

October 2019

# The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family,

October is always such a good month to begin a really ambitious project, to learn and grow. There's a nip in the air, and we begin to want to spend more time indoors, to settle down with a book, to dig more deeply into what really matters.

This month, Rev. Jack Hodges will lead us through highlights of the Biblical book of Genesis. We'll look at the big questions and how the Bible goes about exploring them: Who is God? Who are we? What are we here for? Why is the world the way it is? Why are we?

And for those of you for whom a nip in the air makes you want to get outside and involved, please see inside this *Voice of Faith* for the Fall Care Days, Habitat schedule, and please consider being part of planning community events at our new partner, Walter P. Carter School, for their monthly evenings on the third Tuesday of every month, or possibly serving as the BUILD police liaison from our community.

Then at the end of October, the Christian Education committee has decided to give Bibles to the third graders in the fall instead of the spring, so that we can present them on Reformation Sunday. After all, it was the Bible that started it all.

We date the Reformation from the day a young priest called Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of what's commonly known as the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther was a lecturer at the local university, and "theses" in those days were suggested themes for academic debate. He had been reading the Bible, translating it into his native German, and it had given him some radical ideas about the church and what it had become.

Tradition says this took place on October 31, All Saints' ("All Hallows") Eve. The official name of that church is "All Saints Church"—maybe Luther thought his proposed debate questions would get more attention on the festival day of the church. He always did have a flair for publicity.

But there was something new in the Western world then: the printing press. The printing press was about like the Internet.

## Contents

Worship .....	2
Adult Forum.....	2
Christian Ed .....	3
SWAG Youth Group.....	3
Worship & Arts .....	4
Music.....	4
Deacons .....	6
SEJ.....	6
Plant & Property .....	7
Stewardship.....	7
PNC .....	8
Faith Family Life .....	9
Interpreting the Gospel of John Lecture .....	10
Environmental Justice "Toxic Tour" .....	11
Calendar .....	12

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

[seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org](mailto:seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org)

## WORSHIP

### Sundays at 10:45

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*October 6*

Lamentations 1:1-6  
Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:5-10

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*October 13*

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
Psalm 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*October 20*

Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalm 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

Reformation Sunday  
*October 27*

Joel 2:23-32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8  
Luke 18:9-14

### Wednesdays Bible Study

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

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

Within weeks, his 95 Theses—his manifesto concerning what he believed to be poor stewardship on the part of the Vatican—had been published all over the Christian world.

You could say that in 16<sup>th</sup> century terms, the 95 Theses “went viral.”

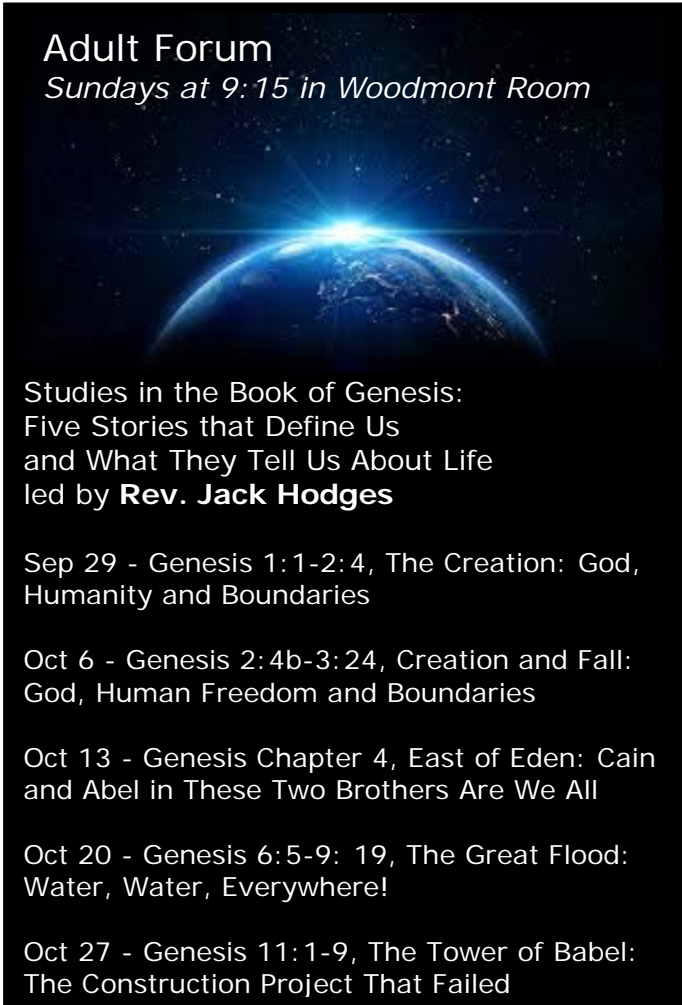
One of the things Martin Luther did that changed everything was to put the Bible in the hands of the people, in their own language. That's why regular reading of the Bible is so important for us all: just like it changed everything for Martin Luther, it can change everything for us today, too—if we read it!

October is truly a month for new beginnings, and I wish you growing knowledge, greater wisdom, and above all, strength and joy on your journey.

Blessings, Mary

### Adult Forum

*Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room*



Studies in the Book of Genesis:  
Five Stories that Define Us  
and What They Tell Us About Life  
led by **Rev. Jack Hodges**

Sep 29 - Genesis 1:1-2:4, The Creation: God, Humanity and Boundaries

Oct 6 - Genesis 2:4b-3:24, Creation and Fall: God, Human Freedom and Boundaries

Oct 13 - Genesis Chapter 4, East of Eden: Cain and Abel in These Two Brothers Are We All

Oct 20 - Genesis 6:5-9:19, The Great Flood: Water, Water, Everywhere!

Oct 27 - Genesis 11:1-9, The Tower of Babel: The Construction Project That Failed

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

### Jack Hodges to Lead Adult Forum

We are very excited to once again welcome Jack Hodges to Faith Church. Instead of being in the pulpit, he will be leading our Adult Forum on a study of Genesis for five weeks, from Sept. 29 through Oct. 27. Jack is a retired Presbyterian minister who served five different congregations during his long career. He is currently on the Board of Governors of Occidental College in Los Angeles and serves as a consultant for the Kairos Group. Jack and his wife, Diane live in Baltimore. We welcome Jack and look forward to our spiritual journey with him.

### Honoring our Third Graders on Reformation Sunday

Faith Church will celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 27th. Part of our celebration that day will include a presentation of Bibles to our 3rd graders. This year we have three honorees: **Carly Burd, Linden Seaver and Jaileel Tomlinson**. We look forward to recognizing these bright, curious children with a Bible that will hopefully be used for decades to come.

### Memorial Service Help

During the month of September, Faith Church hosted two large memorial services. With the help of many volunteers, we were able to provide the families with a day of remembrance that gave them some comfort.

Although we do not have an official "Memorial Service Committee", we just may want to consider forming one. For each service we are in need of Faith members to open and close the church, run the sound system, greet the florist, set up the sanctuary, clean up the sanctuary, set up the Fellowship Hall or Jackson Lounge,

communicate with the family, serve the food during the reception, clean up after the reception, communicate with the caterer, etc.

As you can see, many hands are needed. If you are interested in assisting this small group (which needs to grow) and being part of a committee in the future, please contact Robin Nemser, Judy Sperling or Pat Nesbitt.

### SWAG Youth Group Plans

Hannah Pope and Krista Wallace, our fearless SWAG (Serving with Amazing Grace) leaders, have come up with some exciting plans for the coming church year.

These plans include a Halloween Party on Saturday 10/26 at 5:30 at Faith Church. On Saturday, November 30, the Youth Group will be celebrating "Friendsgiving" together in the Fellowship Hall. Get your potluck recipes ready kids! On December 21 the group will be enjoying an afternoon of caroling and crafting.

Please put these dates on your calendars, and remember, youth are welcome to bring friends to these events. We would love to welcome more teens into our family this year.

### Church School and SWAG Need Magazines

If you are doing fall cleaning and need to find a home for old magazines, the church school classes and SWAG Youth Group will accept your donations for future lessons and craft projects. All magazines with plenty of photographs and illustrations are welcome. Just place them in the Primary Sunday School Room on the old pew. Thank you for recycling, too.

## WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Judy Sperling, co chair

Summer is a pleasant memory and fall has arrived in all its splendor. We welcomed the new church year on the first of September with a Hymn Sing in the Chapel where we happily added chairs until the room was bursting at its seams. Favorite hymns were called out and followed by enthusiastic voices that created a marvelous chorus of praise.

**Samuel Springer** at the piano and **Natalie Wallace** on flute provided a beautiful Offertory and the service was ended when **Mike Shirey** invited the congregation to join in the chorus of God's Promise: words Woody Guthrie, music Ellis Paul.



Then, on September 8 we celebrated our annual Welcome Home Sunday. Seated informally in the round, Pastor Mary led us in a service representative of the Iona Community style that featured lay leaders, **Gabriella Anthony**, **Veronica Herber**, and **Peyton Lemon**, and music by **Mike Shirey**. Following the service everyone shared in a Potluck Picnic Lunch with lots of time for greetings and fellowship.



Thank you to **Mike Billings** and his committee for making it all possible and for the wonderful hot dogs!



On the first Sunday of October, World Communion will be celebrated with Christians around the world.

## MUSIC

Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist

As part of a continuing effort to increase Faith's visibility the Baltimore greater community, we will have a choir in residence this year, [Urban Choral Arts Society \(UCAS\)](#)

They rehearse on Saturdays from 10-1 in the Chapel. Their mission:

Inspire~Train~Transform

The Urban Choral Arts Society is dedicated to improving the achievement and esteem of Baltimore area youth through choral music and cultural arts. We seek to build a community of artists, preserve music of the African diaspora and empower youth with competitive artistic skills for innovation.

UCAS hosts a weekly 2½ hour Saturday music program for students in 6 through 12 grade, with weekly one-on-one private voice instruction, and five major performances per season. UCAS provides students with an arts education which enables them to engage in quality arts instruction that is not adequately provided in area schools and enhances the skills of students that desire more.

UCAS' goal is to develop a strong college & career pipeline through the arts, and to strengthen and sustain artistic networks and patronage. Our educational vision for students is that they become performance & exhibition proficient, working both individually and collaboratively, in order to successfully produce high quality musical experiences.

As students commit and progress through our program, we grant scholarship awards to graduating seniors to pursue music at the college/university level.

Ronald S. McFadden is the Founder & Artistic Director



**Ronald McFadden** is a musician, educator, and advocate for educational equity in America's urban communities. He is a classically trained baritone receiving his B.A. in Music, and his M.A. in Teaching degrees from Morgan State University in Baltimore.

Ronald began his formal teaching career in Baltimore City Public Schools at the Historic Booker T. Washington Middle School, where he taught music and served as director of *The Golden Voices*. He helped to establish an arts integrated school curriculum as arts team lead, and member of the school's instructional leadership team.

McFadden currently serves on the Instructional Leadership Team as Chair of the Department of Fine & Digital Arts, and 7th Grade Lead Teacher at **Southwest Academy Magnet School** in the Baltimore County Public School System (BCPS).

The choir will occasionally participate in the Sunday worship and will present a **Christmas concert at Faith on Friday, December 13th** at 7:00 p.m. You will not want to miss it. If you know of any middle or high school kids who might want to join, please contact Mr. McFadden, [rmcfadden@UrbanChoralArts.org](mailto:rmcfadden@UrbanChoralArts.org)

Faith also share our facilities with the **Camerata Baltimore**. A group of singers, who rehearse in the sanctuary on Tuesday nights.

If you are interested in singing in the choir but cannot make the Thursday rehearsals, please come talk to me. I have a schedule and a plan. We can make your dream come true. This Christmas will be including selections from Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

## DEACONS

Susan Minor, moderator

## GEDCO Breakfast



Pictured above are **Pat Thomson** and Evie Prestianni, who, along with **Susan Minor**, recently attended a breakfast hosted by GEDCO at Stadium Place. The purpose of the breakfast was to invite member organizations to get together and meet the people in charge at GEDCO and to be brought up to date on the many programs and achievements of GEDCO this year.

A few updates:

CARES has received an estimated 12,000 grocery bags of donated food for the pantry so far this year. Faith Church continues to actively support this food ministry.

CARES has recently hired an employment counselor from the Mayor's Office of Employment to enhance employment opportunities for clients.

GEDCO will be breaking ground on October 4th for the VILLAGE CENTER at Stadium Place. The Village Center is the latest project on the grounds of the old Memorial Stadium. It will include mixed income apartments and commercial properties. All are invited.

If you are curious about GEDCO's many projects, set aside one of 2 dates: Thursday, October 24, and Wednesday, December 18.

On both dates, GEDCO will be hosting "Mission In Action Tours" which will take you to the many facilities that GEDCO operates. If you are interested, please contact Susan Minor at 410-254-2779 or Melodie Cunningham at 410-433-2442.

It is not too late to purchase tickets for the GEDCO Thanksgiving Tribute being held at the Visionary Arts Museum on Thursday, November 14th. This is a major fundraiser for GEDCO, and a lot of fun! For tickets, please contact Melodie Cunningham at 410-433-2442.

## Habitat for Humanity

The Workdays are in! If you would like to get dirty, have fun, and make a difference, volunteer! The limit is 10 people per day. Upcoming dates are October 5, 19, 26. Call or text Natalie Wallace.

## SEJ

Karen Meyers, chair

Good news! We were awarded a community engagement grant from the Presbytery to support our partnership with Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School. **Dawn Shirey** wrote the grant requesting funds to help support the Family/Community engagement nights at the school and we received \$6000.

These special evenings occur monthly on **Tuesday from 5:30 – 7:30** during the school year. Each one has a theme and includes some sort of activity as well as a dinner for the participants, mostly families whose children attend the school. The money will be used to purchase food for the dinner and supplies for the activities. The following are the dates for this school year.

September 17, 2019 - Back to School  
October 15, 2019 - Literacy Night  
November 19, 2019 - Math Night  
December 17, 2019 - Holiday Celebration & Movie Night

January 21, 2020 - Parent Teacher Conference Night  
February 18, 2020 - African American History, Culture, and Talent Exposition  
March 17, 2020 - "Know Your Rights" (When Interacting with Law Enforcement) & Self Defense Night  
April 21, 2020 - Holistic Wellness Night  
May 19, 2020 - STEAM & Science Fair Night

It is a requirement of the grant that Faith members be actively involved so we're hoping that some of you will step forward to help in the planning of the events as well as providing assistance during the events.

Please let **Karen Meyers** know if you're interested. [karencmeyers@gmail.com](mailto:karencmeyers@gmail.com)

## World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. It is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual **Peace and Global Witness Offering** as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

Please give generously as 25% of the offering stays with Faith Church; our Social and Environmental Justice Council (SEJ) will use these funds to further our mission.

## PLANT & PROPERTY

Mike Shirey, chair

Mark your calendars now for two (count 'em 2!) opportunities for fun, fellowship, and fresh air!!

Yes, I am talking about Autumn Care Days,

when we have the privilege of lending our collective assistance to the stalwart Thursday crew to get the grounds/inside of our property in tip-top shape.

These are the days:

Saturday, October 26 9:00 - noon  
Saturday, November 23 9:00 -noon

You won't be disappointed and there just might be some hot dogs and chocolate chip cookies at the end in appreciation for your toiling away.

## STEWARDSHIP

Carl Herber, chair

## Moving Forward in Faith

As Fall arrives, the Stewardship Committee is getting ready to kick off our annual stewardship campaign. While our church continues our search for its new pastor, it is more important than ever that our congregation remains united together. This year the Stewardship Committee will seek the ongoing support of our members to continue to show our commitment and stability.

The campaign will kick off October 27 and conclude on Sunday November 17 with our Annual Stewardship luncheon, so mark your calendars!

Please be on the lookout for more information on the Stewardship Campaign in the weeks ahead, and if in the meantime you want to get a jump start and sign up for the automatic bank withdrawal program, please let Carl know!

The committee as lost a couple members this year, so if you are interested in participating on the committee, please reach out to Carl Herber at 443-286-4099 or [carl@herberhometeam.com](mailto:carl@herberhometeam.com).

## New Pastor Call Process Update

Greetings from the PNC,  
Our official search process has begun! We are live on the larger church's network for candidates and have begun receiving applications. The committee continues to work diligently on this process and ask for your continued prayers. We would like to remind you that this part of the process is very confidential. What this means is that we can't share how many candidates we have, who they are, if we have interviewed them, etc. We love being asked how it is going as it keeps us energized and lets us know you are thinking of us, but please know we cannot discuss any details.

Please continue to help us spread the word and share with your networks about the exciting opportunity for a Pastor for our church. You can follow along with progress on the following flowchart.

Many thanks,

Your Faithful PNC

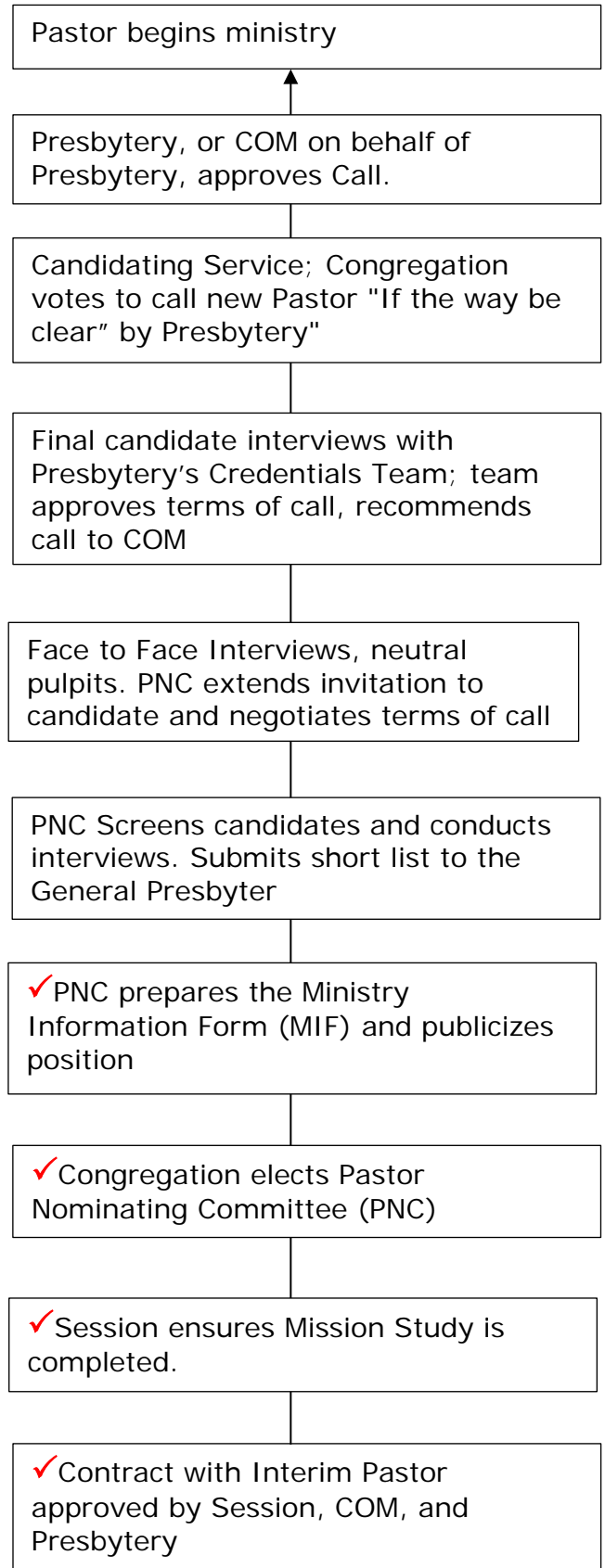
**Karen Burd, Paula Burger, Neil Nemser, Pat Nesbitt, Mike Shirey, Judy Sperling, Natalie Wallace, Mozella Williams**

## Search Process for Pastor

✓ Completed

✓ Congregational Meeting to request dissolution of Pastoral

✓ Commission on Ministry (COM) conducts exit interviews, with Pastor & Session and Session appoints Interim Search Committee





## FAITH FAMILY LIFE

### Happy October Birthday!

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chandra Jackson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Deborah Bean-Walker
- 4<sup>th</sup> Carly Byrd  
Monica Mead  
Martha Sayer
- 7<sup>th</sup> Karen Meyers
- 8<sup>th</sup> Glen Curtis  
Krista Wallace
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mike Billings  
Robert Gardner
- 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> Eden Bissett  
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

Betty Bunce, Beverly Baker, Nan Pohl, Nancy Stutzer

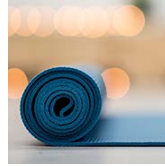
Please send your prayer requests to Mary Speers, *Interim Pastor* 410-435-4330, and/or Sharon Will 410-254-6788. Prayers are answered!

### Book Club

*Monday, October 28 -7:00 at the Nesbitts*

Look for an announcement in the bulletin announcement and News & Notes for October's book.

## Gentle Yoga



Every Wednesday at 2:00 in the chapel certified instructor, **Leanora Eubanks** leads a gentle yoga class suitable for all abilities: experienced or new to yoga. \$40/4 sessions or \$12.50/drop in. For more information call the church office 410-435-4330.

## CPR/AED Training

Faith purchased the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) last spring and had training in June which many were not able to attend. We are hoping to have another training this fall or winter. Please contact the office if you are interested.

## Office Volunteers Needed

I will be going home (Ft. Lauderdale) for Thanksgiving. If you would be available to open the office and answer the phone on Tuesday, November 26 or Wednesday the 27 from 9:00 a.m. till noon, please let me know. You will need to bring a book and your knitting! Thank you, Diane Borgatti.



**Please join us for the 2019 Dunning Lecture by**

**Dr. Marianne Meye Thompson:**

**"Interpreting the Gospel of John: Writing a  
Commentary in Good Company"**

Thursday, November 14, 7:30 pm  
Laubacher Hall

*This event is free and open to the public. Registration is requested.*

Dr. Marianne Meye Thompson is the George Eldon Ladd Professor of New Testament and former School of Theology dean at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Thompson has been instrumental in developing advanced-level interdisciplinary courses that integrate biblical interpretation with other disciplines of the theological curriculum. She is author of *John: A Commentary* (New Testament Library, 2015), *1–3 John* (IVP New Testament Commentary, 2011), *A Commentary on Colossians and Philemon* (The Two Horizons Commentary, 2005), *The God of the Gospel of John* (2001), and *The Promise of the Father* (2000), and coauthor of *Introducing the New Testament* (2001). She has also published numerous articles and reviews in scholarly journals.

A member of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, Thompson has participated in various projects at the Center of Theological Inquiry (in Princeton, NJ), including “The Scripture Project” and “The Identity of Jesus,” as well as consultations on “Children in the Scriptures,” sponsored by the Valparaiso Project on Childhood Studies, Theology, and Ethics, and “Teaching the Bible in the 21st Century,” at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning. Adept at communicating Christian biblical scholarship to a popular audience, she was featured on the PBS series *Genesis*. Thompson has served on various editorial boards, including *Theology Today* and *New Testament Studies*.

Thompson is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

For more information, contact [Rebecca Hancock](#) (410.864.4202).



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE “TOXIC TOUR” & DISCUSSION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> • JOIN US FOR ONE OR BOTH EVENTS

**Baltimore Environmental Justice  
“Toxic Tour” & Discussion**  
2:00–5:00PM

Join us on an eye-opening bus tour of Baltimore City led by urban environmentalist GLENN ROSS.

*“Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.”*  
~Wendell Berry

**Watershed Forum and  
Pledge Celebration**  
5:30–8:00PM

Share dinner, hear inspiring stories about congregations working for environmental justice, and celebrate new congregations as they pledge to care for Creation.

Tour starts and returns for dinner at  
The Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210




**RSVP TODAY!**

[InterfaithChesapeake.org/owpforum](http://InterfaithChesapeake.org/owpforum)

Contact: Bonnie Sorak at  
Bonnie@InterfaithChesapeake.org or 443-799-0349

# 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>	<b>2</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>3</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir		<b>5</b>
 <b>6</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship <b>World Communion Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00PM-WB Deacons	<b>9</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>10</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 4:00PM – ST Concert	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:30 – OC Walter P Carter Literacy Night	<b>16</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>17</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	<b>21</b> 7:00PM – WB Session	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>24</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 – Faith Care Day 5:30PM – FH Halloween Party
<b>27</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	<b>28</b> 7:00PM – OC Book Club	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	
				<b>Locations</b> ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus		