

Summer 2018

The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family...and you will always be my Faith Family!

I returned early this morning from Cuba after an intense, wonderful, hot, joy-filled time with our family in Cuba. Lauren Hill and Anna Burns proved their mettle on this trip. We have so many stories to share, but for the purposes of this letter, I want to tell you a bit about the status of our two partner churches. Neither the church in Meneses or the church in Iguara has had a pastor in the entire time we've been going there. We were told by the pastor who moderates the Session at Meneses that "our" towns are regarded as Siberia by the others in the Presbytery - no one wants to go there and they are neglected.



Even though the members of these churches are anxious about the future - what will happen to them, who will come to lead them, even though their resources might seem to us to be extremely limited (no running water, for example - I mean how do they do Vacation Bible School with no running water?) etc. - you would be hard-pressed to find better examples of faith. The care they demonstrate for those in their communities who are in need, their commitment to sharing the love of God with each

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

Faith Presbyterian Church
5400 Loch Raven Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21239
www.faithpcbalt.org

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WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 1

Mark 4: 35-41

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Reverend Christa Fuller Burns

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 8

Mark 6: 1-13

Rev. Karen V. Brown preaching

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 15

Mark 6: 14-29

Rev. Karen V. Brown preaching

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 22

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

Dr Arthur Sutherland preaching

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 29

John 6: 1-21

Dr Arthur Sutherland preaching

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 5

John 6: 24-35

Rev. Doris Cowan preaching

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 12

John 6: 35, 41-51

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 19

John 5: 51-58

Dr Arthur Sutherland preaching

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 26

John 6: 56-69

Dr Arthur Sutherland preaching

other, their witness to what God has done in their lives and their sense of fun has made me a better Christian.



I am not at all worried about Faith's future, in part, because of the commitment you've made to these two little churches in "Siberia". Faith's story will be forever woven together with the stories of Meneses and Iguara. In our belonging to each other comes great, great strength.

I will always carry you in my heart and I will be waiting eagerly to hear what God will do in your midst in the years ahead.

You are loved,

Christa

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Randy Woodfield, *chair*

After taking a moment to catch our collective breath after Pentecost Sunday, the Worship and Arts Committee dove into planning for Men of the Church Sunday, which was observed on Father's Day, June 17. Samuel Springer organized a men's choir who sang a lovely arrangement of Just a Closer Walk with Thee paired with What a Friend We Have in Jesus. Also, Robert Gardner and Samuel sang Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, accompanied by Marilyn Valentine. Bill Curtis shared a meaningful time with our children. Several other men of our congregation participated, including David Meyers, Mike Shirey, Ted Wallace, Bill Hyde, Neil Nemser, Maceo Williams and Ellsworth Jackson.



All in all, the service was significant in the life of our church, as it always is.

The Committee will be ramping up its efforts over the coming weeks as we work to fill the pulpit each Sunday until an interim minister is in place. We have already enlisted Karen Brown to return and we are looking forward having Arthur Sutherland to preach for us. Many of you know Dr. Sutherland as one of our most popular presenters in Adult Nurture each year.

As we move forward, please contact us if you have questions about worship at Faith. Our desire has always been to meet the needs of

this amazing congregation, but that is going to become even more important in the coming weeks and months. Please pray for us as we seek God's guidance in fulfilling our role in the ongoing ministry of Faith Church.



A Psalm of Repentance

This prayer came from a friend and it seems particularly relevant in the midst of some of the actions our country has taken.

Christa



To repent...

from Psalm 7

O LORD my God, if I have done this,
if there is wrong in my hands,
then let the enemy pursue and overtake
me,
trample my life to the ground,
and lay my soul in the dust.
The LORD judges the peoples;
judge me, O LORD, according to
my righteousness
and according to the integrity that
is in me.
If one does not repent, God will whet his
sword;
he has bent and strung his bow;
mischief will return upon their own heads,
and upon them their violence will
descend.
I will give to the LORD the thanks due to
his righteousness,
and sing praise to the name of the
LORD, the Most High.

God of grace, have mercy on us.
Judge our evil, and free us from our
sin.

Break open our hardened hearts, Grant us
holy anguish and grievous dread.
Gift us with sorrow and burden us with

grief,
and forgive our paltry resistance.
Give us the heart and hope to lament;
give us voice to cry out, to weep, to
rage.

Bless those we hurt. Save them from our
evil.
Heal and protect them. Accompany them in
the darkness.

Forgive us for our complicity. We repent in
dust and ashes.
Give us the courage to bear the horror we
have caused.
Grant us wisdom to speak, and courage to
act.

Support us with your mighty hand to do
justice,
to assail the mighty, and to stand with
the weak.
Convict us, O God, and turn us to kindness.
Have mercy on us, that we may have
mercy.
For you are a gentle God, kind and life-
giving,
and you redeem us from our fear and
hate.

~ a psalm written by Steve Garnass-Holmes

Dear Faith Family,

I received a note from one of my friends who attended THE PARTY. She wrote: "Would you please pass on to your loyal band of organizers our deepest admiration and respect for all the work they put into your celebration - they reminded me of the description of ducks/swans: serenely floating along in the ocean while paddling like mad underneath the water where we can't see."

Although, I suspect not all of you felt so serene about THE PARTY, I could not agree with my friend more! Everything was so...Faith! Words cannot describe how loved I felt or how much I appreciate what you did for me.

Thank you for the extravagant love that went into this occasion and for the beautiful gifts. I laid awake in Cuba thinking about the plane ticket and the travel money and the easel and the herb garden (which, by the way, is flourishing) and for the Bible restoration and for the remembrance book and for the photograph of my Faith family! The gifts will make my transition easier as I will remember you each time they are enjoyed. I have replayed the songs and poem and words. HE PARTY could not have been any more emblematic of who Faith is. I will always treasure it.

As you may know, this transition has been fraught with many mixed emotions but when I tend to be sad about leaving you, I will think about the many hugs, words and tokens of affection.

When Anna and Lauren and I were in Cuba, we wanted to share a song with the congregation at Meneses. The song we chose was the song our children sang at the party: Give Light - " Give Love and People Will Find the Way". I wish we could have sung as well as our children did and I wish you could have seen Lauren, Anna and I doing the hand motions! Know that I will be singing that song and that we will find a way!

MUCHAS GRACIAS!

You are loved,

Christa

Faith's Celebration of Christa's Ministry



Now, that was an affair to remember! In an outpouring of warm affection and genuine thanksgiving, the Faith congregation joined with family and friends of Rev. Christa Fuller Burns on Saturday, June 9, for a wonderful celebration of her tenure as Pastor. The crowd of approximately 175 adults and children couldn't be accommodated in our own Fellowship Hall, so the dinner was held at Doyle Hall on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University, which proved to be a lovely venue.



Under the terrific leadership of Planning Committee Chair, Pat Nesbitt, dozens of folks contributed their time and talents to creating a splendid evening in honor of Christa. Who knew we had enough talented flower arrangers to open our own florist shop? And music composers and self-taught videographers in our midst?



After a reception hour, guests enjoyed a fine buffet meal, well blessed by Rev. Doris Cowan. Then all were treated to a terrific program, emceed by our own Mike Shirey. Susan Johnston presented a poem by Mary Oliver that was especially appropriate for the occasion, and stellar musical selections were offered by Faith Children and by Randy Woodfield, accompanied by Samuel Springer and Stephen Harouf.



Bill Hyde did the honors in reading a resolution of tribute adopted by the Session (and printed in this issue.) Mike Billings presented a video he had produced featuring many Faith members offering appreciative,

loving, perceptive, and sometimes humorous comments about various aspects of Christa's outstanding ministry



Gabriella Anthony and Franny Marinacci cleverly presented a herb garden planted by Faith's kids. Krista Wallace, Jackie Billings, and Ellsworth Jackson joined Mike Billings in offering gifts of a photo book, a framed congregational photograph, a new binding with appropriate inscription for Christa's well-worn Bible, and a travel fund, all contributed by the many fans of our Pastor.



Faith's good friend and neighbor, Father Joe Muth, offered a special retirement blessing, and then it was Christa's turn for a few heartfelt and moving words on her journey with Faith.



And, as if there were any doubt about the feelings imbuing the room, by way of a musical benediction, Mike Shirey took up his guitar and bestowed on the gathering an original song composed in Christa's honor, aptly employing her regular reminder to us all: "You Are Loved."



The occasion of Christa's retirement is a bittersweet moment for the church, but along with the collective sense of loss, a palpable feeling of love, admiration, and deep gratitude for the contributions that Christa has made to Faith suffused the entire evening. So too, did a strong sense of the caring and wonderful community that is Faith.



Faith Presbyterian Church
The Reverend Christa Fuller Burns
Resolution of Tribute

WHEREAS, the Reverend Christa Fuller Burns came to Faith Presbyterian Church in 2000 as Program Director for Church Growth, became Designated Pastor in February of 2004, and was installed as Pastor in June of 2006; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Burns has provided exceptional and dynamic leadership in all aspects of her ministry and cared lovingly for all members of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, by a not very scientific calculation, she has preached more than 700 sermons, offering with each and every one, theological erudition, cultural relevance, wisdom, and humor, as well as instruction, and counting among them some of the best sermon titles ever recorded in the annals of the Christian church; and

WHEREAS her invisible hand is really quite visible in every bulletin as the services of worship are creatively and thoughtfully crafted, with moments for children that are gems for all ages, with prayers that are at once eloquent and relatable, and with inspired hymn selection and other ample evidence of her effective partnership with the Minister of Music; and

WHEREAS she has been a fierce advocate for social, racial, and economic justice and demonstrated courage and moral leadership within the church in seeking an inclusive Christian community worthy of Christ's teachings; and

WHEREAS in these pursuits, she has engaged meaningfully with the local community, churches in the neighborhood, organizations in the city, and the Presbytery, and further that she has been an ambassador for international understanding in developing the church's ties to Cuba; and

WHEREAS the Thursday Crew, Dinners for Eight guests, Movie night participants, and church luncheon folks can all testify that her culinary skills almost equal her pastoral talents; and

WHEREAS she now wishes to retire in order to pursue other activities for which she exhibits characteristic religious fervor: baseball, travel, mystery reading, painting, and beach walking;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the congregation declare itself bereft at the prospect of our Pastor, whom we know affectionately as Christa, leaving Faith, and that it recognizes, with deep gratitude, profound admiration, and great love, her many contributions to making our church a better place and ourselves better people, and thus wishes her Godspeed in creating rewarding new chapters in retirement.

Adopted by Action of the Session, the Twenty-first Day of May and
Presented this Ninth Day of June, Two Thousand and Eighteen

Michael Billings, Clerk of Session

Krislund Camp at Faith

Krislund Traveling Day Camp is underway this week and, once again the kids are having a great time.



We've welcomed four camp counselors for around the world: one from Georgia, two from Australia and one from Scotland.



We have 15 campers from Faith and the surrounding neighborhood. The campers are love the energizers, songs, Gaga Ball, Bible study and more. Upcoming events include a field trip to Gunpowder State Park and Water Day!



The theme for the week is Ephesians 4: 4-6, "You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all."



We are grateful to Faith members who have provided dinner and showers for our counselors and the scholarships for many of our campers.

FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Happy July Birthday!

- 3rd Elaine Crawford
- 10th Bill Curtis
- 12th Avis Allen
- Paula Burger
- Stephen Harouff
- Susan Minor
- 13th Robert McGill
- 14th Carol Duray
- 17th Sonya Brown
- 19th Esmie Stirling
- 22nd Charleen Witherspoon
- 29th Cathy Billings
- 31st Cydney Parker

Happy August Birthday!

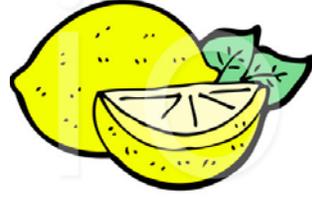
- 1st Leon Stirling
- 2nd Deb Colmers
- 5th Bobby Hall
- 6th William Brown
- 10th Pat Nesbitt
- Samuel Springer
- 14th Anna Burns
- Reginald Wallace
- Randy Woodfield
- 24th Dawn Shirey
- 30th Marilyn Valentine

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

Please Keep in Your Prayers

- Betty Bunce
- Nan Pohl
- June Rowe
- Esmie & Leon Stirling
- Nancy Stutzer
- Betty Lou Tampieri

Please send your prayer requests to the office seekfaith@faithchurchpc.org, and/or Sharon Will 410-254-6788. Prayers are answered!



Lemonade Fellowship

Please consider volunteering to host a lemonade fellowship for a given summer Sunday! A signup sheet and instructions are in the narthex, or call or email Mary Ellen Curtis. It's easy: just get a jug of lemonade and another of something sugarless and then bake something or bring your favorite cookies (the kind you don't buy for yourself because you don't want to be tempted). Or be innovative and surprise us!

Habitat for Humanity Woodbourne McCabe Community

Since 2011, Habitat of the Chesapeake has focused intensively on the revitalization of three blocks along McCabe Avenue in Baltimore's Woodbourne McCabe neighborhood. Along these three blocks, 53 of the 103 homes present were vacant. Others were in need of critical repairs, and those residing there are frequently faced with hazardous living conditions like front porches on the verge of collapse. Now, over twenty of those home have been completely renovate and have new home owners.

All told, the effort will create some 30,000 volunteer opportunities. When it's finished, three-bedroom energy efficient homes with zero-interest mortgages will then be offered to low-income families. Three empty lots will also be turned into a community park, furthering the appeal of the neighborhood to buyers from all walks of life.

We at Faith have opportunities to volunteer with new build dates that are now available at the McCabe Project. The new contact for Faith Presbyterian Church for coordinating

volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity will be Natalie Wallace.



The new summer work dates for the McCabe project are listed below. Wear your old clothes, plan to get dirty and have a great time!

July 21st, July 28th, Aug. 4th, Aug. 18th, and Aug. 25th

Let Natalie (410-207-7190 or nrew62@msn.com) know if you are available to work on any of these dates this summer. If you would like to provide lunch to volunteers that is also welcome. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Gay Pride Wrap-Up

By Doris Cowan

THANKS! KUDOS! GRACIAS!

A loyal, Faith-ful group joined the great PRIDE PARADE on Saturday, June 16th.



While the longer parade route may have kept some from taking part this year, Faith Church was well represented by the Seavers family (Marshalynne, John, Bennett, Hudson, Linden and Ivy Rose), Jay Chalfont, Ileana Martinez-Castillo and Izzie Hill, Mike Shirey, and Bill Millen.

While I didn't walk, I was on hand to provide transportation at parade's end to those wishing it.

Sunday's Pride Festival in Druid Hill Park found Faith represented again-by Ileana and Izzie, Mike Billings, Jay Chalfont and myself. Daughter Kathy Cowan facilitated Jay's and my participation, for which we were grateful.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

McCabe Camp Volunteers Wanted!



Help prepare and serve snack--2:00--3:00
Break down tables and tents 3:00--4:00

Please contact Susan Minor
(suminor@verizon.net) for further
information.

Plans are far along for this year's McCabe Camp to be held in Alhambra Park. Faith and Maryland Presbyterian churches are hosting campers the week of July 23rd to 27th from 11:30 till 3:00. Awesome activities have been planned including science explorations of animal adaptations, "Black Panther" art projects, fun songs and games, special presenters, Opening Gatherings with stories, Bible lessons, songs and prayer.



Below you will find what help is needed. Please consider signing up for one of the specific areas or just come and "hang out" with us. Join us for fun and games with a great group of kids!

McCabe Camp Volunteers

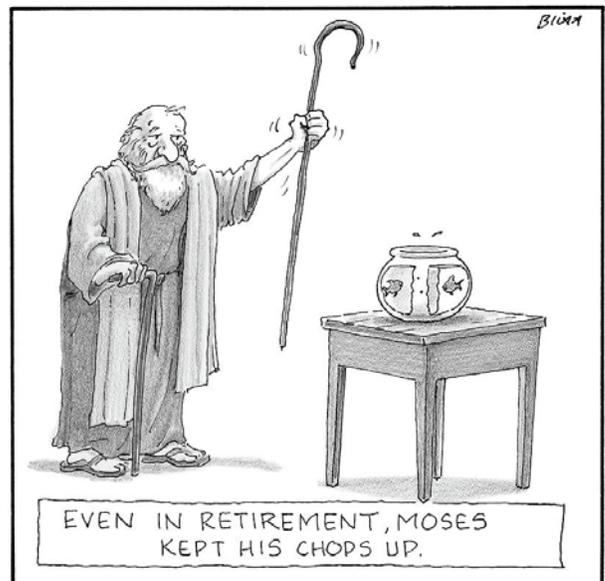
Help with meal preparation @Faith--on
Wednesday and Thursday (25th and 26th)--
10:00--11:30

Set up tables and tents--10:00--11:30

Help at registration table 11:00--12:00

Help with serving meals at Alhambra Park--
11:00--12:30

Move with a group of children through camp
stations--12:30--2:30



July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
 1 10:45AM – ST Worship	2 7:00PM – WB Session	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6	7
8 10:45AM – ST Worship	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:45AM – ST Worship	16	17	18	19	20 7:00PM – OC Harford House Game Night	21
22 10:45AM – ST Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
28 10:45AM – ST Worship	30	31				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Locations</p> <p style="margin: 0;">ST – Sanctuary</p> <p style="margin: 0;">WB – Woodbourne Room</p> <p style="margin: 0;">WM – Woodmont Room</p> <p style="margin: 0;">FH – Fellowship Hall</p> <p style="margin: 0;">OC – Off Campus</p> </div>						