

February 2019

# The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family,

In February, we journey through the Season of Light, which began with Epiphany (the Light to the Nations, on January 6) and ends with Transfiguration, the last Sunday before Lent. In February, we shine a spotlight on African heritage in church and society. And in February, just like the plants in the ground, we are gathering energy to burst forth in the spring.

Sunday, February 3 is Anniversary Sunday, when we'll celebrate Betty Bunce's 50 years in our Faith Family. And of course, February 3 is also Super/Souper Bowl Sunday, so start collecting your contributions for that as well—please see the article inside for more information.

On the following Sunday, February 10, please plan to stay after church for a simple lunch as we work with Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development (BUILD), a locally based, multicultural, interfaith grassroots community organization founded in 1977 through the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). Faith has recently become a member of BUILD, so this is our first opportunity for a place at the table, and a chance for you to meet **Gwen Brown**, the dynamic organizer who has been working with us. If you want to learn more about BUILD, please visit [www.buildiaf.org](http://www.buildiaf.org)—and come to the lunch on February 10!

Also, for those who haven't heard, please revise your calendars: Randy Woodfield's memorial service has been moved to Saturday, February 16th at 11 am, here at Faith Church. It will be an upbeat, largely musical celebration of Randy's life, with special guests including Randy's York College students, who will offer John Runestad's "Let My Love Be Heard," a new choral setting of a poem by Alfred Noyes, upon which they and Randy had already begun work last fall.

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

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## WORSHIP

### Sundays at 10:45

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

*February 3*

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*February 10*

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

*February 17*

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1:1-6

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

*February 24*

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

### Adult Forum

*Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room*

### **3 & 10 Film and Discussion of *I Am Not Your Negro***

Master filmmaker **Raoul Peck** envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, *Remember This House*, narrated by **Samuel L. Jackson**. The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, using Baldwin's original words and flood of rich archival material. *continued on page 3*

And yes, we're looking even farther into the future. Session has set the process in motion by which you will identify who God is calling to be your next installed pastor. Don't worry: we'll go through it step by step, and don't forget that God has already called that person! It's just up to Faith Church to do our homework and then discover, with the growing light, who she or he might be.

So yes, just as you and I are getting to know each other, we are already in more transition. Denominational leaders are saying that all churches are in transition, all the time, now—and since in our faith we are always on a journey, let's remember that wonderful saying of Nelle Morton: "The Journey Is Home."

That's right—2019 will be a year in which we seek more light on a number of subjects: discerning, loving, questioning, and yes, sometimes debating; and all the while, of caring for each other and having fun together. You have superb leaders; good stewardship of time, talent, and treasure; and a strong heart for mission. The Faith Family is growing and changing, and while uncertainty is inevitable, we remember that recurrent message of Scripture, "Fear not!"

Christians are, after all, a Resurrection people. The days are already getting longer, and with snow on the ground and more on the way, the light does reflect from it, giving us those delicate, shimmering hues of winter. "O ye frosts and dews," says the old prayer, "praise ye the Lord!"

Yours in the Light,

Mary

*continued from page 2*

I Am Not Your Negro is a journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter. It is a film that questions black representation in Hollywood and beyond. And, ultimately, by confronting the deeper connections between the lives and assassination of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., Baldwin and Peck have produced a work that challenges the very definition of what America stands for.

### **17 & 24 The Wit and Wisdom of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

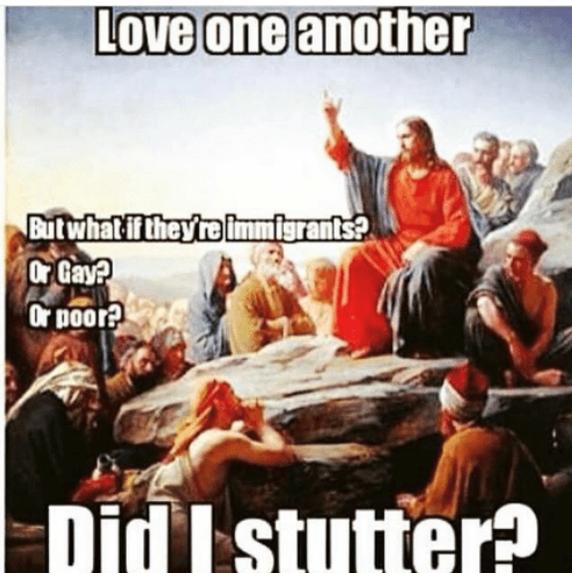
Led by **Dr. Arthur Sutherland**

Arthur Sutherland, professor at Loyola University in Baltimore and has advanced degrees from Yale University Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary. His research interests are in history of Christian doctrine, African-American theology, and theological hospitality

### **Wednesdays Bible Study**

*11:00 a.m. in Woodbourne Room*

Join Faith every Wednesday for a discussion of Sundays upcoming lesson. No preparation is required.



### **WORSHIP & ART**



January arrived cold and wintery! The bad news is that, although highly unusual, snow and ice forced us to cancel a service in order to preserve people's safety. The good news is that the weather remained cold, but not impassable.



When the next cold weather threatened attendance, the Chapel provided a space for "worship in the round" for the expected few, but attendance required additional seating!

Soon church life returned to normal. The holiday decorations are gone thanks to the Thursday Crew, but the stars have remained in the windows to send light into the neighborhood during the darkest nights and the poinsettias in the hallway windows provide a burst of cheerful color.

## DEACONS

Susan Minor, *moderator*

The Deacons next meeting is February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## Souper Bowl Sunday



On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the youth of our church will be at both doors of the sanctuary with big soup pots. They will be asking donations of money that will be donated to the CARES Pantry. The need for food at the pantry is great--please be generous.

The youth will also be collecting cans of soup for the CARES pantry.

## Cookies for CARES



Cookie boxes will be available in the narthex and hallway for you to fill with Valentine's Day cookies for the food pantry. Please take one or more to fill with home-made or store-bought cookies. The cookies will be delivered with a message of caring for the clients of the CARE pantry.

## Habitat Work Days

We have received the following dates February 15, 16 and 22 for Winter 2019 Habitat in the Woodbourne-McCabe community. The max number of people the can accommodate to work is 5 per day. See Natalie Wallace for more information.

## SEJ

## SEJ Members Lobby in Annapolis for Education



Four members of the Social and Environmental Justice Council traveled to Annapolis on January 15 to promote the recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education,

commonly known as the Kirwan Commission after its chair, **William E. Kirwan**. The commission was appointed by the Maryland General Assembly and charged with examining how Maryland funds its public schools and providing recommendations for how to update the school funding formula and how money should be spent. It is comprised of 25 members including legislators, educators, PTA leaders, and others.

**Paula Burger, Bill Millen, Susan Minor**, and myself, working under the direction of Strong Schools Maryland, handed out information cards to legislators, sat in the gallery of the House of Delegates where we were introduced to the assembled body, and met with **Senator Jill P. Carter** of the 41st district to encourage her to support the measures that Strong Schools is asking the MGA to act on during this session. Acting as a Strong Schools Maryland Team of 10, we have committed to writing two letters each month to express support for the Kirwan recommendations. Strong Schools provides talking points, names and addresses, and even paper, envelopes, and stamps. If you would like to join our team, please contact me at [karencmeyers@gmail.com](mailto:karencmeyers@gmail.com).

To find out who serves on the commission, go to: <https://www.aclu-md.org/en/news/who-are-the-kirwan-commissioners>

To view a slide show of the salient points of the Kirwan Commission's preliminary report, go to: <https://www.strongschoolsmaryland.org/updates>

## BUILD Clergy Meeting Held at Faith

As part of our membership in BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development), Faith hosted the monthly BUILD clergy meeting on the morning of January 17. More than 40 individuals representing the various member organizations gathered in our fellowship hall.

Member organizations of BUILD include churches, synagogues, schools, and community organizations. Discussion topics included public safety in Baltimore and the proposed new police commissioner as well as a new funding source and potential expansion of Turnaround Tuesday which is BUILD's job counseling service.

## Make Your Faith Voice Heard!

On February 10, after the worship, you will have the opportunity to be part of a BUILD listening session to help determine the direction Faith Church will take in its social justice work. After the service, we'll break up into groups of 8 or so people, each with a leader from the Social and Environmental Justice Council who will encourage the members of the group to identify the issues they feel most passionate about in our community. Then we'll use your input to direct our efforts in the coming year. We would like to include our youth in this discussion as well.

A light lunch will be served. Please mark your calendars now and plan to stay for this very important church activity!

## Youth Group

Rescheduled organizational meeting is Sunday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. **Hannah Pope** will be leading this group with the help of **Krista Wallace**. Plans being discussed include a spring retreat and a lock-in prior to Youth Sunday in May.



Faith will have a regularly scheduled Youth Fellowship for middle and high schoolers.

## Cuba Notes

Audrey Trapp

Thanks to all who have already made donations (medicines or \$\$) for me to take to Cuba on the 15th of February (fingers crossed that it does not snow that day!). There is still time - I will be in church the next two Sundays.

Twenty folks from Baltimore Presbytery will travel together, spending three days at our partner churches and four days at the Hotel Hanabanilla with 22 Cuban pastors and lay leaders. All the Baltimore churches have been collecting OTC meds to be distributed to the 13 churches in El Centro Presbytery.

In addition, I will be taking specific items to our partner churches - Meneses and Iguara - that they have requested. Medicines, compression stockings, craft supplies for the Sunday School, a plumbing part for the water pump in Meneses, spices, coffee, chocolates, balloons for the children, crayon and pencil sharpeners, etc.



*Children at the Meneses Church in Cuba waiting for Sunday School to begin on January 13, 2019*

By the way, if you wish to give cash, use the white pew envelopes, note Cuba in the memo and put in the offering plate and your gift will be included with your other monetary contributions to Faith for tax purposes.

Keep us and our Cuban friends in your prayers.

## FAITH FAMILY LIFE

### Happy February Birthday!

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Boardman
- 4<sup>th</sup> JoAnn Robey
- 8<sup>th</sup> Neil Nemser
- 11<sup>th</sup> Kurtis Moore  
Vivian Slacum
- 12<sup>th</sup> Ed Bernard  
Liz Pope
- 14<sup>th</sup> Diane Hairston
- 15<sup>th</sup> Milton Aldana
- 20<sup>th</sup> Barbara McGill
- 21<sup>st</sup> Patrice Karghate
- 25<sup>th</sup> Molly Billings-Giganti  
Donald Boardman
- 26<sup>th</sup> Isabella Hill

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
- Nancy Stutzer
- Esmie Stirling

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



### Time for Faith's Annual Dinner for 8

On February 23, 2019 at 6:00, we will once again gather at the tables of Faith Church members across Baltimore to share a meal.

The purpose of this event is to strengthen the bonds among our congregation by getting to know one another in a small group setting.

This is an opportunity to have in-depth discussions that we are unable to have during the passing of the peace each Sunday!

Folks who sign up as a host provide drinks and the main course for 8-10 people, while the guests provide the side dishes and dessert. Just complete the sign-up sheet and give it to Robin Nemser or email her at [robin.nemser@gmail.com](mailto:robin.nemser@gmail.com). You will learn of your assigned host family a week prior to the event. Hope to see you all for dinner!

**Dinner for 8 Sign Up**  
**February 23**  
**6:00 PM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to host a Dinner for 8
- I/We would like to be a guest/guests
- Dinner for 8
- I will need an accessible home, if possible.
- I will require transportation, if possible.

(Return to Robin Nemser by February 15)

**Book Club**

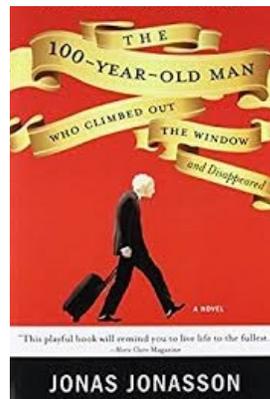


Our book for January "Once They Were Hats: In Search of the Mighty Beaver" by **Frances**

**Backhouse** provided us with the opportunity for a very entertaining evening. Our special guests and Beaver experts extraordinaire **Scott McGill** and **Bill Curtis** along with the author on face time, thanks to Scott, led us in a lively discussion.



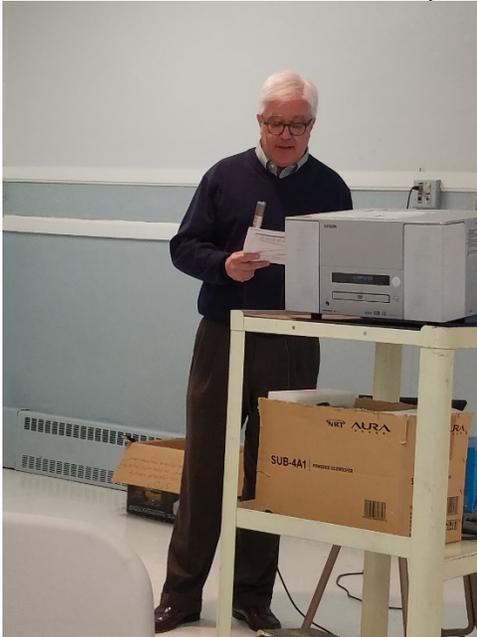
Our little furry friend made an appearance as well.



This will be a hard act to follow but for February we will be reading "The One Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window And Disappeared" by **Jonas Jonasson**. The date is February 25th and the location is yet to be determined.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Following worship on Sunday, January 22, members of the congregation gathered in Fellowship Hall for the Annual Congregational Meeting. The main items of business were covered by Rev. Mary B. Speers, Moderator of Session; Mike Billings, Clerk of Session; and the Chair of the Finance Committee, Chris Pope.



Chris reviewed the budget and Faith again finished 2018 with a small surplus. He also reviewed the Interim Pastor call for 2019.



Rev. Mary B. Speers, Interim Pastor spoke about the next steps toward calling a pastor for Faith.

Mike Billings, Clerk of Session went over the Annual Report and thanked the committees for their work.



The Session sponsored the delicious lunch of Chicken Salad casserole, garden salad, rolls and wonderful desserts.



Copies of the 2018 Annual Report are available in the narthex and the church office. All are encouraged to read the report.

# February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – CH Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship Souper Bowl Sunday <b>5:30PM</b> -FH Youth Group	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>7:00PM</b> -WB Deacons	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>6:30PM</b> -WB Bells <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – CH Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship <b>Noon</b> – FH BUILD Listening Lunch Cookies for CARES	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>6:30PM</b> -WB Bells <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir	<b>15</b> Habitat Workday	<b>16</b> <b>11:00AM</b> – ST Randall Woodfield Memorial Service  Habitat Workday
<b>17</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – CH Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship	<b>18</b> <b>7:00PM</b> – WB Session	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>6:30PM</b> -WB Bells <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir	<b>22</b> Habitat Workday	<b>23</b> <b>6:00PM</b> – OC Dinners for 8
<b>24</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – CH Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship	<b>25</b> <b>7:00PM</b> – OC Book Club	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>6:30PM</b> -WB Bells <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir		
	<b>31</b>					

**Locations**

ST – Sanctuary  
 WB – Woodbourne Room  
 WM – Woodmont Room  
 FH – Fellowship Hall  
 OC – Off Campus