

February 2018

The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family,

I've just returned from Cuba and a meeting with Cuban pastors. We invited a psychologist to help facilitate our meetings and to help us think about our vocations and how we take care of ourselves and our relationships. At one point, one of my colleagues quoted from the Paul Laurence Dunbar poem, "We Wear the Mask":

"We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries
To Thee from tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;
But let the world dream otherwise,
We wear the mask!

I think this poem came about because we were talking about how pastors tend to wear masks to protect themselves from their own wounds. I know - deep!

Lent is a time for stripping away our masks and admitting to ourselves who we truly are. It is a time of introspection and a time of thinking hard about what it is we believe.

It is appropriate then that we begin Lent on February 14th with a Taize service in the chapel (preceded by a simple supper). Taize, as you may know, is a community in France that developed worship based on simple sung chants. These services are more quiet and reflective, usually with flute, or piano or guitar. We haven't done a Taize service in a while and we are looking forward to it in our new chapel.

The sermons during Lent will be based on the "I Am" passages from John's Gospel in which Jesus tries to explain who he is (without a mask): I am the Good Shepherd, I Am the Light of the World, etc.

Apparently, there is a quote circulating on social media: "I AM. Two of the most powerful words; for what you put after them shapes your reality." Our sermons during Lent will help us to

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WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45

Souper Bowl Sunday
 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 4
 John 4:1-42
 The woman at the well.
 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Transfiguration of the Lord
February 11
 John 9:1-41
 A man born blind.

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 6:00 p.m. Chapel
 John 10:1-18
 The Good Shepherd

First Sunday of Lent
February 18
 John 11:1-44
 Jesus raises Lazarus.

Second Sunday of Lent
February 25
 John 13:1-17
 Jesus washes disciples' feet.



"My desire to be well-informed is currently at odds with my desire to remain sane."

consider how Jesus finished I Am...and how that makes a difference in who we say we are.

Maybe we could start by saying "I Am Loved"....so you are...

Christa

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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.

February 7 - John 9:1-41
 February 14 - John 11:1-44
 February 21 - John 13:1-17
 February 28 - John 18:12-27

Adult Nurture

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room

February 3



Gwen Brown, Organizer
BUILD Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development

Gwen Brown is an associate organizer with BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development) where she has worked for almost 20 years. BUILD is a 45-year-old broad based, non-partisan, multiracial organization "rooted in Baltimore's neighborhood and congregations." Currently, she is organizing with communities in East and West Baltimore, immigrant communities and churches throughout Baltimore City.

Gwen's desire is that her organizing will serve to assist in cultivating leaders who will create long-term and systemic change in Baltimore

February 11, 18, & 25



Arthur Sutherland, Ph.D.

presents a series on
Minority Women's Approach to Theology

Arthur Sutherland, professor at Loyola University Maryland holds advanced degrees from Yale University Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary, is an associate professor of theology. Dr. Sutherland conducted research in Germany and Switzerland for his dissertation on Karl Barth and has received fellowships from the Fund for Theological Education, the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life, the Christian Scholars Fund, and the Wabash Center for the Teaching of Theology and Religion. His research interests are in the history of Christian doctrine, African-American theology, and the spirituality of generosity. His book, *I Was a Stranger: A Theology of Christian Hospitality*, which addresses immigration, exile, and violence, was nominated for the Grawemeyer Award for Religion. As Loyola's director of national fellowships from 2007-2016, he helped students win nearly 40 prestigious academic awards including scholarships from Fulbright, Goldwater, Gilman, Critical Languages, Lilly, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He founded the Ignatian Pedagogy Seminar for Loyola's faculty, is a member of the Messina faculty, taught in the Alpha program for 12 years, and in the Honors program since 2003.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Black History Month Concert Samuel Springer

I hope you have enjoyed the musical events last year. This year we hope to keep the wonderful music flowing through Faith Church.



On **February 23 at 7:00 p.m.**, we have a Black History Month Concert by baritone **Daniel Rich**. Daniel is a brilliant young talent. He graduated from Morgan State in 2016 and is presently at the Manhattan School of Music pursuing his Masters of Music degree. While at Morgan he was a semi finalist in the Annapolis Opera's 29th Vocal competition. He also performed a solo voice concert at the Walters Art Gallery.

Daniel has an interesting concert in store for us. The concert will be a filled with art songs by African American composers and spiritual arrangements- many of which will be unfamiliar to the audience. Composers such as: Charles Lloyd, Betty Jackson King, Hall Johnson, Baltimore's own Thomas Kerr and William Grant Still. The latter, William Grant Still (1895-1978,) has often been termed the patriarchal figure in Black music and was the first Afro-American composer to secure extensive publication and significant performances. His works represent the culmination of musical aspirations of the Harlem Renaissance, in that they "elevated" folkloric materials.



The rarely performed, "Songs of Separation" will be on the program. This is a cycle of five thematically related songs set in 1949 to texts of Black poets: "Idolatry," by Arna Bontemps; "Poème," by Philippe Thoby-Marcelin; "Parted," by Paul Laurence Dunbar; "If You Should Go," by Countee Cullen; and "A Black Pierrot," by Langston Hughes. The ardor and, in the Dunbar instance, humor, are reminiscent of the songs of Coleridge-Taylor.

I hope everyone can be there. Tell your friends and your friend's friends.

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Judy Sperling, *chair*

Lent 2018

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. At 6:00 p.m., Faith will gather for a simple soup supper in the Woodmont Room and then move into the chapel where we will have a brief Taize service including the imposition of ashes.

Please let Judy Sperling know if you can contribute soup for the supper.

The theme for the sermons during Lent is The Call to "I AM". We will explore how Jesus completes the "I am" statements in The Gospel of John (the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life) and what difference that makes for us.

Please send articles and photos for the Voice of Faith by the 15 of the month.

seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org

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Like us on [Facebook](#)

Cuba Pastor's Retreat



Recently, our colleagues in Cuba asked if we could be partners in a Pastor's Retreat. Presbyterian pastors in Cuba often serve multiple congregations, they get paid a pittance, and they virtually have no time off.



In January, Baltimore Presbytery and the Presbytery of Central Florida hosted a five day retreat in the church in Veradero, Cuba. Veradero is a resort town on the coast north of Havana.

Seven people from Baltimore went - 6 pastors, one partner. Karen Brown was among our group. Our time together was facilitated by a psychologist who was my roommate for the week. We are now best buddies! While it was cool for Cuba, just being by the sea was restorative. We talked about how to take care of ourselves, how to picture our futures, etc.



I watched some baseball with Pastor Dahlia's husband, Pablo - a retired physical education teacher who speaks not a lick of English. None the less, we share a bond that needs no words - baseball! The semi-finals were on and opinions are very clear about who should win. "Our" team, Las Tunas, won and is now competing for the championship.



In the afternoons, we visited a cave with drawings 2000 years old on its walls and the Afro-Cuban museum in Matanzas. At the end, we paired up and agreed to communicate regularly and to have at least one more retreat. It was a meaningful time for both of our presbyteries.

Christa

Krislund Travel Day Camp at Faith



Faith families mark your calendars! Krislund will once again be coming to Faith Presbyterian Church for their critically acclaimed Traveling Day Camp! This year, we have reserved an earlier week, hoping that more Faith families will be available. The Krislund TDC will be held from **Monday, June 25 to Friday, June 29!** Registration forms are available. See Robin Nemser for more details!



McCabe Summer Camp 2018

Last summer six Presbyterian churches in the Uptown Metro Ministry group, including Faith Church, came together to sponsor, plan for, and lead a 3 week- long day camp for the children of the Woodbourne-McCabe neighborhood. Two churches joined together to lead camp each week. Between 20 and 30 children participated each day during our time there.



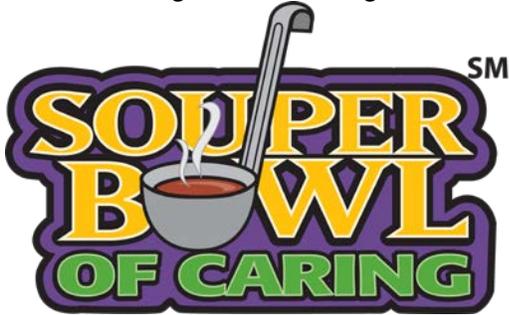
Camp was held in the Alhambra Park, a pocket-park in the middle of the neighborhood. With outstanding help from the community organizer from Strong City Baltimore, the children enjoyed lunch and snacks, singing, art, prayer, sports, science "lessons," and many other activities, all provided by volunteers from the neighborhood and members of the involved churches.

Plans for this summer's camp are well underway. Please consider volunteering for camp, either for a day or longer. Get to know the children of the neighborhood—our neighborhood!

DEACONS

Dawn Shirey, moderator

Sunday, February 4th



MORE THAN 28 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$135 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

Every Dollar Collected Will Go To

CARES Pantry

our 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring
Charity of Choice.

Look for the Faith Kids holding the soup pots!

Cookies for CARES



The Faith Family donates cookie-filled containers to the CARES pantry to offer *sweet treat* to its clients on Valentine's Day. Containers have been placed in the Valentine Cookie Boxes located in the narthex and in Jackson Lounge. Please take several to fill with cookies, either from your own kitchen or "store-bought." Be sure to bring your cookie-filled containers to church **by Sunday, February 11**, and our deacons will deliver them to the GEDCO CARES Pantry.

CARES Pantry: Update

Faith has been supporting the food pantry at CARES for many years. The deacons felt an update was overdue.

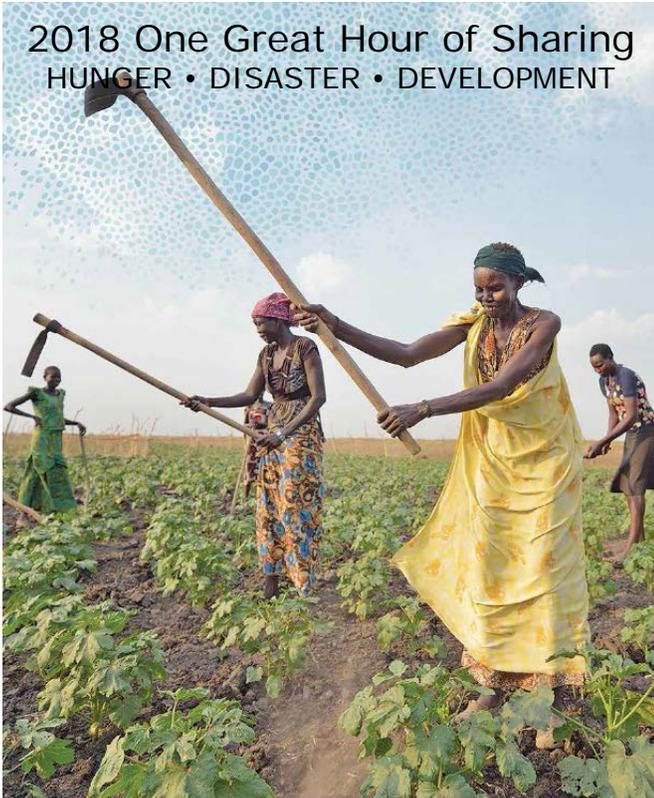
During the fiscal year that ended in March 2017, 357 households (2,755 individuals) received food. Clients may come once every 30 days for food. This works out to be an average of 325 households each month.

Your weekly food donations do not last long on the CARES shelves. There is always great need for canned goods, dry goods, personal items, and so much more.

During the month of February, we would like to concentrate on canned goods of any kind EXCEPT beans (i.e., kidney, black, pinto, garbanzo, etc.) The pantry can ALWAYS use mixed vegetables, beets, potatoes, kale, spinach, carrots, peas, green beans and fruit of all kinds.

Please leave your donations in the baskets or carts which you will find at either entrance to the church.

Thank you for your care and generosity!



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14 – April 1), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Faith Church will receive your donations during worship on Palm Sunday, March 25.

FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Happy February Birthday!

- 2nd Carol Boardman
- 4th JoAnn Robey
- 8th Neil Nemser
- 11th Curtis Moore
Vivian Slacum
- 12th Edward Bernard
Liz Pope
- 14th Diane Hairston
- 15th Milton Aldana
- 20th Barbara McGill
- 21st Patrice Karghate
- 25th Molly Billings-Giganti
Donald Boardman

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

Please Keep in Your Prayers

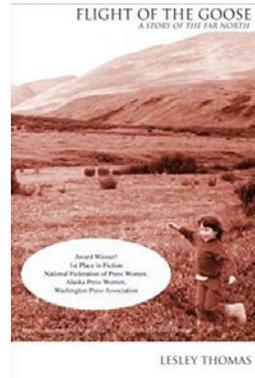
- Betty Bunce
- Christian Dunyoh
- Esmie & Leon Stirling
- Nancy Stutzer
- Betty Lou Tampieri
- Dot Weller

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

Book Club

February 26 at 7:00pm

At the home of **Paula & Peter Burger**



Flight of the Goose, by Lesley Thomas is an award-winning novel about an indigenous

woman shaman, a draft-dodging bird scientist, and a young Inupiaq hunter caught between traditions.

Their tale, woven from threads of psychological thriller, love story, eco-fiction, science and the metaphysical, is set in a remote village and the wilds of the Alaskan Arctic in a time of great cultural and ecological upheaval.

Attention Faith Families



On **Friday, February 16**, at **6:00 p.m.** the Christian Education Committee will be sponsoring a Movie Night/Pizza Party for all of the children of Faith Presbyterian Church and their parents.

We will be enjoying a pizza together, playing Family Minute to Win It games, and watching a fun child-friendly movie (title to be announced). We could use some assistance with desserts and prizes if anyone is interested in assisting.

Children may bring bean bags or sleeping bags so that they may watch the movie in comfort! Please RSVP to Robin Nemser (robin.nemser@gmail.com) by February 10 if you plan to attend so that we can order the appropriate amount of pizza. Hope to see you all there!

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.
Woodmont Room



Eagles vs Patriots

You are invited to join friends and family for a Super Bowl party! Watch the game on the big screen, there will be games, contests and prizes. Pot Luck, snacks and BYO...beverage.

Contact Mike Billings for more information at mwbjr@verizon.net.

POTUS Potlucks A Lenten Movie Series

This year we will again offer a Lenten movie series on Sunday evenings during Lent. Our timely theme is "The President." Please join us for "POTUS Potlucks," a casual supper and movie. We will have supper in the Woodmont Room at 6:00pm and start the movie at 6:30pm. Bring a salad, entrée, dessert, and/or beverage to share.

Appropriately, the series kicks off on President's Day Weekend! The schedule is as follows:

Sundays – 6:00 p.m.

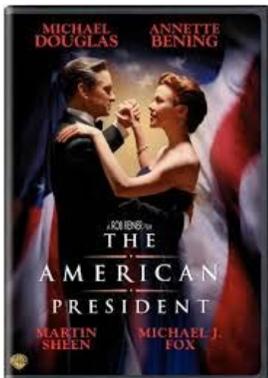
February 18: **Lincoln**



2012 American epic historical drama film directed and produced by Steven Spielberg, starring Daniel Day-Lewis as United States President Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln received significant praise for the acting, especially Day-Lewis's performance, as well as Spielberg's direction, and production values.

February 25: **The American President**



An American romantic comedy-drama film directed by Rob Reiner and written by Aaron Sorkin. The film stars Michael Douglas and Annette Bening; also starring Martin Sheen, Michael J. Fox, and Richard Dreyfuss.

In the film, President Andrew Shepherd (Douglas) is a widower who pursues a relationship with environmental lobbyist Sydney Ellen Wade (Bening) – who has just moved to Washington, D.C. – while at the same time attempting to win the passage of a crime control bill.

March 4: **All the Presidents Men**



1976 American political thriller film about the Watergate scandal, which brought down the presidency of Richard M. Nixon. Directed by Alan J. Pakula with a screenplay by William Goldman.

The film stars Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein; it is based on the 1974 non-fiction book of the same name by Bernstein and Woodward, the two The Washington Post journalists who investigated the Watergate scandal.

March 11: **Dave**



American political comedy film directed by Ivan Reitman, written by Gary Ross, and starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver. Dave was met with critical acclaim, as a refreshingly earnest political comedy.

To avoid a potentially explosive scandal when the U.S. President goes into a coma, an affable temp agency owner with an uncanny resemblance is put in his place.

Annual Meeting

By Paula Burger

Following the worship service on Sunday, January 21, members of the congregation gathered in Fellowship Hall for the Annual Congregational Meeting. The main items of business included a report from Rev. Christa Burns, Moderator of Session; a report from Mike Billings, Clerk of Session, and a report from the Chair of the Finance Committee, Chris Pope. In his usual clear and concise manner, Chris reviewed the successful financial performance for the past year, 2017, in which Faith again realized a budget surplus. Key factors affecting performance included solid annual giving, the good luck that helped us avoid any unusually large maintenance expenses, and the ability to sustain rental income by replacing one lost tenant. Some accounting adjustments, too technical to report here, were made during the year. Those curious about these matters and any others can obtain from the office a copy of the detailed overview shared at the meeting.



The budget for 2018, developed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Session, was also presented at the meeting. The good news is that we are able to budget a small surplus for the year through a conservative approach to expenses, the contribution made by volunteers to maintaining plant and property, and by the congregation's generosity in pledge commitments. Faith is also able to provide a

modest cost of living increase of 2% to the Minister of Music, Parish Administrator, and Pastor, whose terms of call were adjusted accordingly and approved by the congregation.

During the meeting, special recognition was given to committee chairs, the Thursday crew, (with an enthusiastic shout out for Handy Man Ron,) and to Samuel Springer for his important contributions to the music ministry. Pastor Burns was given a warm ovation as she was re-admitted to the meeting after the vote on her terms of call. Parish Administrator Diane Borgatti's work in preparing a colorful report was cited. And of course, it did not pass without notice that those in attendance had enjoyed an especially good lunch, courtesy of organizer par excellence Judy Sperling and lots of volunteers who contributed desserts and assisted with preparations and clean up.

All members of the congregation are encouraged to read the annual report (available from the office and in the narthex) and to reflect on what a great year, rich in program and purpose, 2017 was for Faith Church.

Thank you!



Wednesday Bible Study

We are grateful to Chris Pope for the generous donation of not only matching but comfortable as well, chairs for the Woodbourne Room. Thank you Chris. The old chairs were donated to the Lutheran Mission Society.



NEXT Church

February 26-28, 2018

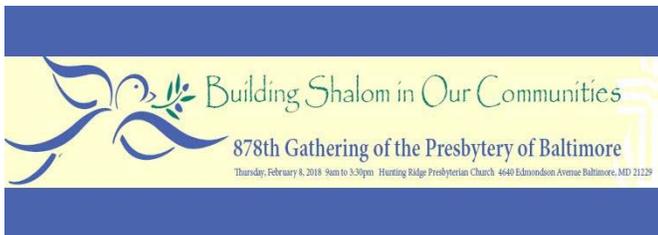
Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

The NEXT Church National Gathering is filled with church leaders (pastors and lay people) sharing stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversations about ministry today. Creative worship centers us around God's presence. Multiple opportunities to engage in workshops and conversation about particular aspects of ministry foster new and deeper connections.

For more information or to register:

[NEXT Church Baltimore](#)

Scholarship are available.



February 8, 9:00-3:30

Hunting Ridge Presbyterian

[Register now](#)

Sign Language



John & Audrey Trapp's home

Do you have a yard sign? Take a photo and send to the church office.

Baltimore Woman's March

February 20





Call for Mentors!

Sisters Circle, a stand-out mentoring program for girls in Baltimore, is currently accepting volunteer applications for its next round of mentor matches this spring. Our team helps girls weather more than a single transition or life challenge; we support them for over a decade so they have all the tools and resources they need to become confident, self-sufficient young women. For more information, visit www.sisterscircle.org, complete our online [application](#) or contact Stephanie Radday, Director of Middle School Programs, at stephanie@sisterscircle.org or [410-227-4836](tel:410-227-4836).

We are looking for women who:

- Can provide guidance and support to a young girl as she navigates the challenging journey of adolescence.
- Have demonstrated stability in a professional environment.
- Are able to spend 4-8 hours per month, including one Sisters Circle event, with their mentee per month, usually on a Saturday.
- Plan to be in the Baltimore area for the next 6-10 years.
- Are 25 years old or older.

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 6:30PM-WB Bells 7:30PM-CR Choir	2	3
4 Souper Bowl Sunday 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship Noon – FH 6:30PM-WM Super Bowl Party	5	6 7:00PM – WB Deacons	7 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	8 9:00AM-OF Gathering 6:30PM-WB Bells 7:30PM-CR Choir	9	10
11 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	12	13 7:00pm – WM Men's Group	14 Ash Wednesday 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 6:00PM – WB Worship	15 6:30PM-WB Bells 7:30PM-CR Choir	16 6:00PM – FH Family Movie Night	17
18 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 6:00PM – WM POTUS Potluck	19 7:00PM – WB Session	20	21 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	22 6:30PM-WB Bells 7:30PM-CR Choir	23 7:00PM – St Black History Month Concert	24
25 9:30AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 6:00PM – WM POTUS Potluck	26 7:00PM-OC Book Club	27	28	29 6:30PM-WB Bells 7:30PM-CR Choir	30	31
		Locations ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus				