



What's Inside?

- Calendar 2
- Returning to Worship
- Farewell for Pastor Tom's Sabbatical 3
- What's Going On @ Govans 4
- Letter from Pastor Billy 5
- Youth & Young Families Events
- Intro to Children's Literature 6
- Summer Sermon Series
- Evaluating Children's Literature 7
- ChurchWorks 8
- RJM Speaker Series 9
- Mission Offering: CEDEPCA 10
- Music Monday w/ Marc Borms 11
- May Birthdays 12
- Message from Haiti 13
- Supporting Govans 14
- Children's Section 15-19

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Pastor Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for the staff who serve at Govans. We have a wonderful team who are committed to empowering our congregation to make the world better. We

are very fortunate to have such gifted, talented, and faithful people. As I prepare for my last two weeks before beginning my sabbatical, I have every confidence the church will be in good hands.

But, as much as or even more than the staff, I am grateful for this wonderful congregation. Govans is a congregation of faithful, wise leaders. I know you will continue your growth as a congregation and your ministry to the world. I wish I could enjoy all the sermons that will be offered by church members while I am away.



Finally I am grateful for the opportunity to take this sabbatical. Not everyone is so fortunate to be in a position where a sabbatical is possible. My last sabbatical truly was a time of renewal and deep reflection, and I know this one will be

too. Perhaps it can be compared to preparing the soil for planting a garden. The effort it takes to prepare that soil may not seem to have immediate rewards, but over time growth can happen that would not have happened without the preparation.

My last Sunday is May 9th. I hope to see you in church that day as well as at the Drive-by Farewell on May 8th.

Peace,
Pastor Tom

Summer Sermon Series:

From May 16 to August 22, Govans' Summer Sermon Series will feature a modern children's book each week in conversation with a story from Scripture. Get ready for these exciting Sunday sermons with an introduction to children's literature on page 6 by Govans' own Wendy Smith.



May Calendar

2 - Online Worship Youth Sunday, 10am
2 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm
3 - Music Mondays @ Govans, 7pm
5 - Online Bible Study, noon
9 - Online Worship, 10am
9 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm
10 - Pastor Tom's Sabbatical Begins
10 - Music Mondays @ Govans, 7pm
10 - Finance Committee, 7pm
12 - Online Bible Study, noon
15 - Racial Justice Speaker Series, 2pm
16 - Online Worship, 10am
16 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm
17 - Facilities Committee, 6:30 pm
17 - Music Mondays @ Govans, 7pm
18 - Session Meeting, 6:30pm

19 - Online Bible Study, noon
21 - Youth Group (outside at church) 6:30pm
22 - Conversation Corps, 2:15 pm
23 - Online Worship, 10am
23 - Young Families Trash Pick Up, 4:30-5:30 pm
23 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm
24 - Music Mondays @ Govans, 7pm
26 - Online Bible Study, noon
30 - Online Worship, 10am (Youth Leader Recognition)
30 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 3pm
31 - Music Mondays @ Govans, 7pm



Returning to In-Person Worship:

We are now taking reservations for members and friends to attend in person worship on Sunday morning. To start off, some Sundays will only have 1-2 spots open because members of the worship team will take priority and we will only have a maximum of 12 people present.

To sign up for an open spot, call (410-435-9188) or email Andy Wilson (wilson@govanspres.org) in the Church Office . He will need the following information:

1. Your name.
2. Your phone number and/or email address
3. The Sundays you would like to attend in-person between now and June 6th.

On Friday of each week, Andy will notify you by email or phone if you will be able to attend in-person that week. Please note: You will not have a reservation until Andy confirms it with you on Friday.



It's a Farewell Drive-By

for

Pastor Tom



When: Saturday, May 8, 2021

Where: Church Parking Lot

Time: 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Offer Sabbatical well wishes!

Hope to see you there!

Church Staff

Rev. Tom Harris, Senior Pastor

Rev. Billy Kluttz, Associate Pastor

Lea Gilmore,

Minister for Racial Justice & Music

Director, 1st Service

Mary Hamlin-Spencer

Music Director, 2nd Service

Rev. Jenny Williams

Ministry Associate for

Congregational Care

Pam Wallace, Office Manager

Andy Wilson, Administrative Asst.

Sylvia Usher

Sexton

Pam Ferguson,

Director of Preschool

Gwen Lloyd, Program Director,

Senior Network

Govans Presbyterian Church

5828 York Road Baltimore, Maryland

21212

410-435-9188

www.govanspres.org



The deadline for submissions
for the June/July/August
2021 newsletter is May 20,
2021. Please send to Andy
Wilson

(wilson@govanspres.org) or
call the church office.



Follow Govans on

Instagram

@govanschurch



What's Going On @ Govans?

Govans' podcast, **Believe in Baltimore**, is now available!

- **May 3** - A Vegan Interpretation of the Bible - Guest: Rev. Tom Harris and Co-Hosts Lisa Beacham, Terry Shaw, and Billy Kluttz
- **May 17** - Centering Our Youth - Guest: Sandi McFadden with co-hosts Revs. Tom Harris and Billy Kluttz

All episodes are all available on the podcast homepage, anchor.fm/believeinbaltimore.



Believe in Baltimore is also available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Breaker, Google Podcasts, Pocket Casts, or RadioPublic. Please

rate, review, and share our podcast with a friend or family member. If you would like help accessing the podcast or have ideas for future guests, please contact Pastor Billy at billy@govanspres.org.

GOVANS
YOUNG FAMILIES
LITTER CLEAN-UP
DAYS

SUNDAYS - 3:30 TO 4:30 PM
MAY 23, JULY 18, &
SEPTEMBER 5

FAMILIES WITH KIDS 1 TO 18 ARE
WELCOME. FACE MASKS REQUIRED.
EMAIL [BILLY@GOVANSPRES.ORG](mailto:billy@govanspres.org)
FOR MORE INFO.

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Want to join the... 
Labrynth
Weeding
Team

Contact Jane Wilson
(jane.ellen.wilson@gmail.com)
for more info. Work will start
in the next few weeks.

Govans 101
Every First Sunday
Following Worship

Whether you are interested in becoming a member, getting more involved, or just learning more about the church, you're invited to a monthly conversation hosted by Govans' pastors. We'll talk about our ministries, what it means to be Presbyterian, our governance and theology, and, most importantly, how you can be a part of it all.

Questions? Email tom@govanspres.org or
billy@govanspres.org.

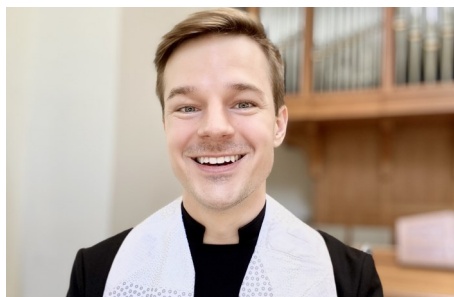
Letter from Pastor Billy

Hello,

This Eastertide, I am noticing the energy of new life and resurrection throughout Govans.

We have a wonderful summer sermon series planned for May through August. Each week, we'll read a modern children's book during our children's time and then hear a sermon connecting that story to a passage of Scripture. I hope you'll prepare yourself by reading Wendy Smith's wonderful pieces about children's books in this month's newsletter.

Likewise, I am very excited about our new Govans 101 courses on Zoom on the first Sunday of each month. These online classes offer non-members a chance to learn more about the church, what it means to be Presbyterian, and how to get involved at Govans. During the summer, we'll have Govans 101 meetings following worship on June 6, July 4, and August 1. If you are not a member or know someone who is considering joining, please invite them to join me for one of these conversations.



This summer, Govans young families and youth will also be active with several trash pick up days, Soul Kitchen volunteer nights, and a special Canoe and Scoop (it's actually kayaking) with Baltimore Parks and Recreation on June 12. Look for more

information about that on our youth and young families calendar page.

And don't miss the incredible conversations on Govan's podcast, Believe in Baltimore. This month, we'll release two new episodes, a conversation about local schools with Sandi McFadden and a conversation about Pastor Tom's sabbatical, co-hosted by Govans members Terry Shaw and Lisa Beacham.

Peace,

Billy

Youth and Young Families Events:

- Sunday, May 2: Youth Sunday at 10:00 am
- Friday, May 21: Youth Group at 6:00 pm outside at church
- Sunday, May 23: Young Families Trash Pick Up Day @ Govans - 4:30-5:30 pm
- May 30: Youth Servant Leader Recognition Day
- Saturday, June 12: Canoe and Scoop Day with Young Families 9:00 am to 12:00 pm



Easter Egg Hunt @ Govans (April 3, 2021)



Youth Night @ Soul Kitchen (April 18, 2021)

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

by Wendy Smith

Throughout the world, there is evidence of story-telling in just about every culture. Before written language, stories were used to pass down ideas and historical knowledge. Not all of the stories were for the entertainment of children, but some were.

With the advent of the printing press and the publication of books starting in the 1400s, books for adults began to be available for wider and wider usage, among these books was the Bible. While the Bible was often used as a text for teaching children to read, it was not changed in any way for its use with children. In the English-speaking world, books for children first became available in the late 1700s, first appearing in England published by John Newbery. Newbery believed in hard work being rewarded and his books reflected this philosophy, didactically telling children how to behave.

Fast forward to the twentieth century in the US and we can see the evolution from didactic books, still largely in place in the mid-century to the end of the twentieth century. Books for children in the 1950s had other common trends as well. Most children's books showed only white children in middle class settings and the children had no real-world problems, no families of divorce, no disabilities, no illnesses, etc. Gradually over the last five decades of the 1900s and into the 2000s, books for children began to represent the world we live in more realistically. Girls came to be more equally represented in books and BIPOC gained a higher level of representation, although we still find discrepancies between the representation of a population in our country and the representation of that population in children's literature. Children's books now tackle a myriad of issues from obesity to physical and cognitive disabilities to families with two mothers or fathers.

The books chosen for our summer series show children all around the world, with a fair representa-



tion of gender, ethnicities and cultures. This is true for the characters of the books chosen as well as for the authors. Although publishers of children's literature, still largely the domain of white men, have opened up publication to more and more literature representing the world as it currently exists, there is still a long way to go. By sharing

continued on p. 13

Summer Sermon Series Schedule

- **May 16** *When God Was a Little Girl* by David Weiss & Joan Lindeman - Genesis 2:4-23 - Billy Kluttz
- **May 23** *Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants* by Leah Rachel Berkowitz - Esther 1:1-22 - Billy Kluttz
- **May 30** *I Am Perfectly Designed* by Karamo Brown - Psalm 139: 13-18 - Lea Gilmore
- **June 6** *Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love - Genesis 37: 1-11 - Billy Kluttz
- **June 13** *Maybe God is Like That, Too* by Jennifer Grant - Galatians 5:22-26 - Rev. Dr. Anita Hendrix
- **June 20** *God's Dream* by Desmond Tutu - Revelation 21:1-5 - Rev. Jody Morris
- **June 27** - *My Rainbow* by DeShanna Neal - Judges 13-16 - Billy Kluttz
- **July 4** "The Story of Ruth" from *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Desmond Tutu - Ruth 1-4 - Billy Kluttz
- **July 11** *Be Kind* by Pat Miller - Ephesians 4: 31-32a - Elder Carolyn Anewich
- **July 18** "God Saves Daniel" from *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Desmond Tutu - Daniel 6 - Billy Kluttz
- **July 25** TBA - Lea Gilmore preaching
- **August 1** *Drawn Together* by Minh Le and Dan Santat - Genesis 11:1 - Rev. David Harris
- **August 8** *Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor, Too* by Jennifer Grant - Mark 12:28-34 - Wendy Smith
- **August 15** - *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld - James 1:17-21 - Billy Kluttz
- **August 22** *Thank You, Omu!* By Oge Mora - James 2:14-17 - Adam Allen

EVALUATING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

by Wendy Smith

Children's literature can be examined or evaluated using the same criteria we use for any literature by looking at the plot, character development, theme, setting and literary devices. We combine this with an evaluation of the pictures if we are talking about picture books.



read aloud? Are there both short and long sentences, giving it a balance and making it easier to read aloud?

Pictures in a picture book are like any other piece of art and they have aesthetic value in most cases according to the viewer. However, in a picture book, we can also ask the question: Do these pictures enhance

the story that is being told? Do the pictures work with the text to tell a cohesive story?

For the purposes of using these books in conjunction with Biblical teaching, we also may want to look at the books from a sociocultural or a more critical perspective. In this case, we may want to evaluate the books by looking at the following:

- *Plot*: does the story move along smoothly? Is there a rising plot structure, with a climax and a denouement? If the story is a realistic story (not fantasy), is the plot believable?
- *Character Development*: Are the characters more than two dimensional? Because a picture book is necessarily short, there may be only one or two developed characters in each book. Do the main characters act in consistent ways, or if their behavior changes, is it believable?
- *Theme*: What is the main idea the story is trying to convey? Is the theme told in a way that makes the reader think, or is it very direct? Is there a lesson in the book?
- *Setting*: How is the setting represented? This could include the actual location, for example a city or town in a specific place, as well as the home or school represented. Children's books often have somewhat nebulous settings, so it is good to examine what the author and illustrator are trying to convey. Is it a largely middle-class representation of life, or does the setting convey other backgrounds or particular ethnicities?
- *Literary devices*: This can encompass many things such as the use of rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, metaphor and simile, excellent word choice, etc. Does the text read smoothly when

- *What races are represented in the book(s)?* Are there only white people or only black people? Are Asians or Native/Indigenous people represented? If more than one race is represented, is one race dominant? Do the characters show stereotypical or racist behaviors?

- *What about gender?* Overall, do the stories focus more on boys than on girls, or vice/versa? Are non-binary children/adults represented at all? Look closely at both the text and the pictures to see how genders are represented. Do the boys and girls behave in "traditional" fashion? For example, do the girls wear skirts or dresses, even when playing outdoors? Are the boys told not to cry? Are the boys more adventurous than the girls? Are they shown doing gendered chores, such as girls cooking and boys mowing the lawn? What about the parents? Is the mother subservient to the father, even in little ways?

...continued on p. 12

ChurchWorks

Session Highlights from the Stated Session Meeting on April 20, 2021

We approved the following updated policy related COVID. Please see the weekly email for a link to a document with further explanations and details behind the reasoning for the updates.

The following policies apply to all church activities except Preschool which will be governed by the Govans Presbyterian Preschool Parent Handbook Addendum for COVID-19.



- Everyone in the church buildings must wear a mask at all times and maintain social distancing. Exception: Children under two years old should be encouraged to wear a mask but are not required.
- No food or drink may be consumed on the church grounds. Individuals such as staff or students may still eat (lunch breaks, etc), but any group including church or rentals may not eat or drink.
- All rooms must be cleaned, sanitized and if possible ventilated by church staff after each use by a group and before being used by another group.
- All rooms must be cleaned and sanitized daily if used.
- Rentals may resume on a case by case basis effective June 1st pending approval from the Building Use and Rental Approval Team.
- Soul Kitchen will continue to serve take out meals only until sit-down meals are approved by the Session.
- Attendance restrictions for in-person worship will follow this schedule:
- Effective April 25th we will begin an online sign up process to allow individuals to attend in-person worship. Sign-up priority will be given to worship leaders. Following the current policy 12 people are allowed in the Sanctuary during worship.
- Beginning Sunday, June 13th a total of 20 people will be allowed in the Sanctuary during Sunday worship.
- Beginning Sunday, July 11th a total of 30 people will be allowed in the Sanctuary during Sunday worship.
- Beginning Sunday, August 8th a total of 40 people will be allowed in the Sanctuary during Sunday worship.
- Beginning September 12th a total of 60 people will be allowed in the Sanctuary during worship.
- During the transition to more people worshipping in the sanctuary, every other pew will be roped off. One worship leader at a time may remove their mask. In lieu of congregational singing, vocal music will be sung by the music teams. All singers must be masked.
- In-person Sunday School and Adult Options may resume September 12th, 2021.
- Outdoor activities are permitted provided masks are worn.

See Page 2 for details on how to make reservations to attend in person worship.

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Racial Justice Ministry Speaker Series

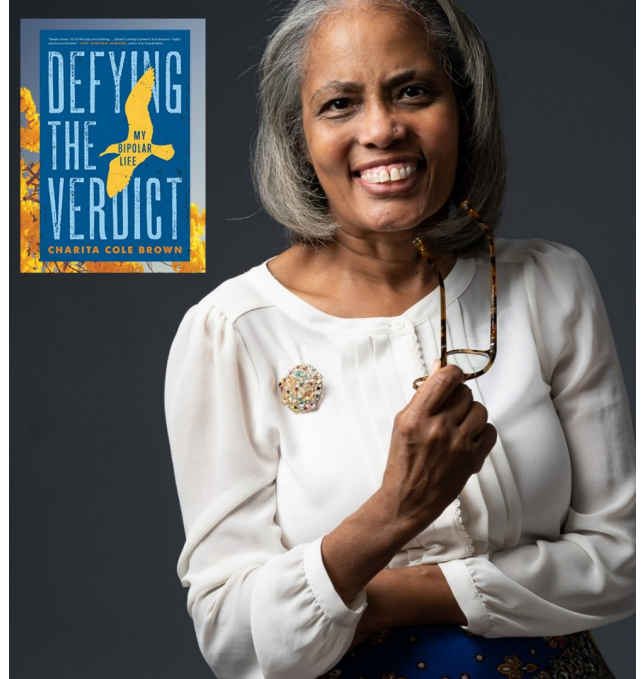
Charita Cole Brown

Defying the Verdict

Saturday, May 15, 2021, 2pm * Zoom

This event is co-presented with
Knox Presbyterian Church

Charita Cole Brown was diagnosed with bipolar disorder when she was in college. She wrote her recent book, "Defying the Verdict: My Bipolar Life," to help people understand the disorder and to challenge the stereotypes that surround mental illness generally, especially in communities of color. Brown had a career in elementary education, and now is a mental wellness advocate for numerous organizations. Brown's mission is to help cure mental healthcare stigma by sharing her story. Email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org for more information.



ChurchWorks...continued from previous page.

In other business,

- We approved a working document to help us get the committee structure organized and formalized at Govans. We will be making an effort to have officers for each committee and rotating membership.
- We approved a recommendation from Facilities to contract with SecureAlarms to install surveillance cameras in every Preschool Classroom, on the playground, and in the church kitchen. These will help the Director supervise the classrooms, and provide security for teachers and students.
- We approved the design for the AV upgrades for the Sanctuary and approved staff to begin obtaining bids. The design includes:
- Flat screen video monitors next to the pulpit and the lectern facing the congregation (as presented to the congregation during the feedback sessions).
- There will also be a monitor next to the organ console facing the choir loft so the choir can see the screens.
- The system will give us the ability to broadcast our services live on Zoom once we return to in-person worship. We will also be able to have participants join us remotely to lead worship such as Minute for Missions, Announcements, Lay Leadership, etc.

MAY MISSION OFFERING - CEDEPCA

Imagine being a young girl in Guatemala, a country where violence against women is a serious problem. Imagine going to a day-long workshop where you hear for the first time that girls, like boys, are created in God's image. Imagine learning that you deserve to be treated with respect and kindness. These are the messages conveyed in the Tamar Project, named for the biblical daughter of King David. In this workshop "It's Marvelous to be a Woman", girls in Guatemala may learn for the first time that they are valued as much as boys.



CEDEPCA, our mission partner with The Presbytery of Baltimore, has provided these workshops in recent years. It is but one project of CEDEPCA, (which in English stands for the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America). CEDEPCA is an ecumenical educational organization based in Guatemala that works to transform lives in Central America. Our Presbytery has had a partnership with CEDEPCA since 2015.

CEDEPCA has four different ministry focuses: A Biblical and Theological Seminary, Women's Ministry, Disaster Ministry and Intercultural Encounters.

Biblical and Theological Seminary: CEDEPCA offers flexible and accessible programs of formal theological education, preparing Christians for leadership, for practice in transforming theology and for engagement in pastoral work that incorporates issues of gender, interculturalism and the environment.

Women's Ministry: CEDEPCA is committed to empowering women to understand and assert their rights, to learn to care for themselves and to assume leadership in their communities.

Disaster Ministry: Guatemala is vulnerable to various natural disasters. CEDEPCA teaches preparation to reduce the impact of disaster, and their teams respond with material, psychosocial and spiritual support. They were very active during the recent stage 5 hurricanes.

Intercultural Encounters: This program designs and facilitates visitors' experiences of encounter, reflection and dialogue with the local Guatemalan community. Covid has put a hold on this program at present. In the past we have visited and learned about each other. We hope to restart these encounters as the pandemic recedes. Visits are aimed at strengthening our partnership.

Guatemala is a beautiful country and the Guatemalan people have so much to share. CEDEPCA is the Govans mission focus for this month of May. Please consider earmarking a contribution for CEDEPCA.



MUSIC MONDAYS @ GOVANS!

May 17, 2021 7pm EST

Live on Zoom

MARC BORMS

Live from Belgium



Govans Presbyterian is a welcoming and affirming church.
WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG



**For more information and to request the Zoom link,
please email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org)**



**Wednesday Online Bible
Study**

12:00 noon on Zoom

with Knox and Govans Presbyterian Churches

ZOOM LINK WILL BE IN THE WEEKLY EMAIL - SUBSCRIBE AT WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG

May Birthdays

- 5 - Carol Frigo
- 5 - Hailey Gaede
- 6 - Andy Wilson
- 7 - Elena Storey
- 9 - Lee Seabolt
- 9 - Rena Hoisington
- 10 - Sam Fuller
- 10 - Stephen Gaede
- 11 - Rachel Schmid-James
- 13 - Madison Gaede
- 17 - Chase Koehler
- 23 - Naomi Hairston
- 24 - Ellen Egger
- 29 - Tom Harris
- 31 - Beth Bryant



Soul Kitchen happens every Sunday!

**Volunteer by going to the Soul Kitchen
page at www.govanspres.org**

EVALUATING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE...continued from page 7

- *Multiculturalism:* Many books are written today to show the pluralistic world we live in. But do they represent cultures other than white America in a positive way? How does the narrator talk about cultures that are different from middle class America? Is there respect shown? How stereotypical are the representations? Are people of color shown always living in poverty? Are people in African and Asian countries shown always wearing traditional clothing?

- *Who is telling the story?* You can examine both the narrator of the story and the author. Is the narrator telling his/her own story or is the narrator someone outside of the story? It often seems that a BIPOC is not allowed to tell his/her own story. Does the author come from the race/gender that is represented in the story? This does not mean that a person from one race or gender can never tell a story that is written about another race or gender, but it is often a red flag if the person is writing outside of his/her own identity. Does the voice feel authentic?



- *What is the moral or the lesson of the story?* Is this lesson given in a very didactic way? Does the narrator or the author tell the child/reader what to think? Is the voice condescending to the child? Or does the voice allow the children /readers to think for themselves? Does the author trust the children to make good decisions and to figure out the meaning of the story without putting it too bluntly or in-your-face?

In looking briefly at the books that have been chosen by Billy, there appears to be a mix of genders and ethnicities represented both in the characters as well as in the authors. As we read these books to the congregation throughout the summer, we may want to emphasize the ways the children in the books are acting outside of ste-

Message from Haiti

Dear Friends,

We are sending our greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ the Savior and Redeemer of all. May the peace of the Eternal God be with you all.

We are happy to be able to give you an update on the situation in Haiti. As you may see it on the news, the violence in Haiti continues to worsen in Port-au-Prince and in several principal cities. Commercial activities are slowing down with hostage-taking followed by release for ransom. The prices of basic necessities are rising. Many people are leaving Haiti to take

refuge in the Dominican Republic or anywhere else they can in order to avoid being assaulted or killed. This is the sad reality of Haitian daily life.

Despite all of this the children and young people of KPN are doing well and continue to progress slowly thanks to the goodness and the protection of God the generous support of our friends from Govans Presbyterian Church, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, Neighbors Near & Far and other friends enjoying the work we are doing.

Our children continue to go to school each day when it is possible. Each day we have to assess the situation to decide whether we can send them or not.

We thank God for protecting all of us every single day in our troubled country ravaged by violence.

-Peace, David and Danny Guillaume



Nehemie Louis, 4th year medical student

Introduction to Children's Literature...continued from p. 6

these wonderful children's books, we hope to encourage everyone to look outside the box when purchasing books for children in your family and in your community. For example, *Charlotte's Web* is an amazing book for children that continues to be beloved by almost all who read it, but is it the best book to represent the child and community we are trying to nurture?

We can find examples of Biblical principles in many places, but perhaps children's literature is one of the easiest places to look. Again, the books we will explore this summer carry many lessons for both children and adults. In some cases, they mirror the parables of Jesus and in others, they simply and directly tell us how we should behave. As we explore these books together, we can revisit the importance of story to our lives, no matter how old we are.●

SUPPORTING GOVANS THROUGH TAX-ADVANTAGED GIVING

Good news for Senior Citizens! If you are at least 72 years old and must make a Required Minimum Distribution from your tax-deferred IRA accounts, you may be able to take advantage of another provision of the Congressionally-approved SECURE Act. A Qualified Charitable Distribution is a direct transfer of assets from an IRA to Govans, which can provide you with additional benefits.

First, if made properly the amount will be treated as a reduction of your Required Minimum Distribution, up to total contributions in a year of \$100,000. The effect would be to reduce your ordinary income, which could decrease income taxes. It could also reduce income-based surcharges on such things as Medicare Parts B and D.

Second, if you use the standard deduction to calculate your taxes, and are unable to itemize charitable contributions, using Qualified Charitable Distributions can give you the ability to get some benefit from such contributions. For example, it is a great way to cover your annual pledge to Govans.

Other options to contribute to Govans continue to include legacy gifts from your estate or trust. Of course, you may make regular cash donations, or of appreciated securities. Often these are matched by employers, so please check that possibility. There may be different, but significant, tax advantages to these methods. This may seem complicated, and, admittedly, these paragraphs do not provide everything you need to know. Therefore, it is important to consult your tax advisor, financial consultant or IRA custodian for complete details about making a Qualified

Charitable Distribution transfer.

You may also contact Govans Finance Committee member Fred Gaede with general questions, although it must be noted that neither Fred nor any member of the Committee is qualified to provide professional advice. You can reach Fred at 410-252-6595, or by email fgaede@comcast.net



The Govans Finance Committee thanks you for your attention!

P.S. Your tax advisor or IRA custodian will want to know that Govans Presbyterian Church is a 501(c)3 organization under IRS Group Ruling No. 1617.

The Children's (Of All Ages) Section

The Week of May 2

COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM - ACTS 15: 1-18

Verse for the week: "On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

Acts 15:11

Conversation Starter: Our story today is about the early church deciding to become more inclusive and allow gentiles (non-Jewish people) to belong. When is a time that you decided to include someone? How did you make them feel more welcomed?

Activity: Fill in the missing words and letters:



"After this I will _____
and rebuild D__vid's fallen t__nt.
Its _____ I will rebuild,
and I will rest__re it,
that the rest of mankind may seek the _____,
even all the Gent__les who bear my _____,
says the L__rd, who does these things'
thin__s known from long _____.

The Children's (Of All Ages) Section

The Week of May 9

The life which I now
live in the flesh I live by
the faith of the Son of God,
who loved me, and gave
himself for me.

- Galatians 2:20b -



LIVING BY FAITH

- GALATIANS

1:13-17; 2:11-

21

Verse for the week: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." *Galatians 2:20*

Conversation Starter:

Our scripture today is actually an ancient letter! Paul wrote lots of letters to churches and followers of Jesus. Have you ever written a letter? Have you ever received a card or letter? What is it like to get mail from someone? How is that different than speaking to them in person?

Activity: Color the coloring sheet!

The Children's (Of All Ages) Section

The Week of May 16

CREATION - GENESIS 2:4-23

Verse for the Week: "Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.'" *Genesis 2: 23*

Conversation Starter: The first thing that Adam notices about Eve is how similar they are. We can see connections with all of creation that way. Look at the nature around you, how are you similar to the plants and animals that you see? How are you similar or different to other people in your family?

Activity: Complete the word search!

And It Was Very Good

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. *Genesis 1:1 (NIV)*

The puzzle is based on *Genesis 1:1-2:4a (NIV)*.



N	P	S	B	S	K	N	D	S	B	K	J	G	R	L
P	U	D	I	K	O	M	E	A	W	G	N	T	S	I
Y	V	S	R	Y	U	E	H	N	R	I	V	G	F	G
S	B	V	D	U	R	R	P	G	N	K	P	O	G	H
C	I	T	S	T	T	X	C	N	A	L	N	D	R	T
P	R	X	I	N	U	X	I	P	J	N	T	E	Y	V
C	L	O	K	I	Y	G	Y	N	N	X	I	S	S	S
J	R	A	O	D	E	C	N	F	Q	T	T	G	L	S
W	E	E	N	B	R	P	H	W	E	E	L	A	H	H
U	B	A	A	T	I	V	E	G	B	M	M	M	S	T
L	W	I	R	T	S	A	A	B	X	I	A	I	X	X
S	A	A	V	T	E	M	V	V	N	P	F	L	Y	T
C	E	N	T	B	H	D	E	A	S	E	S	A	E	U
I	F	A	D	E	D	C	N	S	L	S	D	B	E	D
N	A	J	S	S	R	N	S	M	A	L	E	Z	S	G

HEAVENS	EARTH	PLANTS	SEAS	CREATED
NIGHT	DAY	WATER	FISH	SKY
TREES	DARKNESS	BIRDS	FEMALE	GOD
LIGHT	ANIMALS	BEGINNING	MALE	LAND

The Children's (Of All Ages) Section

The Week of May 23

QUEEN VASHTI - ESTHER 1:1-22

Verse for the Week: "But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs."
Esther 1:12

Conversation Starter: If you were Queen Vashti, would you have responded to the king's request? What would you have done? If you were the king, how would you have reacted to Queen Vashti's refusal?

Activity: Complete the crossword puzzle!

Bible Pathway Adventures

CROSSWORD

QUEEN ESTHER



ACROSS

- 3) Gather all the Hebrews in Susa and hold a _____ on my behalf. (Esther 4:16 ESV)
- 5) Queen _____ refused to see the King of Persia. (Esther 1:12 ESV)
- 7) Esther approached the king and touched the _____. (Esther 5:2 ESV)
- 9) "This idea pleased Haman and he had the _____ made." (Esther 5:14 ESV)

DOWN

- 1) The king of Persia. (Esther 1:2 ESV)
- 2) Who did the king love more than the other women? (Esther 2:17 ESV)
- 3) Esther invited Haman and the King to a _____. (Esther 5:4 ESV)
- 4) What piece of jewelry did the king give Mordecai? (Esther 8:2 ESV)
- 6) Who raised Esther as his own daughter after her parents died? (Esther 2:7 ESV)
- 8) "Therefore they called these days _____, after the term Pur." (Esther 9:26 ESV)

The Children's (Of All Ages) Section

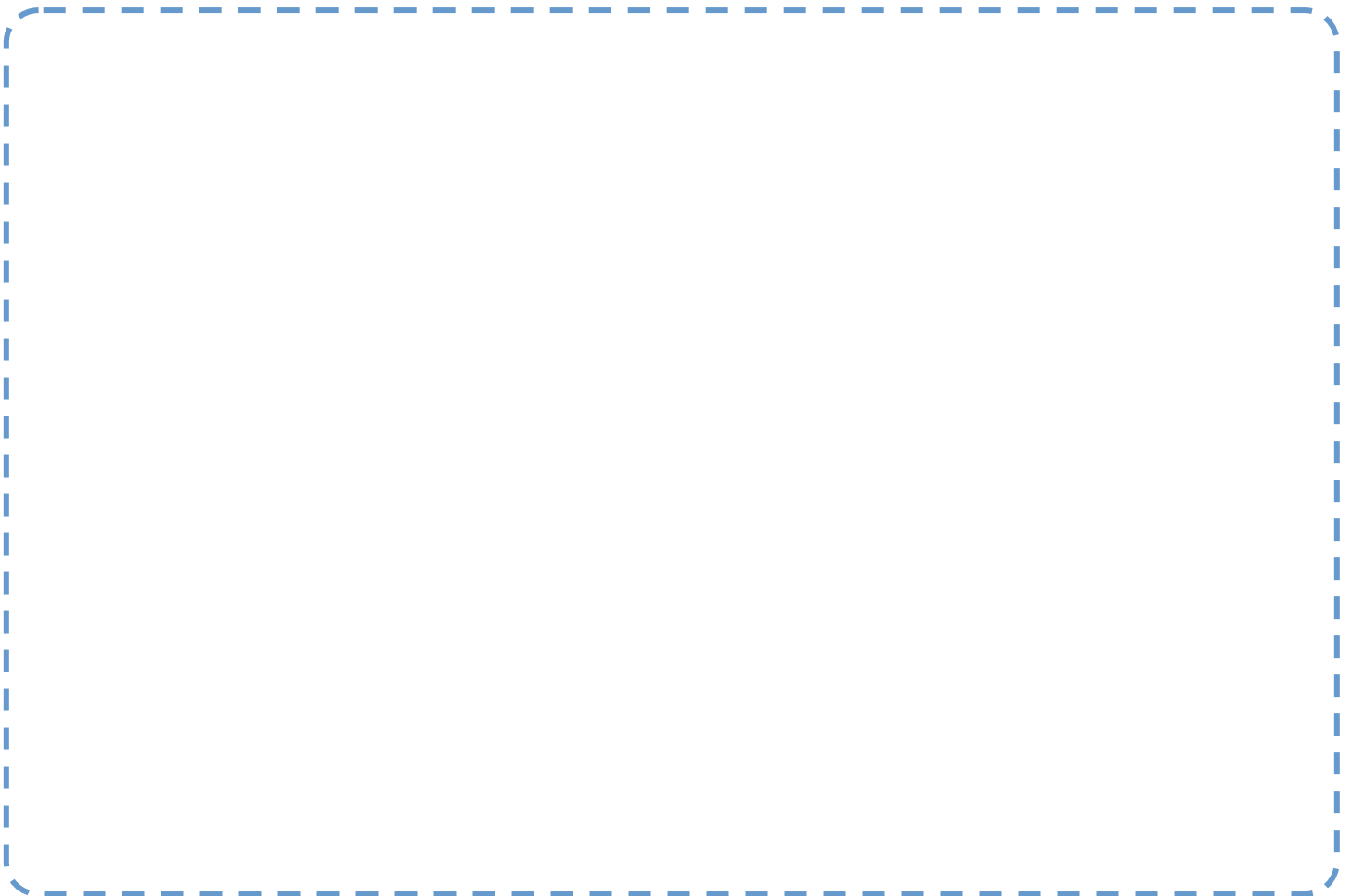
The Week of May 30

GOD MADE YOU - PSALM 139: 13-18

Verse for the Week: "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb." -*Psalm 139: 13*

Conversation Starter: The psalmist (the person who wrote this psalm or song) describes the mystery of creation in Psalm 138. The psalmist tells us that despite that mystery, God knows us and loves us--even before we are born. Do you have any photos of you as a baby? Share those photos with each other and talk about what you looked like when you were younger.

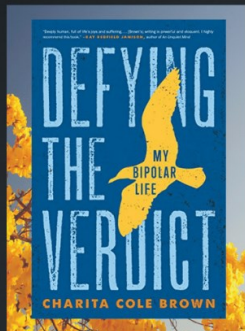
Activity: Draw a picture of yourself in the frame below!





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"Govans Presbyterian Church is a theologically progressive community empowering people to make the world better."



Govans Presybterian's
Racial Justice Ministry
Speaker Series
presents:



Charita Cole Brown

Defying the Verdict

Saturday, May 15, 2021, 2pm * Zoom

This event is co-presented with Knox Presbyterian Church

Charita Cole Brown was diagnosed with bipolar disorder when she was in college. She wrote her recent book, "Defying the Verdict: My Bipolar Life," to help people understand the disorder and to challenge the stereotypes that surround mental illness generally, especially in communities of color. Brown had a career in elementary education, and now is a mental wellness advocate for numerous organizations. Brown's mission is to help cure mental healthcare stigma by sharing her story.

Join us for an afternoon of inspiration and enlightenment.

Please contact Lea Gilmore for more information and/or the Zoom link: lea@govanspres.org



www.govanspres.org
www.knoxpcbaltimore.com/