

# February 2020

# The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family,

Wasn't "An Evening at the Parador" a lovely time? I'm so glad I could come, and thanks to all of you who cooked, decorated, donated and contributed—as well as to those of you who helped your gimpy interim pastor be able to enjoy it! Special thanks to Samuel and our singers for making us feel at home in Cuba, in the Fellowship Hall transformed into a parador (home restaurant) by Mike, Patrick and the Cuba Scholarship fund-raising committee.

February is Black History Month. This year marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment, so the theme for Black History Month is "African Americans and the Vote."

Since it's also an election year this year, and one in which, the pundits say, the role of African American voters is key, that theme is particularly timely. I can't think of a time in modern history in which decency and honor, let alone liberty and justice for all, have mattered more.

In that vein, our longtime Faith friend **Dr. Arthur Sutherland** has created a superb series of talks for Adult Forum entitled "The Content of our Character". The four-week series will explore the causes and results of poor character through the lenses of the Bible and theology. I am looking forward eagerly to this series, which runs during the Adult Forum hour from 9:15-10:15.

(We have all of February for this, since Lent doesn't begin until Ash Wednesday on February 26, and so the first Sunday in Lent is, conveniently for our calendar, March 1.)

Yes, at long last in February, I'll be back in the pulpit—or rather, probably not actually in the pulpit yet, but perched on a high chair somewhere near the Lord's Table—this Sunday, February 2. Which is, in the church calendar, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

As a holiday, February 2 has a long history: we think of it as Groundhog Day, of course, but before it was Groundhog Day, it was St. Brigid's Day, and before that, it was the festival of the Celtic goddess Brigge. (Back in 2,000 B.C.E, the African empires of Punt and Kush were building palaces and pyramids, and

## Contents

Worship .....	2
Adult Forum.....	3
Worship & Arts .....	3
Concert .....	3
Souper Bowl .....	4
Cookies for Cares.....	4
WPC .....	4
Open Forum.....	5
Special Election .....	5
Cuba Fundraiser .....	5
Faith Family Life .....	7
Book Club.....	7
Annual Meeting .....	7
Cal Jackson.....	8
Concert .....	9
The Center Fundraiser ...	10
866 <sup>th</sup> Gathering .....	11
Calendar .....	10

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

## WORSHIP

### Sundays at 10:45

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*February 2*

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*February 9*

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*February 16*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel Matthew 5:21-37

Transfiguration of the Lord

*February 23*

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

Or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday

*February 26*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

6:00 p.m. Soup & Bread Supper followed by worship with the imposition of ashes.

trading with foreign nations in ebony and gold, while my ancestors were painting themselves blue and worshiping trees, and sacrificing to Brigge to ensure the safe birth of lambs and calves in the spring. Makes one think.)

Anyway, the church has a long habit of baptizing any pagan holidays it can't suppress (think of Christmas and All Saints' Day), so February 2 became, in the church calendar, "Presentation of the Lord," the day to celebrate Mary and Joseph bringing the newborn baby Jesus, their firstborn, to the Temple, to thank God for his safe birth, and dedicate him to God as the Law decreed.

It's the day the two very old prophets, Anna and Simeon, rejoiced to greet the newborn Messiah, for whom they'd been waiting all their lives.

In this month and in this year, the Faith family looks forward to its new pastor. Of course you know that no pastor is the Messiah, but still, you also know that your PNC has been working hard on your behalf, and that they're making progress, so you can't help eagerly anticipating a new and exciting chapter in the history of Faith Church!

And in this nation, especially in Black History Month (as well as Women's History Month which follows it), we look back at the stony road so many have trod and remember the courage and determination of all those who overcame. This February (and March), we hope and pray for greater inclusion, and more robust participation, for all people.

And, as the theme this month suggests, your vote, and that of everyone you know, is a big part of the future—in our country (on November 3), and before then (we hope) in Faith church (stay tuned for the congregational meeting to call your new pastor)!

Yours in gratitude for God's blessings,

Mary

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

### Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room



February will be another exciting month with **Dr. Arthur Sutherland** returning to Adult Forum. His series is called "The Content of our Character". The four week series will explore the causes and results of poor character through the lenses of the Bible and theology. Sounds very interesting! I hope you can be there for as many of his visits as possible.

We also need volunteers to make coffee during the next month. Won't you agree to arriving at 9:00 to put the coffee on? Let me know if you can help. How lucky we were to have Diane and Yvonne do it for so many years! We were spoiled for sure!

### 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.

## WORSHIP & THE ARTS

During Advent, Christmas and Epiphany the sanctuary was adorned with stars, a lighted Christmas Tree, fresh greens, flowers and candles. When the season came to an end a hearty group of volunteers stayed following worship to work as a team to clear away the

season's embellishments and return the Sanctuary to its original state. Thank you!

**Pastor Mary B. Speers** has been healing following surgery. **Rev. Jack Hodges** preached on January 19 and January 26 and **Elder Susan Kreibel** preached on January 26.

The Time with Faith Kids was led by **Judy Sperling, Robin Nemser, Mike Shirey** and **Sandra McWhirter**. We look forward to having Pastor Mary back in the pulpit in February.

Circle February 26 on your calendar and mark it *Ash Wednesday*. Then plan to have a dinner of homemade soup and bread in the Woodmont Room followed by a time together in the Chapel that will include an opportunity to receive ashes. If you would like to be one of the cooks who will provide a pot of soup, please speak to Judy Sperling.

## MUSIC

Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*

### Black History Month Concert



On Sunday, February 23rd at 4:00 p.m. **Daniel Rich** (Baritone) will present a Black History music recital at Faith. Daniel has sung at Faith many times and we certainly look forward to this one. The recital is honoring the musical tradition of the spiritual. It will feature contemporary and traditional arrangements. The journey from pain and longing into freedom and hope. It will be a very special event. Please try to attend.

This concert is in aid of Daniel. He has been presented with an opportunity to participate in a summer intensive in June with a program called *Opernfest Prague*. The program is in Prague, Czech Republic from June 21-28.

During the time in this program he will be working with a team of coaches, teachers and conductors to perfect repertoire and grow in my artistry. There are also auditions facilitated by the program for future employment opportunities and a concert with one of Prague's professional orchestras.

This is an opportunity that he cannot pass up because of its potential effect on his career. Please come out and support him.

In March, look out for a concert of women composers

## DEACONS

Susan Minor, *moderator*

The Deacons next meeting is February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## Souper Bowl Sunday



On Sunday, February 2, 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 CARES pantry.

## SEJ

The WPC Family/Community Engagement Nights are:

February 18: African American History, Culture, and Talent Exposition

March 17: "Know Your Rights" (when interacting with law enforcement) and Self-Defense Night

April 21: Holistic Wellness Night

May 19: STEAM and Science Fair Night

All are Tuesday nights, and the time is 5:30-7:30. The school is located at 1101 Winston Ave. We do not yet know the dates of the planning sessions, but we will pass them along once we know. If you are interested in getting involved, please email **Karen Meyers** ([karencmeyers@gmail.com](mailto:karencmeyers@gmail.com))

## Open Forum (Town Hall Meeting)

Saturday, February 1, 2020 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**For all candidates running to replace Elijah Cummings in the February 4 Special Primary-Congressional District 7 Election**

Location: Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Avenue, Liberty Heights Avenue, Liberty Heights Avenue and Dennlyn Road (side entrance)

All candidates will be given the opportunity to speak for at least 5 minutes to share their vision and platform principles for the 7th Congressional District and respond to questions from the audience.

### Sponsors

Heritage United Church of Christ, Reverend Scott H. Adams, Pastor  
Ashburton Neighborhood Association, John Crew Jr. President  
League of Women Voters of Baltimore City, Nancy Lawler and Flo Valentine, Co-Presidents

## Special Primary Election 7th Congressional District

On **February 4, 2020**, a Special Primary Election in the 7th Congressional District will be held to begin filling the seat left vacant by the death of long-time Congressman Elijah Cummings. That term will end January 3, 2021.

The League of Women Voters invited each of the 32 candidates to respond to questions on issues of importance to voters. Their answers are attached in a pdf of our printed Voters' Guide or read them online at [www.VOTE411](http://www.VOTE411).

The Republican and Democratic winners of the Special Primary in the 7th District will go on to the Special General Election on April 28, 2020, the same day as the Presidential Primary Election.

## CUBA SCHOLARSHIP

### Cuba Fundraiser and Dinner



This past fall, the Session voted to create a scholarship fund to help Faith Church members participate in the Cuba Partnership Mission Program. Members who need financial assistance in order to participate in this mission program will be able to gain financial assistance from this fund. The "Fund" was created with seed money from a generous member.

The Session authorized a fundraiser to add to the Scholarship Fund.



The first fundraiser was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The event was well attended by over 70 folks.

The "Silent Auction" had items donated by Faith Church Members. Auction items ranged from Jar Candles and Paper Back Books to a

Weeks Vacations at the beach; Weekends at the Delaware Beaches to Resorts in Alexandria Virginia; Italian Dinners and Picnics. It was great.



An appetizer & hor d'oeuvre collection with authentic Mojitos (and a dry ones as well) started off the evening. Cuban music and palm trees prevailed. A Cuban Buffet filled the dinner plates and three Cuban desserts ended the meal along with Café Con Leche. Guest soloists performed Cuban music accompanied by our Minister of Music, Samuel Springer.



A book of Cuba Travel Pictures was on display the entire evening.



The event raised over \$3000. The final results will be published as soon as all bids are received, and all expenses paid.



Thanks to all who setup, cooked, served and helped clean up! It was a great evening!

## FAITH FAMILY LIFE

### Happy May 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  
19<sup>th</sup> Patrick Baker  
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.

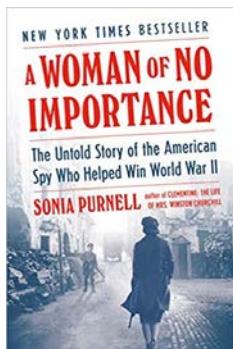
### Please Keep in Your Prayers

Betty Bunce, Beverly Baker, Nan Pohl

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, February 24, 7:00



In this fast-paced bio **Sonia Purnell** tells the story of Virginia Hall, an American spy who worked undercover in France during WW II for Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE). Hall's mother wished for the perfect debutante. Hall, however, was more comfortable studying languages, and found herself living abroad and working for the State Department when she lost half her leg in a hunting accident. This setback

didn't slow down Hall at all: she drove ambulances in France and was recruited by SOE as a spy. Hall posed as a newspaper reporter, enlisting civilians for the French Resistance and establishing an underground network and becoming one of the most important spies during World War II. Purnell does an amazing job bringing Hall's exploits to life and has crafted a gripping and cinematic biography for an unsung hero of wartime espionage. --Alison Walker for Amazon

March's book is *History of Love* by **Nicole Krauss**. A long-lost book reappears, mysteriously connecting an old man searching for his son and a girl seeking a cure for her widowed mother's loneliness.

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church's annual meeting was held following worship on Sunday, January 26. In a slight break with tradition, the meeting was held in the sanctuary, rather than the usual luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Because so many folks planned to be engaged with the Cuba Paladar and fundraiser the previous night, Session determined that a simple business meeting would suffice. Clerk of Session **Mike Billings, Jr.** moderated the meeting, the main purpose of which was to present the annual report from the Finance Committee on 2019 and the budget for 2020 that had been approved by Session at its meeting on January 20. No action items were on the annual meeting docket.

Finance Committee Chair **Chris Pope** gave his usual clear and concise power point presentation highlighting the main factors affecting the 2019 budget performance and the key assumptions underlying the budget for 2020. While 2019 was a challenging year during a time of transition, the Church weathered it well and is positioned positively as we look forward to engaging a new Pastor. A main take-away was that high property and plant expenses and some decline in general giving were made up by gains in our

investment portfolio during 2019 so that we were able to end the year in a strong position.

The 2020 budget was developed by the Finance Committee (**Jay Chalfant, Ron Sperling, Neil Nemser, and Chris Pope**, Chair) based on its review of the five previous years, results of the Stewardship Campaign, an assessment of building rental income, and expense budgets from Committee Chairs. Key assumptions in the approved budget are a modest increase in expenses, including a 2.5% cost of living increase for the Pastor, Minister of Music, and Parish Administrator, and flat general giving. We are nonetheless able to project a break-even budget for 2020. (Pray for continued good health for the boiler.)

Despite some extraordinary expenses during the past year, the Church has continued to build its cash reserves and retire our debt (from the capital improvements undertaken during that campaign) so that we have an adequate contingency. But, the congregation's ongoing financial support is absolutely critical in helping to maintain our stable position.

With an acknowledgment of gratitude for the work of the Finance Committee and particularly its chair for the excellent presentation, the Clerk adjourned the meeting. Copies of the Annual Report and the slide presentation are available from the Church Office for those unable to attend the meeting.



### Cal Jackson, Former Pastor at Faith



The Rev. J. Calvin K. Jackson, a Presbyterian pastor known for his bright spirit, keen intellect and inspiring sermons delivered during 40 years of ministry, died January 7 in Delray Beach, Florida. He had led prominent churches in Baltimore, MD; Cincinnati, OH; and Basking Ridge, NJ. He was 91.

Rev. Jackson was regarded as a powerful preacher who helped his congregations grasp the heart of the gospel and lead lives animated by the hope, love and peace of Christ. He drew his sermons from the wellspring of scripture, applied them to the urgencies of the day, and enlivened them with a spirited humor and insights from thinkers across the ages. In the aftermath of his passing, congregants are quoting sermon lines etched in their hearts from decades ago. "Does it matter profoundly?" reminded us how to focus on what is truly important in life. And "Never take the light out of the window" was a message about forgiveness, grace and always welcoming those who may be lost back home.

A celebration of Rev. Jackson's life will be held on February 1 at 11:00 a.m. at Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church ([www.brpc.org](http://www.brpc.org)). If anyone would like to honor Cal, the family suggests making a contribution in his name to the Matthew 25 initiative of the Presbyterian Mission. It is dedicated to supporting the vitality of churches, promoting racial reconciliation, and addressing poverty — all priorities in Cal's ministry and life. And for those who would like to be inspired anew or for the first time by Cal's preaching, you can do so through [www.brpc.org/revcaljacksonsermons/](http://www.brpc.org/revcaljacksonsermons/).

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY**

B A R I T O N E

**DANIEL CX**  
*Rich*

DR. SAMUEL SPRINGER, PIANO

**SUNDAY, FEB 23 | 4:00PM**

**FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

5400 LOCH RAVEN BLVD  
BALTIMORE, MD 21239

A BENEFIT RECITAL TO RAISE FUNDS  
FOR OPERNFEST PRAGUE





# FEBRUARY 9TH, 5-7 PM CONNECT AT THE CENTER

## The Center's First Annual Happy Hour and Silent Auction

by Presbytery of Baltimore - The Center

Connect with partners and friends at The Center for our first annual Happy Hour and Silent Auction Fundraiser!

We want to thank all of you who supported our 2019 Connect at the Center Fundraising Campaign and share our exciting plans for 2020. Your financial support makes our work with our local partners possible.

Your [ticket](#) (\$25) gives you access to an open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, delightful musical entertainment, and a chance to support the center by bidding on a collection of silent auction items donated by our partner congregations.

The Center is a mission initiative of the Presbytery of Baltimore. We envision a world of just communities and thriving congregations. Our mission is to inspire and equip churches and individuals to engage boldly with their neighborhoods - to get involved where Christ's love and justice are already at work.

We provide learning and mission opportunities for local churches and ministries, accompanying you as you discern how God is calling you to engage in your community - whether through long term consulting relationships, or short term teaching. We also support congregations as you take risks to build relationships and work with your neighbors - either simply as a conversation partner, or as a partner in your mission work, providing volunteers from our visiting groups from across the country.

Date and Time  
Sun, February 9, 2020

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM EST

Location  
The Center  
210 West Madison Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201



## 886<sup>th</sup> Gathering—Overview of the Day

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

Catonsville, MD

Thursday, February 13, 2020

*Called to community by God, discipled by Jesus Christ, enlivened by the Holy Spirit, Baltimore Presbytery encourages, challenges and equips our congregations to thrive spiritually and be apostles for reconciliation.*

2:30	<b>Registration and Fellowship...</b>	In the Fellowship Hall
3:00	<b>Orientation for Commissioners</b>	In the Sanctuary
3:30	<b>Stories and Celebrations</b> Welcome Adoption of the Docket Presentation of PILP checks Retirement of Rev. Renee Mackey	Gather in the Sanctuary
4:00	<b>Discernment and Decisions</b> Vote on two concurrences with Overtures to GA 224 COR Annual Report	
5:00	<b>Open Space</b> Various Locations.	
6:00	<b>SUPPER</b>	Fellowship Hall
7:00	<b>WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION</b>	

**“THIS IS MY STORY:  
CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY IN THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE”**  
In the Sanctuary

## Upcoming Meeting Dates and Locations

**Thursday, March 19, 2020** Special Called Meeting to:  
receive and discuss motion re: The Center  
Location: Time: 10 am - noon

**Thursday, May 14, 2020** Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church 10 am

**Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020** Knox Presbyterian Church 10 am

**Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020** Korean United Presbyterian Church, 10 am

# February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
 <b>2</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – WM Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Special Election <b>Please Vote</b>	<b>5</b> <b>11:00AM</b> – WB Bible Study <b>2:00PM</b> – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>6</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir	7	8
<b>9</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – WM Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship <b>4:00PM</b> – ST Concert	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>7:00PM</b> -WB Deacons	<b>12</b> <b>11:00AM</b> – WB Bible Study <b>2:00PM</b> – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>13</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir <b>2:30PM</b> -OC 886 Gathering	14	15
<b>16</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – WM Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship	<b>17</b> <b>President's Day</b> Office Closed <b>7:00PM</b> – WB Session	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>11:00AM</b> – WB Bible Study <b>2:00PM</b> – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>22</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir	23	24
<b>23</b> <b>9:15AM</b> – WM Adult Forum <b>10:45AM</b> – ST Worship <b>4:00PM</b> – ST Concert	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>11:00AM</b> – WB Bible Study <b>2:00PM</b> – CH Gentle Yoga <b>6:00PM</b> – CH Ash Wednesday Soup Supper & Worship	<b>27</b> <b>9:00AM</b> – Thursday Crew <b>7:30PM</b> -CR Choir	28	29
					<b>Locations</b> ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus	