

October 2017

# The Voice of Faith

Dear Friends,

Next Sunday (October 1), we celebrate World Communion Sunday. I don't know about you but the days seem to be going very swiftly and I find it hard to believe it is already October!

I was with some clergy friends this week and I asked them what they were planning to do for World Communion and the answer was, simply, not much. One friend even suggested that he had problems with World Communion. I think he meant that he was uncomfortable celebrating our worldwide communion with only Christians. Perhaps he also meant that every communion should be world communion and I certainly agree with that!

I think there is validity in recognizing that our church is a global church. We may speak in different languages. We may celebrate communion differently. Indeed, we have different theologies. None the less, we are all one around Christ's table. When we are in Cuba, communion seems very different to us. It is in Spanish, for one thing. There is very little liturgy. Basically, the pastor speaks the words of institution. In Iguara, there are wooden trays holding tiny goblets of juice. Regardless of the differences, I always feel at home. I always feel like I've been part of a sacred meal.

The observance of World Communion Sunday started in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was then adopted by what was to become the National Council of Churches. Since then, the observance has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity. It is an opportunity to remember our sisters and brothers in far corners of the world.

As we think about world communion this year, it is difficult to avoid the turbulence and the violence seemingly everywhere we look:

- The escalation of angry rhetoric between our country and North Korea
- The Rohingya crises in Myanmar
- The ongoing conflict in Syria, Yemen, Sudan
- The global refugee crisis

*continues on page 2*

## Contents

Worship .....	2
Free Fall Concert.....	2
Bible Study .....	3
Adult Nurture .....	3
Worship & Arts .....	4
Website Update .....	5
Cuba Notes .....	5
SEJ .....	7
Plant & Property .....	7
Church Workday .....	7
Faith Family Life .....	8
Office Help Needed.....	8
Book Club .....	8
Reformation Sunday .....	9
Health & Wellness Fair ...	10
GEDCO Tribute .....	11
Calendar .....	12

Please send articles and photos for the Voice of Faith by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. [seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org](mailto:seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org)

## WORSHIP

### Sundays at 10:45

#### World Communion Sunday

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*October 1*

Exodus 2: 23-25; 3: 1-15; 4: 10-17

God's name is revealed.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*October 8*

Exodus 16: 1-18

God provides Manna.

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*October 15*

1 Samuel 3: 1-21

God calls Samuel.

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*October 22*

1 Samuel 16: 1-13;

Psalms 51: 10-14

God calls David.

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*October 29*

1 Kings 5: 1-5; 8: 1-13

Solomon's Temple.

## FALL CONCERT!

The Faith concert series will offer its first concert of the year on **Sunday, October 22nd at 4:00 p.m.** This special concert will celebrate our new chapel and include a dedication of the chapel in memory of **Irma Lenderman**. Music will be provided by an all-star line-up of both Faith musicians and guests, young and old. A wine and cheese reception will follow the concert in the Jackson Lounge. The concert is free and everyone is welcome!

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The instability of places like Ukraine,  
Turkey, Afghanistan, Democratic  
Republic of Congo  
The spread of terrorism

All of these situations make this one of the most dangerous times for the world in decades.

Consequently, our World Communion celebration this year will focus on Peace. Appropriately, we will receive and dedicate our Peacemaking Offering and we will remember Christ's instruction to us: "Blessed are the peacemakers"!

I share with you a prayer by Alan Paton (South Africa)

Give us courage, Lord, to stand up and be counted,  
to stand for those who cannot stand up for themselves,  
to stand up for ourselves when it is needful for us to do so.

Let us fear nothing more than we fear you,  
let us love nothing more than we love you,  
for thus we shall fear nothing also.

Let us have no other God before you,  
whether nation or party or state or church.

Let us seek no other peace  
but the peace which is yours,  
and make us its instruments,  
opening our eyes and our ears and our hearts,  
so that we should know always  
what work of peace we may do for you.

You are loved,

Christa

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

### Wednesdays Bible Study

11:00 a.m. in Woodbourne Room

Join Rev. Christa Burns and friends for a lively discussion of the upcoming Sunday lesson. Everyone is welcome! No preparation is required.

- October 4 - Exodus 16:1-18
- October 11 - 1 Samuel 3:1-21
- October 18 - 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14
- October 25 - 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

### Adult Nurture

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room

#### October Topics Coping in Stressful Times.

- 1 – Music Therapy, Brianna Brophy MT-BC
- 8 – Yoga, Rev. Gretchen van Utt
- 15 – Pastoral Care, Deb Colmers
- 22 – Poetry, Susan Johnston
- 29 – Activism, City Councilman Zeke Cohen

#### Brianna Brophy MT-BC



Brianna (Bri) is a board certified music therapist and recent graduate of Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. She is extremely passionate about the field of music therapy and has given presentations in Nashville to advocate and educate the public about the benefits of music therapy. In addition to clinical work at Annapolis Music Therapy Services, Bri frequently volunteers her time in the community.

#### Rev. Gretchen van Utt



Gretchen grew up on the Connecticut shoreline, received her BA from Kirkland (Hamilton) College and her M.Div. from Harvard. Following a stint as Visiting Chaplain at Hamilton, she came to Maryland in 1977 to serve as Chaplain and Co-Director of the First Year Program at Goucher College, and later as University Chaplain at Johns Hopkins. She has served as Pastor of Springfield PC and interim ministry at six churches before retiring in early 2012. Gretchen has served the Presbytery in a variety of capacities including member of the Vision Committee and Council, and Co-Moderator of the Commission on Spiritual Leader Development. Since her retirement, Gretchen completed her 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training (YTT) and additional training for certification to teach yoga for arthritis and chronic pain. She teaches yoga in the Baltimore area and is currently in an advanced YTT to receive her 500 hour certification.

#### Susan Johnston



Susan Groff Johnston is a writer and retired middle school English teacher who lives in quiet contentment with her husband Lew in Baltimore County amid tall oak trees.

## Zeke Cohen



Zeke Cohen is the Chairman of the Education Committee on the Baltimore City Council. Zeke has spent his entire career fighting for the voices of young people. He began as a teacher in West Baltimore, where he brought a group of eighth grade students to help rebuild a home in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. After teaching, Zeke started a nonprofit where he trained high school students to become civic leaders. Zeke's students were involved in passing several laws including the Maryland Dream Act. Zeke was elected to the City Council based on his belief that "Community Comes First," and that young people are our best hope for creating a better world. He holds a bachelor's in Political Science from Goucher College, and a Masters in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins.

## WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Judy Sperling, *chair*

Summer has come to an end. Sunday morning worship has returned to 10:45 a.m. Singers, ringers and drummers have begun practicing. Church School and Adult Forum are in session every Sunday morning.

**Don't forget that Adult Forum is beginning at 9:15 so that the choir can fully participate prior to pre-service rehearsal. Coffee and snacks will be available in the Jackson Lounge between Adult Forum and Worship. Come and enjoy a snack and visit with**

**old friends and make new friends.**



In preparation for these new beginnings, we celebrated our second annual **Homecoming Sunday** on September 10. Morning Worship took place on the South Lawn under the shade of the stately old trees.



Mike Shirey and the Ararat Mountain Boys returned by popular demand. They were warmly greeted. Their lively Blue Grass music was a delight to the ears and an invitation to sing a long!

*continues on page 5*

continued from page 4



At the end of the service, with little pause, a table spread with tempting food and the smell of hot dogs fresh off the grill beckoned to everyone to enjoy an old fashioned pot luck church picnic on the lawn. A count of the smiling faces was a clear indicator of a great success. . . thank you for everyone who helped to make it happen.



*"Everyone wants to know what Jesus would do. No one ever asks how Jesus is feeling about his complicated relationship with his father."*

## CHURCH GROWTH

### New Members

**Interest in making Faith your church home?** We would love to receive new members on Reformation Sunday, October 29. If you are interested, contact Rev. Burns or the church office 410-435-4330.

## New Website!

Paula Burger



At long last, Faith Church has a new website. Please go to [www.faithpcbalt.org](http://www.faithpcbalt.org) and have a look. We welcome your comments and suggestions. We will continue to enhance our web presence as we now have the capability to update the website regularly with new text and pictures. Send your comments to [paulapburger@gmail.com](mailto:paulapburger@gmail.com). You can help us in this effort to maintain an engaging website by forwarding photographs to the church office.

And remember to "[like us](#)" on Facebook.

Thanks are due to members of the ad hoc website committee (Mike Billings, Andy Fuller, Doug Lent, and Neil Nemser), to Pastor Christa Burns for her efforts to enhance the concept and the text, and especially to Parish Administrator Diane Borgatti for her many contributions including learning the software and investing time and effort in making the site visually attractive.

### Cuba Notes

Audrey Trapp

Much has happened in our Cuba Partnership over the last few months. First, an update on our partner churches and the impact of Hurricane Irma on the church and community.

*continues on page 6*

*continued from page 5*

The Meneses Church – Mercy Rodriguez, lay pastor, continues to lead the church with the help of the Session and with the support of The Rev. Liudmila Hernandez, pastor of the Sancti Spiritus Church. Mercy retired this year and is happy to have more time with her family and the church. Irma caused flooding and property damage, but no injury or loss of life. Food, water, electricity have all been affected. The church had some damage to the building and lost several banana trees in the church yard.

The Iguara Church – Lester Yoel, student pastor, was reassigned to the Calabazar church in the spring in order to give him experience in a larger church. He graduated from SET, the seminary in Matanzas, in June, after many years of part-time study. The Session is continuing the work of the church under the supervision of The Rev. Marlon Irrarragorri, pastor of the Cabaiguan Church. We have had similar reports of property damage and downed trees, but no loss of life in Iguara.

Continue to pray for our two small churches as they continue their work without the fulltime help of ordained clergy. As you know, there are not enough pastors for all of the churches in El Centro Presbytery, and apparently this year, no student pastors from the Seminary. And pray for all of the churches and people of Cuba as they recover from Hurricane Irma.

I was privileged to attend the Cuba Partners Network annual meeting in Chicago, September 12-15<sup>th</sup>. 50+ folks from PC(USA) churches with Cuba partnerships met with five Cuban pastors to share information, ideas, worship and have Bible study. We heard first-hand accounts of Irma damage and contributed money for them to take back for hurricane relief in El Centro.

The Presbytery of Baltimore Cuba Partnership invited two Cubans to visit in

September, as is our custom. The Rev. Jesus Rodriguez and Elder Xiomara Arenas were here for ten days and visited many churches in the Presbytery, and attended and spoke at the Presbytery meeting. The Faith Cuba group hosted Xiomara at a potluck supper at the Trapp's on the 11<sup>th</sup>.



*Supper at Trapp's - Xiomara Arenas at left*

Also, The Rev. Liudmila Hernandez and Elder Yanelys Bonet from the Sancti Spiritus Church, visited their partner, Woods Memorial Church in Severna Park.



*Audrey, Yanelys Bonet, the Rev. Liudmila Hernandez*

Stay tuned – we will be meeting soon to set the dates for a Cuba trip in 2018. Consider going with us!

Social and Environmental Justice  
Council (SEJ)  
Karen Meyers



### Many Maryland Families Face Financial Hardship

The United Way of Central Maryland has released a report on financial hardship in our state, entitled the ALICE Report. The acronym stands for "Asset-limited, income-constrained, employed." In other words, its subject is people who are employed, but whose wages are inadequate for the cost of living in Maryland. They estimate that 35% of households in Maryland struggle to meet their basic needs and that the income required for the basic survival of a family of four is twice the federal poverty level.

The complete report or the executive summary are both available at <http://www.uwcm.org/main/alice/>. Factors contributing to financial hardship are the dominance of low-wage jobs, a cost of living that outpaces wages, and the fact that jobs and affordable housing are not often in the same location. Public and private assistance is available, but doesn't provide financial stability. Public assistance is concentrated on health care with little available for housing and childcare.

I encourage you to read the report. It should provoke conversations and direct the development of solutions to the financial insecurity suffered by so many Marylanders.

### PLANT & PROPERTY

Pat Nesbitt and Mike Shirey, chairs

I am pleased to announce that Mike Shirey has graciously agreed to co-chair the Plant and Property committee with me. We look forward to the new energy and ideas that he will bring to our work.

Over the summer the refurbished Chapel had the finishing touches put on it with new blinds at the windows. We envision this space to be perfect for small services, meetings and possibly concerts.

Cement work repair has been completed to the sidewalk and steps outside the fellowship hall. A new cement pad and fence have been added to house the trash cans.

A new garden was added beside the Fellowship Hall door.

The maintenance of our extensive grounds continues to be a challenge. We are most grateful to the small, but hardy Thursday crew, which keeps everything repaired, trimmed, weeded, mowed, edged and cleaned up including many trips to the dump, but we need your help.



We will be having a **WORK DAY on SATURDAY OCTOBER 28th from 9-noon** to tackle some larger projects. These work days are increasingly urgent as we try to keep down the cost of maintaining this expansive property. Please put the date on your calendar. Lunch will be served at 12:30.

## FAITH FAMILY LIFE

### Happy October Birthday!

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chandra Jackson
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Deborah Bean-Walker
4 <sup>th</sup>	Monica Meade Martha Sayre
7 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Meyers
8 <sup>th</sup>	Glen Curtis Krista Wallace
12 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Curtis Zac Nemser
13 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Billings Robert Garner
14 <sup>th</sup>	Jay Chalfant Kristin Herber Linda Seward
17 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa Rush
18 <sup>th</sup>	Christina Brown
21 <sup>st</sup>	Janet St. Pierre
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Natalie Bellows
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra McWhirter
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Marinacci
28 <sup>th</sup>	Moira McGill
31 <sup>st</sup>	Katherine Bissett David Meyers

If you would like your birthday added or if it is incorrect, please contact the church office.

### Please Keep in Your Prayers

Christian Dunyoh  
Mildred Miller  
Esmie & Leon Stirling  
Nancy Stutzer  
Betty Lou Tampieri  
Dot Weller

Please send your prayer requests to Christa Burns, *Pastor* 410-435-4330, and/or Sharon Will 410-254-6788. Prayers are answered!

### Coffee Fellowship

*Prior to worship 10:15*

Remember that coffee and pastries are available in the Jackson Lounge prior to

worship. Now that the Adult Forum runs from 9:15-10:15 a.m., there is ample time to enjoy coffee and some visiting. And, contributions of food are always welcome. Speak to Yvonne Davis or Paula Burger if you are willing to bring in a baked good or help with the dishes.

### Office Help Needed

I will be on vacation **November 20-22**, Thanksgiving Week. I need volunteer(s) to open the office and answer the phone from 9:00 until noon. No experience need. Please let me know. Thank you, Diane Borgatti 410-435-4330 or [seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org](mailto:seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org)

### Book Club

*Fourth Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.*

Faith's Book Club kicked off (or perhaps launched is more appropriate given our theme) the new church year's reading around the notion of "Flight" with a robust discussion of **Barbara Kingsolver's** best selling novel *Flight Behavior*. This is the compelling story of a young wife in Appalachia whose personal journey to a wider world becomes intertwined with the plight of migrating butterflies and a conflict with climate scientists and environmentalists and local religious and other leaders. Put it on your reading list!

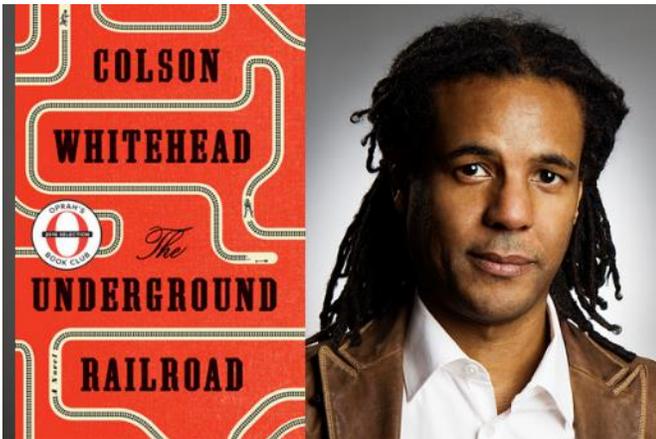


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continued from page 8



Our selection for October 23<sup>rd</sup> is *H is for Hawk* by **Helen Macdonald**. This volume also has been highly acclaimed, appearing on more than 25 best books of the year lists. It tells the story of a woman who, grieving her father's death, adopts and raises a goshawk and finds that "together raptor and human discover the pain and beauty of being alive."



And, November 27<sup>th</sup>, our flight motif will have us discussing **Colson Whitehead's** *The Underground Railroad*, a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winning chronicle "of a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South."

Book Club evenings are not only stimulating, but fun. Please consider joining the conversations. If you are interested, but have any transportation or other issues, please let us know and we will arrange to get you there.

## Congregation Photograph: Say Cheese

Please make a special effort to be present for worship on **Sunday, November 5**.

We plan to take a group photograph of the entire congregation. Some of you may recall that we did this six or eight years ago. This will be a valued part of our church archives, but, more importantly, we want to be able to feature the photograph on our website and display it in our church. Let's make sure the photograph captures who we are!

We will take two photographs, one inside, and, weather permitting, one outside. So, please allow an extra 20 minutes for this endeavor. This is something that you can do to help your church. Please participate!

## Reformation Sunday, 500 Year Anniversary *October 29*



This year Presbyterians celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. The theses, which criticized the sale of indulgences by church officials, are considered the opening salvo in the Protestant Reformation—a movement that emphasized individual relationships with God.

# Health and Wellness Fair

Sponsored by  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Faith Presbyterian Church,  
Friendship Baptist Church, Northside Baptist Church,  
Northwood Appold United Methodist Church,  
St. Matthew Church & MedStar Good Samaritan  
Hospital

**Date – October 14, 2017**

**Location – Mt. Zion Baptist Church**

**2000 E. Belvedere Ave. 21239**

**Time – 10am- 1pm**



**Free Flu Shots** (18 and older)  
**Healthy Snacks and Giveaways**  
**Free Screenings**  
**Health and Wellness Information**

**For More Information call: Debbie Bena @ 443-444-4793**



# 2017 Thanksgiving Tribute



*Celebrate 26 years of*

Building Caring and Compassionate Communities

November 16, 2017 • 6:00-9:00 PM

B'More Kitchen • 5609 Hess Avenue

[www.gedco.org/2017tribute](http://www.gedco.org/2017tribute)



# October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> ☞ 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship <b>World Communion Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00PM – WB Deacons	<b>4</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	<b>5</b> 6:30PM-WM Bell Choir 7:30PM-CR Chancel Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	<b>12</b> 6:30PM-WM Bell Choir 7:30PM-CR Chancel Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00AM – OC Health Fair
<b>15</b> 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	<b>16</b> 7:00PM – WB Session	<b>17</b> 7:00PM – WM Men's Group	<b>18</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	<b>19</b> 6:30PM-WM Bell Choir 7:30PM-CR Chancel Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 4:00PM-CH <b>Chapel Dedication &amp; FREE CONCERT</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00PM – OC Book Club	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	<b>26</b> 6:30PM-WM Bell Choir 7:30PM-CR Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00AM – All Church Workday 12:30 – WM Lunch for Workday Volunteers
<b>29</b> 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship Reformation Sunday	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
				<b>Locations</b>  ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall CR – Choir Room OC – Off Campus		