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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Rev. Billy Kluttz

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to welcome you back to Govans in-person this month.

As we return to more in-person activities, Govans will continue to prioritize safety and inclusion as a community. Accordingly, although we have removed the limit on in-person participants on Sunday mornings and no longer require reservations, the session has wisely continued to require facemasks for all persons over the age of two at all times while inside church buildings. Likewise, we will continue to maintain social



distancing and encourage regular handwashing. Regarding inclusion, the session has approved the installation of a state-of-the-art video capture and broadcasting system to maintain and improve our online worship and educational offerings. No matter

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RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY NEWS

By Lea Gilmore, Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement

It is with great joy and excitement that I serve as the Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement for Govans Presbyterian Church. I will be sharing regularly, in this space, the impactful work of the Racial Justice Ministry. Govans has made a spiritual and institutional commitment to becoming and being an antiracist church. What does that mean? It means that we are actively committed to fighting racism and injustice in our church, our communities and ourselves.

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August Calendar

- 1 - Online & In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 1 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 8 - Online & In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 8 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 9 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 - Online & In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 16 - Facility Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 - Online & In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 23 - Pastor Tom returns from sabbatical
- 24 - Racial Justice Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 - Online & In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 29 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.



August Birthdays

- 5 - Cheryl Dumont
- 6 - Sidney Sutherland
- 7 - Thomas Eastman
- 8 - Jim Gibbons
- 10 - Jane Houck
- 10 - Dana Shaw
- 14 - Patsy Owen
- 15 - Jack Weller
- 15 - Cynthia Jamison
- 19 - Chase Allston
- 21 - Mary Weller
- 21 - Leslie Wong
- 23 - Sylvia Usher
- 24 - Soren Clay-Robison
- 25 - Susan Saunders
- 25 - Bryce Herfel
- 28 - Natalie Berry
- 29 - Betsy Toole
- 30 - Linda Ketner

AUGUST MISSION OFFERING:

PAUL & PAT STOCK & THE PRESBYTERIAN EDUCATION BOARD IN PAKISTAN

Paul and Pat Stock serve in Pakistan. Paul was born and raised in Pakistan, the son of Presbyterian missionaries; Pat grew up in the American South and became involved in relief and refugee work after finishing university. Paul and Pat have raised their four children in Pakistan. They work with the Church of Pakistan to evangelize and disciple Hindu tribal peoples (who are considered “untouchables” by the Muslims and caste Hindus) in the southern province of Sindh. The Stocks work with a team to develop Christian resources that are culturally relevant to the tribal peoples, such as Bible study materials, health primers, and DVDs and CDs of songs in the various tribal languages (available to view on YouTube). They also have an evangelistic team doing outreach to Hindu villages using indigenous music, dance, and drama. **The Presbyterian Education Board’s** mission is to provide, in an enduring way, the highest quality education responsive to the needs of the poorest of the poor children in Pakistan with preparation for the needs and demands of the 21st century. We wish to offer this education to individuals of all religious backgrounds, regardless of their ability to pay, who choose to come to missionary institutions to receive high quality education fully informed by missionary values.



All donations marked “Mission Offering” during August will go to Paul & Pat Stock & the Presbyterian Education Board.

Pastoral Ponderings...continued from page 1

where you are geographically, we want you to feel welcome and included at Govans; our technological upgrades will allow us to continue to offer hospitality to our homebound and physically-distanced members long into the future.

We are in a period of transition not only as a congregation, but as a country. In this liminal moment, each person will have to make their own decisions about what level of risk is acceptable for themselves and their families. No matter what kinds of church involvement feel right to you at this time, I want you to know two things: firstly, you are the expert on your own needs. You are and will continue to be a vital part of this church community whether you've been knocking down the church door to get back inside or whether regathering in-person still feels uncomfortable or too soon for you; in a similar way, we are here for you as you make sense of the confusing moment we're being called to inhabit. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your pastors, church staff, and ruling elders to talk about what you are feeling and how we can be praying for you.

It has been a great honor to serve as acting head of staff this summer at Govans. I am extremely grateful for your patience and support throughout these past few months. Together, we have continued vital ministries of worship, justice, and connection. We have grieved great losses of members in our community and celebrated a new member, a baptism, and even an ordination. Pastor Tom Harris will return from his sabbatical on Monday, August 23. I look forward to his return and to continue serving you as your associate pastor alongside our amazing ruling elders and staff.

Peace,
Pastor Billy

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

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www.govanspres.org



The deadline for
submissions for the
September 2021
newsletter is August 20,
2021. Please send to
Andy Wilson
(wilson@govanspres.org)
or call the church office.



**Pastor Tom returns from his
sabbatical on August 23.**

Welcome back!!!

What's Going On @ Govans?

Woodberry Crossing Summer Camp August 2-4

Govans youth (rising kindergarten to 5th grade) are invited to join kids from Knox and Roland Park Presbyterian Churches to enjoy farm animals, hiking, swimming, crafts, stories, and more at Woodberry Crossing's free summer day camp. Middle school and high school students are welcome as volunteer assistants. Camp runs from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm each day, Monday, August 2 to Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at Woodberry Crossing (925 Stablersville Rd, Parkton, MD). Email billy@govanspres.org to register.



Believe in Baltimore

Hosted by Govans Presbyterian Church



Family Game Night

Saturday, September 18
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Govans Presbyterian Church

Play your favorite games with your family and favorite Govans friends. All families with children ages 1-18 are welcome. You may bring a favorite board game to play or play one of ours. Facemasks are required for all participants three years of age and above.



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.

What's Going On @ Govans?

Govans Youth and Young families removed over 20 bags of trash from the waters off Middle Branch Park on June 12 as part of Baltimore City Parks and Recreation's Canoe and Scoop program. Thanks to Pastor Billy for organizing and to all the families who participated. Job well done!



Govans Youth Group beats the heat on Water Play Night on the Peace Terrace on June 25.



Govans' new Ruling Elder, McKenna Traynham (with Pastor Billy) at her ordination service on June 6.

Racial Justice Ministry News *(continued from page 1)*

Launched in January 2021, we continue to expand our programming and educational opportunities for our church and surrounding community. Here are a few of our current and upcoming events:

- **Summer Book Discussion**

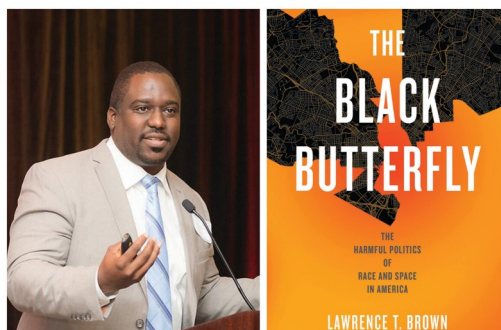
of *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. During the summer, we read novels that are enjoyable, while offering deep, social impact and reflection. The award-winning *Kindred* is a page-turner. **We will have one virtual meeting for discussion Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 p.m.** To sign-up and purchase the book

(we support local, Black-owned bookstores), please email Andy Wilson: wilson@govanspres.org. This fall we will read *Black Butterfly: The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America* by Morgan State professor and author, Lawrence T. Brown.

- **Racial Justice Speakers Series**, a series featuring regional, national and international thought leaders discussing historical and contemporaneous issues on racial justice and beyond. The speakers series is co-facilitated by Racial Justice Ministry leader, Laila Ali.

- **Music Mondays**, a Monday evening virtual music series, featuring a monthly community sing and music from a vast array of musicians from around the globe. Music Mondays events take place September - June at 7:00 p.m.

- **Justice Talks** an open space conversation, giving the congregation and all interested room and space to discuss a topic at hand and/or respond to a current event.



Lawrence T. Brown, author of *The Black Butterfly*, the selection for the RJM's fall book discussion

- **Sacred Conversations to End Racism** - conversations with a spiritual/Biblical foundation
- **Spiritual Cafe** - regular music performances/band, in a cafe setting, featuring Govans Band and community musicians/poets/artists.
- **Storytelling With Deletta Gillespie**- sharing our stories to inspire positive change.

- **Congregational Workshops** - workshops based on *The Racial Healing Handbook: Practical Activities to Help You Challenge Privilege, Confront Systemic Racism, and Engage in Collective Healing*.

- **Community Meetings** - We will be meeting with faith and community leaders from the Govans neighborhood to build relationships and discuss how we can

work as equal partners on issues surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion.

- **Govans Elementary School** - Rev. Billy Kluttz and I will be volunteering with Govans Elementary School to create a children's choir.
- **Govans "Faith Rooted Advocate"** - based on a pledge from and with permission from Sojourner's, we will create an online pledge where you can commit to advocate for a radically just world in the areas of voter protection, immigration, climate justice, women & girls, and economic and racial justice through.



I realize that discussing racism and all of its permutations can be difficult and uncomfortable. No real change happens in the comfort zone. I am deeply proud of Govans Presbyterian Church for deciding that the time is now to confront,

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MUSIC NOTES FROM MARY HAMLIN-SPENCER

September is fast approaching, and it is with excitement that I look forward to the start-up of the Govans Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir, which rehearse on Thursday evenings from September through early June. Both choirs will resume in-person rehearsals in the Sanctuary after Labor Day, and will be performing regularly in the sanctuary during Sunday services. If you are interested in joining either choir, please contact me at mary@govanspres.org. We welcome new members! Come join the fun in making music to enhance our worship on Sunday mornings! (For the Handbell Choir, the ability to read music is a requirement.)

Corbin Phillips, our baritone section leader, will be leaving us at the end of the summer, as he has another job which will prevent him from continuing with us here at Govans. We will be having a brief liturgy of farewell for him on his last Sunday, August 8, and I hope many of you will come to church that day to say goodbye to him in person after the service. We will certainly miss Corbin here at Govans, but wish him Godspeed in his future endeavors.

Peace,
Mary

Racial Justice Ministry News...*continued from previous page*

address and change the vestiges of structural and implicit racism within our church, our community and within our world.

This is God's work. I am not doing this alone. We are grateful for our Senior Pastor, Tom Harris and Associate Pastor, Rev. Billy Kluttz, for their deep commitment. We have several congregation members who have stepped up into leadership for the Racial Justice Ministry, volunteering their hearts, minds and souls for this labor of love. I offer my deepest gratitude.

It is our responsibility (and a gift!) to share the love of Christ wherever we may be. Join us in our commitment to share God's love by committing to making this a more welcoming and peaceful world for ALL of us. If you would like to sign-up to receive the Racial Justice Ministry's twice-monthly e-newsletter or have any questions, comments or suggestions - or if you would like to meet me one-on-one - I encourage you to contact me at lea@govanspres.org.

May our Lord continue to bless and keep you,
Lea Gilmore

***Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes
you come alive, and go do it. Because what the
world needs is people who have come alive.***

-Rev. Howard Thurman

ChurchWorks

The session of Govans Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 on Zoom.

During the meeting, we discussed the Matthew 25 program created by our national Presbyterian denomination. This program equips and recognizes congregations as they work to address racism, serve the economically impoverished, and becoming increasingly vital as a local church. We will continue our discernment about joining this denominational program in the upcoming months.



We also voted to move a portion of Govans' endowment into an Intelligent Portfolio account at Schwab. This change to a robo-advisor account will reduce the fees that we pay, increase our investment diversification, and ensure that our funds are regularly monitored and adjusted as needed.

We also passed several motions related from the worship committee this month, including:

- A return to two weekly worship services (one at 9:00 am and one at 11:00 am) beginning October 10, with both services being available online via Zoom and Facebook Live.
- To continue a single, combined service at 10:00 am on the first Sunday of every month; this service will also be available online
- To allow congregational singing within the sanctuary while wearing face masks
- To remove the in-person limit on worship attendance
- And to allow the consumption of food and drink while outside at Govans.

Although we are relaxing some COVID requirements, we encourage you to take the necessary precautions for your own safety and comfort. As a reminder, face masks are required at all times while inside at Govans and only those who are fully vaccinated may remove their face mask while outdoors. Social distancing and regular hand washing will continue to be the norm at Govans.

Finally, we had the great pleasure of welcoming Lark Schulze as a member of Govans at our session meeting this week. Lark brings great skills as a lawyer and experienced volunteer to our congregation. We were thrilled to receive as a member during worship on July 25, 2021.

If you would like to discuss any of these items or bring a different subject to the session, please speak to any session member or pastor. Not sure who is on the session? Visit govanspres.org/leadership for a full list of Session members and Committee chairs!

Youth Servant Leader Program Returns to Govans this Fall

Youth grades 8-12 are invited to participate in Govans' Youth Servant Leaders, a leadership development program for young leaders in our church and community. The Youth Servant Leader Program will commission new participants in September. The program will run through May of 2022 and includes an individual service project in the community, regular leadership in worship, and a monthly leadership council meeting for learning and connecting with the other participants. This year, our theme will be "worship and the work of the people." We'll take a closer look at how leadership and Presbyterian liturgy shape one another for our lives as Christians in service to the world. Youth are eligible to become members of Govans Presbyterian Church after one year of participation in the Youth Servant Leader program. If your youth is interested in participating, please email Pastor Billy at billy@govanspres.org. Youth are welcome to participate again if they participated in a previous year.



Youth and Young Families Activities:

- **Monday, August 2 to Wednesday, August 4** - Day Camp at Woodberry Crossing - Email billy@govanspres.org to register - spots are still available
- **Sunday, August 15 - 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm:** Youth and Young Families at Soul Kitchen (must RSVP beforehand)
- **Young Families Litter Clean Up - Sunday, September 5 at 3:30 pm** on the church grounds (this will be our last one for the year)
- **Young Families Board Game Day - Saturday, September 18 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**
- **September Youth Group - Friday, September 24 at 6:30 pm** at the church

Face Masks at Youth and Young Family Events This Summer and Fall:

At the June session meeting, Govans session (the governing board of a local Presbyterian church) voted to make face masks optional for fully-vaccinated participants when they are outside on the church campus. Accordingly, vaccinated parents are now welcome to choose whether they would like to wear a face mask when participating in outdoor youth and family events (excluding Soul Kitchen which will continue to require masks at all times for all persons) or dropping off their children. Youth will not be allowed to self-report their vaccination status. If you would like your vaccinated child to be able to refrain from wearing a face mask while outdoors, please let Pastor Billy know that they have received their COVID vaccine (s). Face masks remain optional at all times for participants two years of age and under.



News from Kay Papa Nou and Haiti

The President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, was killed and his wife wounded on Wednesday, July 7. The assassination is likely to result in increased chaos in a country plagued by an absence of democracy and accountability. This assassination follows the murder of Antoinette Duclaire and her colleague Diego Charles, a journalist, on June 29 as well as 20 other people slaughtered in the streets of the capital on the same day.

A few days before this announcement we had reason to celebrate Youse Odly's news. Youse Odly is a medical student from Kay Papa Nou. After six years in medical school in Port-au-Prince, Youse Odly was ready to begin her internship in Les Cayes in southwest Haiti. On Wednesday, we learned that travel to the internship in Les Cayes is postponed due to armed gangs that have taken over the roads.

"Dear friends and family Your prayer is needed more than ever before. Please pray for our safety."

-David and Danny - Haiti July 7th, 2021



Girls at front entrance to Kay Papa Nou



Girls of Kay Papa Nou with a few of the boys from Unity House

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.

**COME JOIN THE
GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN
COMMUNITY GOSPEL
CHOIR!**



Email Lea Gilmore
(lea@govanspres.org) for
more info



SOUL KITCHEN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Volunteers are needed every Sunday to help prepare, serve, and clean-up at Soul Kitchen, our free community take-out meal. Help is needed from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Come for all or part of the time. Contact Carolyn Anewich (carolynsnecklaces@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

You can sign-up to volunteer by going to the Soul Kitchen page on the Govans website: www.govanspres.org/events/soul-kitchen. Thanks!



Volunteering at Soul Kitchen is a great way to give back to our community.



MARINERS NEWS:

The Mariners have enjoyed two dinners this summer. We were so happy to have one at Woodberry Crossing when Barry Bryant could join us, we will miss our dear friend so much. Our second gathering was at Carol Hamilton's home. We spent a lot of time on her patio and then dinner inside, the weather was wonderful and seeing friends just can't be beat.

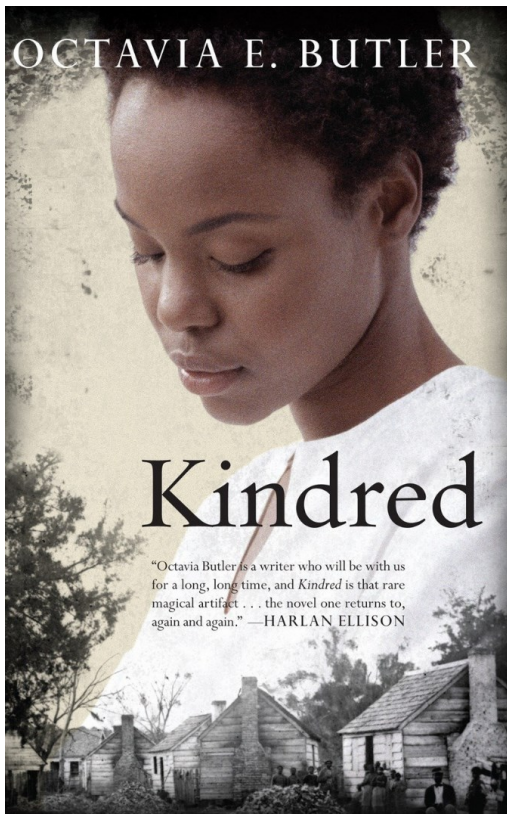
We usually do not have summer dinners but Corky has offered to host a Zoom Meeting so we can see our out of town friends. It is tentatively planned for August 21 and notices will be coming out about it. If you would like to be included please let me know and I will put you on the list. Have a happy and healthy summer.

Thanks,
Kit Clark
(410-493-3987 - baltokit@gmail.com)



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



Govans' Racial Justice Ministry

presents

Summer Book Discussion

Kindred

by Octavia E. Butler

Read over the summer and participate in the discussion event:

Tuesday, August 24 7:00 p.m. ET

Via Zoom

**Books are available NOW for \$15 from Govans
Presbyterian Church.**

Registration is required.

**To register and to purchase the book, please
contact Andy Wilson: wilson@govanspres.org**

