

April 2018

The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family,

Our book club has been reading *A Wrinkle In Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. The book was written for young adults and is about a young woman, Meg who is not at home in her own skin. Meg feels like she can never do anything right and that she is, for the most part, ignored. She and her little brother travel to another planet with the help of the three eccentric supernatural beings to find her long-lost scientist father. It is a story about love, good, evil and suffering.

The curious thing to me is that this book has been banned in so many schools apparently because it suggests that Jesus was only one among other fighters for good against evil. In addition, the book includes things that make conservative Christians uneasy. It suggests magic and sorcery and maybe even witches.

Perhaps the most dangerous subject for Ms. L'Engle, who was an Episcopalian, is the idea that the world is full of paradoxes, like the Biblical idea that it will be the weak who will inherit the earth. Evidently, some Christians are uncomfortable with paradoxes! I feel sorry for them because our world is so full of them and to dismiss them is to miss the power and the beauty of the gospel message!

Things are not necessarily what they appear to be. The grave was empty. Jesus was dead. The political rulers had won. The story about Jesus was over. The Christian faith asks us to imagine a different reality in which things are not what they appear, a world in which death does not have the final say and life is not defined by a death certificate.

Opening Day is this Thursday, Holy Thursday. I wish I could go, but I will be doing church - remembering Jesus' words about how we should imagine the bread as his body and the wine as

Contents

Worship	2
Adult Forum	2
Church School	3
Worship & Arts	3
Voice & Piano Concert.....	4
Dinners for 8	5
Harford House Bingo	6
SEJ	6
Sign Language.....	7
March for Our Lives.....	8
Faith Family Life	9
Hampton Tour	9
Book Club	9
Yoga Class	10
Krislund TDC	10
Calendar	11

Please send articles and photos for the Voice of Faith by the 15 of the month. seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org

WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45

EASTER

April 1

John 20:1-18

Resurrection of the Lord

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Second Sunday of Easter

April 8

John 20:19-31

Jesus appears to Thomas

Third Sunday of Easter

April 15

Acts 9:1-19a

Paul's Conversion

Earth Day

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 22

Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29

Acts 17:16-31

Paul's sermon at Athens

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.

April 4 - John 20:19-31

April 11 - Acts 9:1-19a

April 18 - Acts 16:16-34

April 25 - Acts 17:16-31

his blood. Opening Day is so hopeful - anything can happen. A weird old lady can actually fly, a la A Wrinkle in Time. The Orioles might actually end up in the win column. Jesus might actually be breathing down our necks.

"God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform!"

Happy Easter! You are loved,

Christa

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

Adult Nurture

Sundays at 9:30 in Woodmont Room

April 8, 15, 22

Anam Cara, an Exploration of the Book
Led by Bill Millen



John O'Donohue, Author

The Celtic understanding of friendship finds its inspiration and culmination in the sublime notion of the anam cara. Anam is the Gaelic word for soul; cara is the word for friend. So anam cara means soul friend. The anam cara was a person to whom you could reveal the

hidden intimacies of your life. This friendship was an act of recognition and belonging. When you had an anam cara, your friendship cut across all convention and category. You were joined in an ancient and eternal way with the friend of your soul.

Week One: We will explore interpersonal friendship.

Week Two: We will explore the art of inner friendship. When you cease to fear your solitude, a new creativity, awakens in you. Your forgotten or neglected inner wealth begins to-reveal itself. You come home to yourself and learn to rest within.

Week Three: We will contemplate our friendship with the harvest time of life, old age. We will explore memory as the place where our vanished days secretly gather and acknowledge that the passionate heart never ages.

Church School Update

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank the teachers for the month of March, Dawn Shirey, Susan Minor, Chandra Jackson and Robin Nemser. In April, our Church School will be taught by Judy Sperling, Dawn Shirey and, our brand new teacher, Hannah Pope! We will not be having Church School on April 22, as the children will be in church to celebrate Earth Day. In May, the children will be in worship for May 6th so that they may participate in communion, May 13 for Youth Sunday, and May 20 in order to participate in the Pentecost service.

The Children's Choir will sing during worship on Easter Sunday and on May 13, Youth Sunday (Mother's Day.)

WORSHIP & ARTS

Judy Sperling, chair

Women of the Church Sunday



As has been our custom, we celebrated Women of the Church Sunday on March 4 along with many other churches in our area. Each year the men of the choir are given a day to sit in the congregation and volunteers of all ages create a Women's choir.



This year, in addition to serving as liturgists, leading the Time with Children, singing, ushering, and serving communion, Vivian Slacum and Marilyn Valentine took Samuel Springer's place at the organ. A special thanks goes out to Randy Woodfield who led the choir.

Although seeing women in these roles is not an uncommon thing at Faith, it is a wonderful opportunity to show gratitude that Faith is a place where leadership roles are open to all members of the Family of Faith.

Palm Sunday

The morning of Palm Sunday dawned clear and cold, but the weather did not seem to bother the large crowd of people who gathered in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a continental breakfast and chat with friends.



As the time for worship neared, bell ringers formed the start of a parade and everyone selected a palm branch. Bells rang out loud and clear over the crisp morning air summoning the attention of travelers on Loch Raven Blvd. Marchers waved palms and motorists responded with waves and horns. It was a joyous way to begin worship on Palm Sunday!



Voice and Piano Concert



On Sunday, March 18, Joy Ravizee sang a recital of art songs, arias and spirituals in the sanctuary of Faith Church to a very appreciative audience of 67 concert attendees. This was Joy's first solo engagements since finishing her master's degree at Morgan State University. If this concert is any indication of her future, it looks very bright. Thank you for bringing Joy into our Sunday afternoon.



Dinners for 8

The Faith Family gather in homes to share a meal on March 10.



Audrey & John Trapp hosted nine.



Paula & Peter Burger hosted 11 in the Jackson Lounge at Faith Church.

Not pictured: David & Karen Meyers hosted eight and Christa Burns hosted eight.



Randy Woodfield hosted ten at the Judy & Ron Sperlings.



"Did Jesus create these locally?"

DEACONS

Harford House Lasagna Bingo

Deacons and Faith members had a great time with the men at Harford House for our annual lasagna bingo night on March 16th.



Thank you to everyone who made contributions for the event. Ron Sperling worked his magic as our expert bingo caller, and there was an abundance of food and fellowship. The men were grateful for gift bags filled with toiletries, and we left them with plenty of leftovers. We're looking forward to our next time together with the residents.



SEJ

Karen Meyers, chair

BUILD

The Session has approved the suggestion of the Social and Environmental Justice Council (SEJ) that Faith become a member of BUILD, Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development. As described on their website, BUILD "is a broad-based, non-partisan, interfaith, multiracial community power organization rooted in Baltimore's neighborhoods and congregations. BUILD is dedicated to making our city a better place for all Baltimoreans to live and thrive."

BUILD was started in 1977 by Catholic, Baptist, and Church of Christ clergy. The organization currently has 26 faith communities among its members as well as schools, neighborhood associations, and others. The BUILD approach is to go into neighborhoods and listen to the concerns of the people who live there. In this way, BUILD identifies the issues it will focus on, researching them and bringing them to the attention of elected officials. These issues include jobs and employment, housing, youth opportunities, education, crime and safety, and mental health.

Their job-readiness program, Turnaround Tuesday, has put 274 people in permanent jobs in the 2 years since it was started with many more in process. The Baltimore Sun offered this Op Ed piece in the March 4 edition:

<https://bsun.md/2I7IjIT>

The PBS Newshour also featured the program in a recent broadcast:

<https://to.pbs.org/2Hr9TSk>

BUILD has a professional staff of 7 individuals, one of whom will be assigned to Faith as our contact person. Turnaround Tuesday has another 6 people on their staff. I encourage you to read/watch the stories above and to go to the BUILD website to learn more about the great work being done by this organization. We believe it offers Faith more opportunities to become involved in the community and provides the training and support needed to make that involvement effective.

Take Action on an Issue Affecting Baltimore Renters!

SB 520 is a bill in the Maryland General Assembly that would reform Baltimore City's eviction process. Unanimously supported by Baltimore City's State Delegates and Senators, it passed the House last week as HB 832.

This is a fiscally neutral, common-sense bill to reform Rent Court in Baltimore City by ending short notice of eviction trials to ensure that renters have a minimum seven days between receiving a summons and going to court.

The bill reflects the recommendations of a 2016 legislative study requested by Baltimore City Delegate Sandy Rosenberg and then-Senator, now-Mayor Catherine Pugh.

Now Sen. Bobby Zirkin (D-Baltimore County) is holding the bill in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Today, take two actions to help move the bill to passage:

1. Tell Judicial Proceedings Committee **Chairman Sen. Zirkin** to listen to Baltimore City renters and elected representatives: He must lead SB 520 to a committee vote and onto the Senate floor!
410-841-3131,
bobby.zirkin@senate.state.md.us

2. Ask **Senate President Mike Miller** to ensure "local courtesy" for this unanimously supported local bill.
410-841-3700
thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us

Sign Language



Carl & Kristin Herber's Home.

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

March for Our Lives

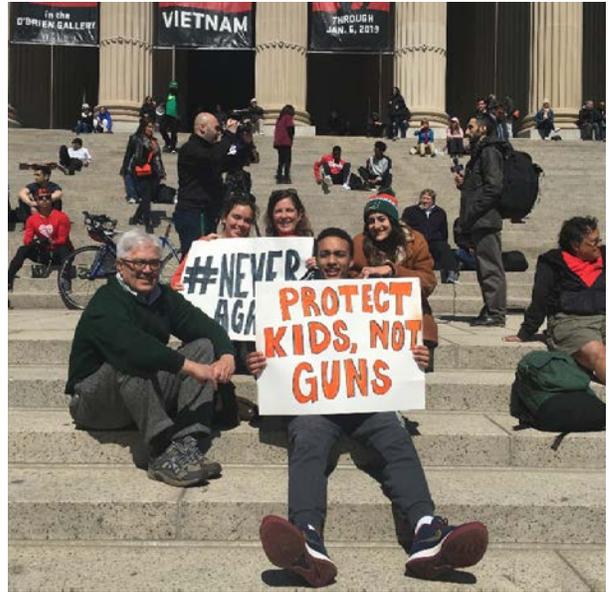
On Saturday, March 24 Faith Church was well represented at the March for Our Lives in Washington DC. Some traveled with St. Matthews and others on their own, yet they all marched as members of this Faith community, speaking out against gun violence.



Karen Meyer, Amy Fulton, Paula Burger



Ed & Ellen Bernard and Ellen's sister Nancy



Chris & Liz Pope, Emma Pope and Friends



Isabelle Aldana and Friends.



Diane Borgatti and friends, Diane Brocato, Christine Myers and Kim Harris

FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Happy April Birthday!

- 3rd Bill Hyde
- 5th Chris Pope
- 9th Cora Bissett
- 14th Carol Mohr
- 17th Nancy Stutzer
Kelley McGill
- 20th Christina Grahams
Gail Poorbaugh
- 21st Theodore Wallace
- 24th Lew Johnston
Hudson Seavers
- 25th Scott Bissett
Elaine Parker
- 30th Robin Nemser
- 6th Mary Ellen Curtis

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

Please Keep in Your Prayers

- Betty Bunce
- 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!

Tour the Hampton National Historic Site



Our own national park ranger, **Bill Curtis**,

has offered to lead a tour of the Hampton National Historic Site, in Towson. The site preserves a remnant of a vast 18th-century estate, including a Georgian manor house, gardens, grounds, and the original stone slave quarters. The tour will take place on **Saturday, April 28 at 10 a.m.** and will be followed by a picnic on the grounds. This is a great opportunity for all generations of the Faith Family. Bring the kids! And bring some picnic food to share afterwards.

We will meet at the park or car pool from Faith on Saturday. Please call the church office and let them know of your interest by April 18.

Book Club

April 23, 7:00 p.m. at the Nesbitt's home.



For April Book Club has chosen Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea*. With *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Rhys last and best-selling novel, she ingeniously brings into light one of fiction's most fascinating characters: the madwoman in the attic from Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. This mesmerizing work introduces us to Antoinette Cosway, a sensual and protected young woman who is sold into marriage to the prideful Mr. Rochester. Rhys portrays Cosway amidst a society so driven by hatred, so skewed in its sexual relations, that it can literally drive a woman out of her mind.

We are always looking for new members, everyone is welcome. See Paula Burger or Pat Nesbitt for more information.

Yoga Returns to Faith

Some years ago, **Leanora Eubanks** offered a popular yoga class at Faith and is willing to offer classes again this spring! Lea is a "child of Faith" and a certified Therapeutic Yoga and Kids Yoga yoga instructor who has taught yoga to varied groups in the Baltimore area. She will tailor the class to the level of the participants so all are welcome, regardless of yoga experience. Try it - you will love it!

Here are the details:

Four-week class beginning the week of April 15th. Let Audrey know your preference for one of the following times:

- Wednesday 2:00-3:15
- Friday 3:00-4:15
- Saturday 1:30-2:45

\$40/four sessions or \$12/drop in
- 75 minute class

Minimum of six participants registered

To register, ask questions or get more information - audreytrapp@comcast.net or 410-466-2133.

Andre's Shredding, Inc

Andre has been very busy Monday mornings shredding your materials. Please be sure to only bring sensitive items, no junk mail. We want our shredder (person and machine) to last.

Thank you Andre for providing a necessary service to our church. You are doing a great job.

Krislund Traveling Day Camp

June 25-29



Registrations are being accepted for the Krislund Traveling Day Camp which will be in residence from June 25 to June 29 from 8- 4 each day. The cost is \$125 for the week. The Day Camp was highly successful last year! Bible study, wild and crazy songs and energizers, Gaga Ball, Four Square, a water slide and much more kept the children engaged and active! Please speak to Robin Nemser or Bill Millen if you have any questions!

You might be wondering how you might get involved in this adventure.

- 1) you may want to serve as a camp volunteer on any or all of the camp days.
- 2) You may wish to provide a scholarship for the registration fee for a camper.
- 3) You may be willing to invite the four staff members for dinner and a shower during one of the evenings of camp. The counselors value their time with members of our congregation.

Please call Robin Nemser with any questions. (443-570-9710)

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>	
 1 EASTER 10:45AM – ST Worship	2 EASTER Monday Office Closed	3	4 10:00AM –WB Block Party Meeting 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	5 6:30PM -WB Bells 7:30PM -CR Choir	6	7	
8 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	9	10 7:00PM – WB Deacons	11 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	12 6:30PM -WB Bells 7:30PM -CR Choir	13	14	
15 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship Noon – WM SEJ	16 7:00PM – WB Session	17 7:00pm – WM Men's Group	18 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	19 6:30PM -WB Bells 7:30PM -CR Choir	20	21	
22 Earth Day 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	23 7:00PM – OC Book Club	24	25 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	26 6:30PM -WB Bells 7:30PM -CR Choir	27	28 10:00AM – OC Hampton Tour	
29 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	30						
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Locations ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus </div>			