of the Presbytery.***

***to Thomas Eastman for sharing his large, creative photography pictures for us to purchase. The benefits are going to the Guatemalan project which holds a special place in his heart.***

***to Ralph Cook for building us a manger for the Christmas Pageant.***

***to the team of 12 volunteers who took leadership for the Pageant to run smoothly; costumes, props, recruiting helpers, reading or telling the story, and replacing all the supplies in their proper places.***

Starting in the new year, we will begin to use a new curriculum, **Grace and Gratitude**. We are looking forward to using some new resources to lead and enhance our learning experiences. If you would be willing to take a turn at leading or helping with a session, please talk with me.

*Blessings to all in the New Year!*

## I have some exciting news.

The Baltimore Presbytery has officially formed a new Guatemala Partnership which was formally signed at the November 14 Gathering at First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. Our new partner is CEDEPCA (the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America) and is a recognized partner organization of the PCUSA. CEDEPCA's Director, Judith Castañeda, was in town for the signing. Also at the meeting, the Guatemala Partnership Workgroup, of which I am a member along with seven other Pastors and lay leaders across different churches in our Baltimore Presbytery, presented a workshop about the Partnership and the work CEDEPCA does in Guatemala.

So, a little about CEDEPCA. CEDEPCA is an independent ecumenical institution serving Central America's churches. It is an educational center that provides safe, accepting, creative spaces where women and men from many different

Christian traditions can deepen their faith while strengthening their ability to confront the key issues facing their communities.

CEDEPCA seeks to form thoughtful, compassionate disciples of Jesus Christ whose world is big enough to include all God's children and those who care for all of God's creation.

CEDEPCA offers people the tools to eradicate violence and injustice in their world, especially violence against women and children

CEDEPCA has four programs: Women's Ministry, Disaster Ministry, Biblical and Theological Education and Intercultural Encounters. Visiting Guatemala and witnessing God's work through this amazing organization was an incredible experience for me, and I hope many of you will consider a similar trip in the future.

If you are interested in learning more and possibly going on the next trip scheduled tentatively

for sometime this April, our workgroup is holding an information session at Central Presbyterian Church on York Road and Stevenson Lane on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. I have been in conversation with Patricia Short about allocating funds for CEDEPCA and hope we can find a way to make that happen. I also ask that all of you put CEDEPCA and the people of Guatemala on your prayer list. Finally, CEDEPCA has a mailing list you can sign up for that will enable you to receive their bi-monthly email update. I will have a clipboard in the lobby so you can sign up for that. I hope to see some of you on January 13 at Central Pres.

Tanya Morrel

Baltimore Presbyterians do indeed make a difference in the lives of people and communities. Part of the way we do this is through our support of the Presbytery of Baltimore's Shared Ministry. Because of the gifts of churches throughout our Presbytery, Presbyterians throughout the greater Baltimore area are addressing hunger in Western Maryland, working for reconciliation and healing for our city in the wake of racial tensions, and we are developing communication strategies to build better support among worshipers and encourage mission engagement and community involvement. Through the Uptown Metro Ministry Group, the ministry group to which Brown Woodbrook belongs, we are collaborating with the Greater Homewood Community Corporation and with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake.



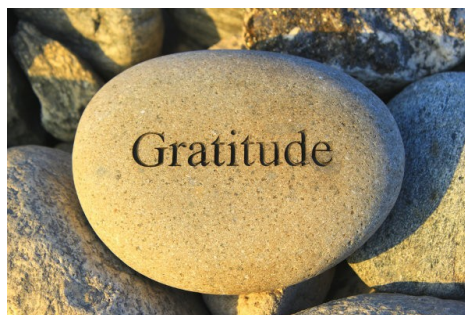
## Service of Installation

I want to offer words of immense gratitude for a wonderful Service of Installation and reception that followed. In the midst of a very busy time of year, this congregation moved events around, prepared a beautiful and sumptuous reception, and helped insure that the Service of Installation was a special moment in our life together. Any number of my friends and colleagues who came from a distance to attend the Service commented on the beauty of our sanctuary, the

friendliness of our members, the gifts of our choir, the superb gathering in the chapel following the Service, the sense of welcome they felt when they were here, and the feeling of joy that permeated that evening's activities.

Thank you so very much for making that Service a moment of grace and blessing.

Randy



# Common Ground on the Hill

Acoustic Blues Master

**Scott Ainslie**

February 5, 2016

8 PM

Fellowship Hall

***"Scott is the kind of musician they don't make any more, in the mold of the late Pete Seeger – unpretentious, dead serious about his craft, dedicated to preserving traditional American music and instruments ... and so versatile he can make you weep one moment over the story of a dying steel town ("all these houses for sale, and ain't none of them sold") and snicker appreciatively the next at a driving Mississippi blues song full of earthy innuendo." - Washington Post***



Armed with a variety of instruments – vintage guitars, a fretless gourd banjo, a one-string, homemade diddley bow (aka cigar box guitar) and carefully chosen historical personal anecdotes of his encounters with senior musicians across the South – Scott Ainslie brings the history, roots music, and sounds of America alive.

Ainslie has received numerous awards and grants for his work documenting and presenting traditional music. He has been a Public Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill, and received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA, a federal agency in Washington DC) and the Folklife Section of the North Carolina Arts Council. In 2000, Ainslie was also presented with an Indie (the Independent Weekly Triangle Arts Award, Durham, NC), with the National Slide Guitar Festivals' Living Heritage Award, and the 20th Annual Sam Ragan Fine Arts Award for "outstanding contributions to the fine arts" (from St. Andrew's Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, NC).

## 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.





## Birthdays



Jean Van Buskirk	5
Bob Wong	5
Prescilla Stieff	7
Ruth Williams	19
Anna Crawley	22
Madelynne Gonzalez	24
Nancy Waller	26
David Peck	28
Caroline Stanka	30
Ted Nuckolls	31

facebook



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.



**Deadline for the February Herald will be 9 AM Monday, January 25.**

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

# January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 11 AM Staff Mtg.	5 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group 7 Canticle Singers	6 7 PM Compassionate Friends	7 8 PM Choir Practice	8 8 PM Common Ground on the Hill	9
10 9:30 Mission Team Mtg. 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Mtg. 11:45 Fellowship 12 PM Team Mtg. & Lunch	11 11 AM Staff Mtg. 5:30 PM Yoga	12 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group	13 7 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting	14 8 PM Choir Practice	15 10 AM BookEnds	16
17 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 12:00 Session	18 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MILK DAY</b>	19 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group	20	21 8 PM Choir Practice	22	23
24 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Development	25 9:15 Weekday School Chapel 11 AM Staff Mtg.	26 9:30 Story-Time Play Group 10 Broadmead 10:30 Story Time Play Group	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship						

**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  
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**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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