

March 2020

# The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family,

This morning, Ash Wednesday, I awoke to the sweet spring sound of birdsong.

Lent begins late this year, as we feel the seasons change: the days are lengthening, sap rising, birds singing, even as we know there may yet be one more big snow before we're through.

Lent, of course, is a time of holy attention. It is a quiet, thoughtful time: a time, as winter wears on toward spring, of starkness and sparseness, but of hope, as well.

With William Wordsworth, we examine our lives:

The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers; —  
Little we see in Nature that is ours...

And on, as Wordsworth sets his Lenten thoughts in a winter near the water:

This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;  
The winds that will be howling at all hours,  
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;  
For this, for everything, we are out of tune...

Lent is a reflective time, but that doesn't mean a despairing time. We do think about all the ways in which we are out of tune with the song of creation, with the song of love. We do gravitate toward austerity; partly, I think, because the flow of the year invites us to. But our custom of "giving things up for Lent" is meant not to punish us, but to focus our attention on the goodness of God. It's meant to sharpen our perception, as it heightens our anticipation.

Doesn't everything taste better when you're hungry?

Denise Levertov thought so, as she answered Wordsworth:

The world is  
not with us enough.  
O taste and see!

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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)

## WORSHIP

### Sundays at 10:45

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

*March 1*

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

*March 8*

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

*March 15*

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

*March 22*

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

*March 29*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

And this, from the great spiritual writer Evelyn Underhill:

If all real knowledge is a humbly delighted knowledge of our own ignorance—if, as the dying artist said, "The word we shall use most when we get to heaven will be 'Oh!'—it means that everything we are given to deal with—including ourselves and our psychological material, however intractable—is the result of the creative action of a personal Love, who despises nothing that that Love has made...

To stand alongside the generous Creative Love, maker of all things visible and invisible (including those we do not like) and see them with the eyes of the Artist-Lover, is the secret of sanctity. Francis of Assisi did this with a singular perfection...so too that rapt and patient lover of all life, Charles Darwin, with his great, self-forgetful interest in the humblest and tiniest forms of life—not because they were useful to him, but for their own sakes—fulfilled one part of our Christian duty far better than many Christians do.

It is a part of the life of prayer, which is our small attempt to live the life of Charity, to consider the whole creation with a deep and selfless reverence; enter into its wonder, and find in it the mysterious intimations of the Giver of Life, maker of all things, Creative Love.

May we all draw closer to that Creative Love, as the days lengthen and Nature stirs, and may the word we use most this Lent be not "No," but "Oh!" taste, and see, that God is good.

I wish for you all a quiet, reflective Lent, yes; but at the same time, a Lent full of discovery and wonder, a slow crescendo of the song of creation, the song of Love.

Blessings, Mary

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

### Souper Bowl of Caring



On Super Bowl Sunday, Faith Kids collected \$223 to be given to the CARES Pantry. Thank you to everyone who gave.

### Adult Forum

*Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room*

#### March

- 1-Driving Economic Development in Baltimore, **Elizabeth Burger**
- 8-Issues on Health Care, **John Colmers**
- 15-The People of the Middle East, **Sandra McWhirter**
- 22-Meals on Wheels Mission at Faith, **Julie Hollander**
- 29-Benjamin Banneker Museum, **Chanel Compton**

### 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

On Ash Wednesday we began our voyage through Lent. The Woodmont room was transformed into a dining room complete with welcoming aromas from a wide selection of piping hot homemade soups that had been lovingly made by members of our Faith Family. Together we shared a simple meal and each other's company. After dinner the group moved to the Chapel. Pastor Mary led a service of scripture, shared reading, singing, the Imposition of Ashes and prayer. Lent will continue throughout the month of March.

On Palm Sunday, April 5, you are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a light breakfast at 10 o'clock and join our Annual Palm Parade from the south parking lot to the Sanctuary Doors to share the excitement with our neighbors. A Service of Worship will be held on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. And, on April 12 we will joyfully celebrate Easter followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on the lawn.

## MUSIC

### Talk about a Voice of Faith!



The golden tones of Baritone **Daniel CX Rich** filled Faith's sanctuary on Sunday, February 23 with glorious sounds as he presented a recital of African American spirituals in celebration of Black History. Accompanied by

drummer **Jasmyne Toon** and our own **Dr. Samuel Springer** who played with elegance and grace, the concert was a wonderful gift to an enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Rich has been invited to attend the prestigious American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria this summer. This aspiring artist hopes to be able to support his participation so that the concert had also a goal of raising travel funds. If you missed the concert or didn't have your wallet with you, you can send a check to Faith with Daniel Rich in the memo and know that you will be helping Daniel share his prodigious gifts with wider audiences.

And, just maybe, Faith will be fortunate to hear Daniel in concert once again. (On a trip home from La Scala? Opera houses in Paris? Berlin?) We also express our gratitude to Samuel whose own musical talents and artistry have given our congregation such a great window on the phenomenal talent at Morgan.

## March Concert



*A Festival of Song* featuring the Urban Choral Arts Society & Massachusetts's Cantilena Chamber Choir on **March 29** at 3:00 p.m. Concert features classic & contemporary choral works. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted to benefit the UCAS Scholarship Fund.

## DEACONS

### North Baltimore Presbyterians



Faith Church partners with several other local Presbyterian churches in the group now known as North Baltimore Presbyterians. **David Norse Thomas** is currently the moderator of this group. A recent meeting was held at Maryland Presbyterian to discuss the **Woodbourne/McCabe Summer Camp**. Faith has been involved in this camp for several years, and we are planning to do so again this summer. We will be partnering with 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian, and a missionary group from the Center during the first week of camp, **July 13-17**. Plans are already underway for a fun time that week, with games, arts and crafts, science, etc. Please let **Susan Minor** know if you would be interested in helping at camp. There will be many opportunities, both great and small, to participate and get to know the children of the Woodbourne/McCabe community.

## Harford House Bingo Night



The Deacons will be providing a fun evening of Bingo and lasagna at the Harford House on Friday evening, **March 13<sup>th</sup>** at **6:00 p.m.** Our volunteers and the residents of Harford House have had a good time at this event in the past. Please join us! If you are interested, please see **Lauren Hill** or any of the Deacons.

## SEJ COUNCIL



Our Strong Schools Maryland team traveled to Annapolis on February 26 to show support for the full funding of the Kirwan Commission recommendations for the improvement of public education in Maryland. We passed out information to the offices of delegates and

senators and met with **Delegates Sandy Rosenberg, Shelly Hettleman, and Tony Bridges** as well as aides to **Senator Mary Washington** and **Delegates Dana Stein and Dalya Attar**. All expressed strong support for Kirwan but are still unsure about the funding formula. One proposal is to lower the sales tax to 5% but expand it to services. There are several other proposals for funding formulas under consideration.

## Walter P. Carter



Faith members participated in another Family Engagement Night at the Walter P Carter Elementary/Middle School on February 18. The theme was African American History, Culture, and Talent. Activities for the evening included dance, African drumming, an art project, and making rain sticks.





Faith supplied the materials for the rain sticks and helped the children put them together. The Singing Sensations Youth Choir which is made up of students from various city high schools performed. **Diane Borgatti** made up colorful posters which included pictures of the various prominent African American artists in the fields of visual arts, music, dance, and theater. Karen and Diane collaborated to make up a booklet with pictures and information about each artist that students could take home. **Charles** and **Susan Minor** set up a table to register voters. Members who participated in the evening included the Minors, **Karen Meyers**, **Judy Sperling**, **Audrey Trapp**, and **Mozella Williams**. **Paula Burger** did much of the preparation for the event.



The theme for the next Family Engagement Night on March 17 is "Know Your Rights" (when interacting with law enforcement) and

Self-Defense. If you are interested in participating in the planning or during the actual event, contact **Karen Meyers** at 410-627-1779 or [karenmeyers@gmail.com](mailto:karenmeyers@gmail.com).

## CUBA NOTES

Audrey Trapp

Chandra, Mozella and I are busy planning for our trip to Cuba March 25-April 1st. The Faith Church School kids are decorating wooden crosses for us to give to the kids at Meneses and Iguara Churches. Chandra is planning a Church School lesson to share with both churches and we are also planning craft activities.

We will spend two full days with each of our churches. While there, we will meet with each Session (Consistorio in Spanish) to renew our Partnership Covenants for another five years. This will be a joyous time for us and our brothers and sisters.

Travel will take longer this time as we must fly into Havana now and travel 6-7 hours by bus to our churches in the middle of the country, due to changes in our government's policies. Costs for fuel, cooking oil, food, household supplies all have risen and are often scarce. We will take supplies with us as usual.

You have been generous in the past and we are asking you again to support this trip. Your cash donations will enable us to purchase and take the specific items that our Cuban partners request. We have been asked to bring specific items including OTC medicines and powdered laundry detergent, and other supplies such as toiletries, female sanitary products, and toilet paper. And we will take, as we always do, chocolates, coffee, spices, sewing/knitting/crocheting supplies, etc. We have been able to obtain four prescriptions for specific church members who are unable to get these medicines in Cuba.

We will be making announcements each

Sunday in church and using Thursday Notes to update you. You can either use the white pew envelopes or see Chandra, Mo or me if you would like to participate.



Thank you again for your support of the Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction in January to start the Faith Cuba Scholarship Fund to assist Faith members with travel costs. A small amount of money will be used each trip for scholarships and the remainder will grow for future travelers. It is the hope of the Session that, in the future, travel costs will not prevent Faith members from participating in this fellowship with our Cuban Presbyterian sisters and brothers.

Please keep us and the Cuban People in your prayers.

## PNC Update

Co-chairs: Karen Burd and Mike Shirey

As you are reading this March 2020 issue of the Voice of Faith - especially if you're reading this Tuesday evening, March 3 your PNC just might be meeting in the Woodbourne Room enjoying more delicious snacks and deliberating to whom Faith should call as our next pastor.

As Karen mentioned in church February 23, we have a good excuse for not being in church several Sundays over the past few weeks: we have been in various churches throughout the area listening to our candidates preach in a neutral pulpit. It has been interesting to see: 1) the various ways in which worship services are structured; 2) different sanctuary set-ups; 3) different approaches to music and other details to which we are unaccustomed.

By the time we arrived at the neutral church Sunday morning we have met with the candidate a few times. Typically, we have had dinner hosted at a PNC member's home on the Friday evening of the weekend. Saturday morning has usually been the formal face-to-face interview at Faith. We wrap up the weekend by going to the neutral church to worship with the hosting congregation.

We believe we are entering the home stretch of this journey and feel we have the best problem a PNC could have – we must choose between three excellent candidates. It is exciting to know our future pastor has already been in the building. Prayers are needed now more than ever to come to the final decision. We hope to be able to extend the invitation to our selected nominee by the end of March. The PNC hastens to add, however, the invitation is not the end of the process. There are a few more steps in the process after the invitation is accepted which we will explain in future issues of the Voice of Faith.

If you are really curious you could check this out online: [PCUSA On Calling a Pastor](#) We are somewhere near page 43.

The PNC cannot thank you enough for all your encouragement, your patience, and your prayers. We always feel we are wrapped in our Faith Family's warm, comforting embrace.

*Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. ~ Ecclesiastes 7:8*

## FAITH FAMILY LIFE

### Happy March Birthday!

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kay Ballard
- 14<sup>th</sup> Scott McGill
- 15<sup>th</sup> Isabel Aldana  
Linden Seavers  
Ivy Seavers
- 20<sup>th</sup> Nixon Hill
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Susan Dockman
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Paul Samuel
- 30<sup>th</sup> Delevena Brown  
Veronica Herber

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

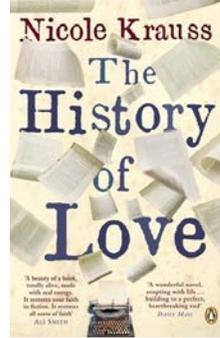
### Please Keep in Your Prayers

Betty Bunce, Nan Pohl, Nancy Stutzer

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, June 1-7:00 at the Nesbitts



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.

With virtuosic skill and soaring imaginative power, Nicole Krauss gradually draws these stories together toward a climax of "extraordinary depth and beauty" (Newsday).



*"What goes on down there in the name of religion is turning me into an atheist."*

# Lenten Movies

Sundays 5:30



## MAR 1 HARRIET

From her escape from slavery through the dangerous missions she led to liberate hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad, the story of heroic abolitionist Harriet Tubman is told.



## MAR 8 AMERICAN FACTORY

In post-industrial Ohio, a Chinese billionaire opens a new factory in the husk of an abandoned General Motors plant. Early days of hope and optimism give way to setbacks as high-tech China clashes with working-class America.



## MAR 15 NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG

An author is asked to write a book about an Indian elder's experiences. Getting sucked into the heart of contemporary Native American life in the sparse land of the Dakota, the author accompanies the 95-year-old Lakota elder across the lands.



## MAR 22 HONEYLAND

A woman utilizes ancient beekeeping traditions to cultivate honey in the mountains of North Macedonia. When a neighboring family tries to do the same, it becomes a source of tension as they disregard her wisdom and advice.



## MAR 29 GREEN BOOK

Dr. Don Shirley is a world-class African-American pianist, who is about to embark on a concert tour in the Deep South in 1962. In need of a driver and protection, Shirley recruits Tony Lip, a tough-talking bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx. Despite their differences, the two men soon develop an unexpected bond while confronting racism and danger in an era of segregation.

# Faith Presbyterian Church

## Faith Church collects the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday



Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

#### *Restorers of Streets to Live In*

: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters

### PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

#### *Share your Bread with the Hungry*

: Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed

### SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

#### *Loose the Bonds of Injustice*

: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills

# March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 5:30PM – WM Lenten Dinner & Movie	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>5</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 5:30PM – WM Lenten Dinner & Movie	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00PM-WB Deacons	<b>11</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>12</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 5:30PM – WM Lenten Dinner & Movie	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>19</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 5:30PM – WM Lenten Dinner & Movie	<b>23</b> 7:00PM – WB Session	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	<b>26</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 3:00PM – ST Concert 5:30PM – WM Lenten Dinner & Movie	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**Locations**

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