

February 2021

The Voice of Faith

Dear friends of Faith,

February is Black history month and March is women's history month, and three days ago Maddie cut a big picture of Kamala Harris out of the Washington Post's special inauguration edition and taped it to her wall, proud and excited that a *girl* is Vice-President for the first time ever. What an incredible moment in history this is! A woman, a woman of Jamaican and South Asian descent, is Vice-President! Today I am giving thanks to God for the courage and wisdom of those who have worked to open locked doors, shatter glass ceilings, and blaze new paths forward in the church and the world – opening new possibilities for my daughters, for me, and for countless others.

Especially this day I'm remembering the life and teaching of the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, the first Black woman ordained in the PCUSA in 1974 (after graduating from Johnson C. Smith seminary in Atlanta), and also the first Black woman to receive a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Dr. Cannon's work as a professor and womanist theologian was the work of liberation – she said, "I love teaching to empower, to equip, to set people free." In her [obituary](#), Dr. Cannon's friend and colleague Dr. Emilie Townes said, "As a Christian ethicist...Cannon centered Black women's voices and experiences in her scholarship and her commitment to the church to broaden and deepen the rich resources found outside of a White, male-centered canon." She did not just fight for space for herself within academia – she helped create a whole new field of theology and ethics based in the wisdom and experience of Black women, for the benefit of both the church and the world.

There are so many others who could and should be named and celebrated – after all, Black history is American history – but whose names have been left out of history books, whose contributions erased or ignored. It's hard to know what you don't know; thankfully, there are ample opportunities to learn. A few opportunities I want to share with those who also might like to learn: join me in signing up for *28 days of Black history*, a daily email exhibition sponsored by a group called Anti-Racism daily.

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WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45

5th Sunday of Epiphany

February 7

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 14

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

I Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday

February 17

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

1st Sunday of Lent

February 21

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

2nd Sunday of Lent

February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Zoom Worship for February

Meeting ID: 817 0954 1171

Passcode: 550821

Each evening in February, you can receive an email that will share art, literature, and artifacts to highlight a moment in Black history, followed with questions and action steps to dismantle anti-Blackness in our community. To sign up, click here: <https://www.28daysofblackhistory.com>.

Another opportunity to learn: PBS and Henry Lewis Gates, Jr. have partnered to create a documentary, [*This is Our Story, This is Our Song: The Black Church*](#), that will air on MPB in February: in two parts at 9 pm on 2/16 and 2/17. If that's too late for you, you can watch both parts starting at 3 pm and 6 pm on 2/28, or at 8 pm and 11 pm(!) on 3/2. Catch it one of those times, and then plan to join together to reflect and discuss the documentary on Zoom on **Wednesday, March 3 at 7 PM.**

If you know of other opportunities to learn and celebrate Black history, or if you have names and stories you would like to lift up, please share them with me, so we can continue to be a community that learns, grows, and celebrates together.

With hope,
Cat



Ash Wednesday is a day for prayer and reflection, the beginning of our Lenten journeys. The chapel will be open for prayer and self-imposition of ashes from 8:30-4:30 February 17.

We will also gather on Zoom for a simple, reflective prayer service that evening at 7:00 p.m.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday plan to pick up a **Lenten packet** or request that one be delivered to you. It includes: a devotional, the Lenten schedule, fabric and instructions for a prayer project, stones for a ritual of remembrance (commemorate one year of covid-19) on March 14. If you would like daily prayer cards, sign up by emailing the office.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room

Arthur Sutherland, Professor of Theology at Loyola will continue his discussion of Food, Hunger and Justice.

Feb. 7th - "Why Isn't There More?": Food Insecurity Then and Now

Feb. 14th - "Your Name is in My Pot": Building the Welcome Table

Rev. Ed Loring, a retired PCUSA minister will lead the discussion.

Feb. 21st & 28th - *Surely Goodness and Mercy: A Journey into Illness and Solidarity* by Murphy Davis.

Murphy and Ed co-founded the Open Door Community in Atlanta together and spent more than thirty years there living in community, serving people experiencing homelessness, and advocating for people on Georgia's death row and an end to the death penalty. The book chronicles Murphy's remarkable 25-year cancer journey, advocacy for access to health care for the poor, and life at the Open Door. Murphy and Ed retired and moved to Baltimore four years ago to be closer to their daughter, Hannah, and granddaughter, Michaela. Murphy died on October 22, 2020 and Ed has been worshipping with us at Faith since late December.

There are copies of the book available in the church office (\$15 suggested donation please; make the check out to Faith Church).

March Adult Forum & Small Group

Look for upcoming details about a four-week Lenten Study during March.

Wednesday Bible Study

11:00 a.m. in Woodbourne Room

Join Faith every Wednesday for a lively discussion. We are continuing with the book, *Say to This Mountain: Mark's Story of Discipleship* by New Testament scholar **Ched Meyers** and others.

Kid's Zoom Coming on Valentine's Day

All pre-school to elementary aged Faith children are encouraged to log on to our monthly Kids' Zoom church school class on Feb. 14 from 10:20 AM to 10:45 AM. **Patrick Baker**, a member of the Christian Education Committee will be leading the session. The lesson will highlight the gospel reading for the day, and just might have a Valentine theme! Stay tuned to see what Patrick will come up with.

The children's parents will receive a Zoom invitation from Robin prior to the meeting (Meeting ID; 757 7491 1340, Password DZeK8d).

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Judy Sperling, *chair*

We blessed the new year and celebrated with communion and Epiphany during the first Sunday Worship in January. We move forward with a refreshed hope for a healthier future. During worship on Sunday, January 31 we prayed for wisdom and courage and lifted up prayers for the people of our country, our city, and our world. As we move into the season of Lent and Holy Week we will continue to make available new, creative ways to mediate, pray, worship and celebrate.

Be sure to read the weekly News & Notes where you will find the details, week by week. Meanwhile, circle these dates on your calendar: Ash Wednesday, February 17; Palm Sunday, March 28; Maundy Thursday,

April 1; Good Friday April 2 and Easter, April 4. Stay well, pray for those in need and contact the church office if you are in the need of prayer or assistance.

DEACONS

Lauren Hill, *facilitator*

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Opportunity

Meals on Wheels has changed drastically since the pandemic hit. We miss having their presence in our Fellowship Hall, as they are now preparing and distributing thousands of meals weekly from their headquarters. BUT, have no fear, Faith can still contribute.

On **March 6** from 11:00-2:00, we will be sending 8-10 youth and adults to Meals on Wheels at 515 Haven Street to help pack the boxes of frozen meals, which will then be delivered to their clients. Covid 19 safety rules are followed with masking and physical distancing. The atmosphere is lively, fun, and musical! Check out the video below to see what you might be in for.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15-OMeakvE&feature=youtu.be>

Please consider being a part of this mission project and get a chance to do something good for Baltimore AND hang out with Faith's Youth! Contact **Robin Nemser** for more information (robin.nemser@gmail.com).

Click on the link for the volunteer application and let Robin know when you have submitted it.

<https://mowcm.mowscheduler.com/volunteerapplication>

Another volunteer opportunity for Meals on Wheels is to participate in their Wellness Calling Program. Volunteers make calls to MOW clients just to make sure they are doing okay in this time of isolation. They also have a Grocery Shopping Program where you would be matched with a client who is unable

to get out to shop on his/her own. Then you purchase the items with a MOW credit card and deliver them back to the client's home. if you'd like to volunteer contact **Julie Hollander** at hollander@mowcm.org for either program.

CARES: More Than Food

Most of us are familiar with the CARES pantry located behind St. Mary's church at York and Woodbourne. But did you know that CARES assists families in Northeast Baltimore in many more ways, in addition to helping to meet nutritional needs?

- Did you know that, in the last year, CARES:
- Provided utility assistance to 189 households
 - Provided eviction prevention to 208 households,
 - Provided prescription assistance to 81 households
 - Helped 139 individuals find and secure employment

All this, as well as responding to over 3599 requests for food.



Rachael Neill, director of CARES

In the current pandemic environment, needs have skyrocketed. GEDCO CARES has been able to help meet those needs through your generous contributions to all their programs. Thank you for all you do to support these programs!

SEJ

Karen Meyers, *chair*

Walter P. Carter

Elementary Middle School



Pastor Cat Goodrich and **Karen Meyers** delivered some 300 books donated by Faith members to the brand-new building of the Walter P Carter Elementary/Middle School. Community School Director **Jovan Custis** gave a quick tour of the new building which will eventually house students from Guilford Elementary when they merge with Walter P Carter in the Fall of 2021. Some of the books collected will be given to families who participated in the literacy-themed Family Engagement Night in January. Others may end up in the library or in teachers' classrooms.

Signs of Faith

In celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in January, members created signs with quotes from Dr. King to continue the Signs of Faith project. Approximately forty signs line the front of our property

along Loch Raven Boulevard where they are clearly visible to motorists and pedestrians.



MLK Car Caravan

Several Faith members joined a car caravan in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, January 18.



Fr. Joe blessing each car.



Participants gathered behind St. Matthew's Catholic Church where they decorated their cars with words reflecting the philosophy of Dr. King and heard several speakers including City Councilwoman Odette Ramos, Martina Hazelton, co-founder of Lifer Family Support Network, which advocates for humane treatment of those serving long sentences in Maryland prisons, and Jordan Casper, an African American DJ and rapper and one of the organizers of the Black Lives Matter Interfaith Coalition.



Approximately 100 cars followed a 10-mile route which took them down Bel Air Rd, across North Ave., up Charles St. to Northern Parkway, and back down Loch Raven to return to their starting point.

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/events/bs-md-mlk-blm-caravan-20210119-zgkftbepnbaljffqrgvikcg7q-story.html>

Cuba Notes

Audrey Trapp

Our sisters and brothers in Cuba continue to experience great hardship and deprivation caused by the following:

1. COVID crisis - cases are increasing after resort areas were opened to tourists. Our churches are closed.
2. Economic crisis - the Cuban government instituted currency and salary reform that has raised government salaries and prices, but prices of food and goods have increased at a higher rate than salaries. Unemployment is high. Our churches are struggling to increase pastors' salaries to meet these higher costs.
3. Years of US embargo and restrictions on trade and travel - the Cuban people cannot get remittances from family members in the US and church and humanitarian groups cannot travel to Cuba to take cash and needed supplies.

What we are doing to assist our Cuban partners?

1. The member churches of Presbytery of Baltimore's Cuba Partnership continue to communicate with and pray for our Cuban partners and look forward to the day that we can again travel to Cuba.
2. The Cuba Partners Network (CPN) is working on two initiatives:
 - shipping a container of food and supplies to Cuba, a project fraught with legal requirements and red tape from both governments
 - planning a financial appeal very soon to all of the US partnerships to send money to the Cuban Synod through the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC(USA). We successfully used this legal channel last year.
3. The Advocacy Committee of CPN is working hard on legislative efforts that are now possible with a Democratic Administration and Democratic control of Congress. Already we have:
 - sent letters on Cuban policy to President Biden, and Secretaries of State and Treasury
 - sent emails to members whose Senators are on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 - and continued our collaborative efforts with other faith groups in advocacy for the Cuban people

What can you do?

1. Pray for all the Cuban people, especially our partners in the churches in Iguara and Meneses. Cuban Presbyterians pray for us every day at a set time.
2. Join the advocacy efforts for just and open political relationships with Cuba - let Audrey know if you are interested (audreytrapp@comcast.net)
3. Contribute to the financial appeal that will be coming very soon. And thank you to Faith members who have been so generous in the past!

FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Happy February Birthday!

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

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

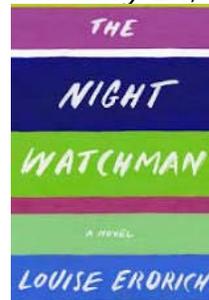
Please Keep in Your Prayers

Nan Pohl, Ann Scheck

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

Book Club

February 24, 7:00 hosted by the Nesbitts



This month we will be reading *The Night Watchman* by **Louise Erdrich**. In her latest book Erdrich "traces the indelible traumas of racism and sexual violence and celebrates the vitality and depth of Chippewa life". The book is related to the story of her own

grandfather. He was a nightwatchman in North Dakota who, in the early 1950s, fought a federal law that sought to eliminate their Tribal Designation all the way to Washington, D.C. Surrounding this political struggle the book describes the dynamics and struggles of life on and off the Reservation. "A knowing, loving evocation of people trying to survive with their personalities and traditions intact." Please join us for the discussion. For more information call Pat Nesbitt 410-366-2847.

Annual Meeting

At the conclusion of worship on January 31, we met for our annual congregational meeting. We received the annual report and heard 2020 highlights and hopes for 2021 from many of our committee chairs and our pastor, many of whom remarked on the incredible resilience and adaptability of our congregation through a challenging year.



Jay Chalfant (see page 9)

We also passed a resolution of posthumous tribute to Jay Chalfant, a moving testimony to her service of the church and community written by Paula Burger, before electing Chris Pope our new church treasurer (a position Jay held when she died in early September).

Chris also shared a helpful summary of church finances: we are in good financial standing, despite a few extraordinary expenses related to our pastor search and relocation and loss of rental income in the past year. The congregation's faithful giving and generosity, coupled with the Payroll Protection Program loan we received, has allowed us to remain on solid footing.

Cookies for CARES



Cookie boxes are in Fellowship Hall for you to fill with homemade or store bought cookies. Please return filled boxes by February 9. Karen Meyers will pick up the cookies if you prefer. Susan Minor will take the filled boxes to CARES.

Dave Meyers has graciously purchased the boxes, please return any unfilled boxes before the end of the month.



"Personally, I worry that, with everyone wearing masks, readers won't be able to tell who in the cartoon is speaking."



FAITH IN THE CITY:
Seeking. Standing. Serving.

Faith Presbyterian Church
Jay Chalfant
Resolution of Posthumous Tribute

WHEREAS Fredrica Chalfant, known to us affectionately as Jay, joined Faith Presbyterian Church in 2004 and was for more than fifteen years an especially dedicated, loyal, and active member; and

WHEREAS Jay's professional credentials in accounting and her experience in tax preparation made her a valuable resource for the church's Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS Jay was elected as Treasurer of Faith Church in 2007 and held the position with integrity and distinction and a special flair for signing checks; and

WHEREAS Jay enthusiastically participated in Book Club, sharing her love of literature and particular fondness for the mystery genre, witness her wall to wall book collection; and

WHEREAS Jay was a faithful member of Bell Choir who, with skill and a white glove, strode the center aisle with real authority to signal the start of Sunday worship; and

WHEREAS Jay was a mainstay of the Thursday crew who organized the communal meal and could be counted on for fashioning a layered salad or finding the best deal on Royal Farms fried chicken; and

WHEREAS this kind and helpful woman was a willing worker who made coffee for others on Sunday morning and could be found in Fellowship Hall on almost every occasion when kitchen help was needed; and

WHEREAS Jay participated enthusiastically in virtually every event in the life of the church including its movie series, soup suppers, and Adult Forum; and

WHEREAS Jay possessed a truly caring spirit and civic mindedness that animated her volunteer service for Meals on Wheels, her community engagement including as election judge, and her countless individual acts of Christian charity for her friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS Jay's friends admired her intelligence, relished her no-nonsense style, and loved her quirkiness, sly humor, and crusty goodwill;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the congregation of Faith Presbyterian Church declare that they owe their grateful appreciation to Jay Chalfant, salute her distinguished service, and express their deep regret at not being able to give her their fondest farewell on September 2, 2020 as she took up residence in the communion of saints, where we are certain that she is ringing her bell.

Given this 31st day of January
Two Thousand and Twenty-One


Rev. Catherine Dodson Goodrich, Pastor

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3 11:00AM – Bible Study	4 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	5	6
 7 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship 12:30PM – New Members 2:00PM – OC Car Caravan	8	9 7:00PM-Deacons	10 11:00AM – Bible Study	11 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	12	13
14 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:20AM Kid's Zoom 10:45AM – Worship	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday 11:00AM – Bible Study All Day: Imposition of Ashes – Chapel 7:00PM – Prayer Service	18 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 6:00PM – Session	19	20
21 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship	22	23	24 11:00AM – Bible Study 7:00PM – Book Club	25 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	26	27
28 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship	March 1	March 2	March 3 7:00PM – The Black Church Discussion			
				<p>Locations</p> <p>ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus</p>		