



What's Inside?

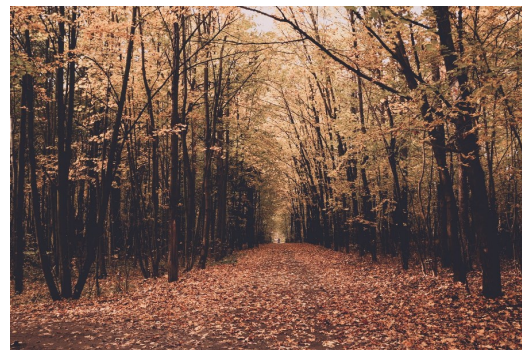
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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Rev. Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

I'm pretty sure I saw Christmas decorations being sold at Lowe's BEFORE Halloween this year. I guess stores will put it out if people keep buying it. Personally I don't mind. The last three months of the year always feel like a home stretch and seeing Christmas stuff in October reminds me we have entered that home stretch. Though, sometimes it doesn't just feel like a home stretch. It feels like a gauntlet. Halloween,



Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas. And our family has a birthday thrown in there for good measure.

Yet, even as a gauntlet, it is a good gauntlet. It is a gauntlet that invites us to practice gratitude and

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TIS THE "SEASON" FOR A VIVALDI ENCOUNTER

by Debby Lewis, Interim Second Service Music Director



Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) is most famous for his concerto, "The Four Seasons." He also composed several beautiful choral works, one of which is his "Gloria." The Chancel Choir of Govans will be presenting "Gloria" on Dec 12 at the 11:00 a.m. service with string and oboe

accompaniment. Starting Thursday November 7, I am arranging Thursday rehearsals in a way in which we rehearse the Vivaldi first, from 7:30-8:15, at which time we break and move to service music. You are invited to come for 45 minutes to practice the Vivaldi and then leave. You will just have the thrill of singing a masterpiece and brushing up on your high school Latin. Please feel free to join in—it's the season of joy! Contact me at debby@govanspres.org if you have any questions.

November Calendar

- 1 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
- 2 - Racial Justice Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
- 3 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 3 - Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m.
- 6 - Youth and Young Families Hike, 11:00 a.m.
- 6 - The Color of Food Discussion, 2:00 p.m.
- 7 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 7 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 8 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 - Racial Justice Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 12 - Church Book Club, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 - Woodbrook Players - *Delusions*, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- 14 - Woodbrook Players - *Delusions*, 2:00 p.m.
- 14 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 15 - Gospel Choir/Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 - Facilities Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 - Congregational Care Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 - Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 - Woodbrook Players - *Delusions*, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 - The Color of Food Discussion, 2:00 p.m.
- 20 - Woodbrook Players - *Delusions*, 2:00 p.m.
- 21 - Online and In-Person Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- 21 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 22 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 28 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- 28 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
- 29 - Music Monday, 7:00 p.m.

November Birthdays

- 2 - William Field
- 2 - Maria Wong
- 6 - Joyce Kruse
- 10 - Calissa Shaw
- 13 - John Smeallie
- 15 - Donna North
- 18 - James Hardin
- 18 - Elsie Wong
- 23 - Carolyn Anewich
- 25 - John Sharp, Jr.
- 26 - Kit Clark
- 26 - Anneliese Gover
- 30 - Jamie Hardin

Happy Birthday!



ALUMINUM CANS FOR HAITI

**Bring your empty aluminum cans to
church to raise money for Kay Papa Nou
and Unity House in Haiti.**

Contact Andy Wilson (wilson@govanspres.org) for more info.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2022

Have You Turned in Your Pledge Card?

If you have not turned in your 2022 pledge cards please do so as soon as possible. The Finance Committee and Session are working on the budget so we can fund our ministry and mission for the coming year. Your support and generosity is appreciated.

If you did not get a pledge card or lost it, please call the church office and email wilson@govanspres.org and we will get one to you promptly!

Letter from Pastor Billy

Hello, Govans,

I keep my Advent wreath out all year long. Well, I keep it visible on a shelf across from my desk. I need the reminder of God's continual "showing-up-again-ness" throughout the year, especially when the hope of Advent feels the least tangible.



Which is why I am so excited to take the wreath down off the shelf this month. This month, we will begin the work of reminding ourselves that God's love is still taking on flesh and surprising our communities and our own hearts.

One way we will do that is through our children's Christmas pageant during worship on Christmas Eve. This year, we will have a hybrid pageant on Zoom and in-person. If your children and family are willing to participate, please let me know soon (email me at

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Church Staff

Rev. Tom Harris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Billy Kluttz, Associate Pastor

Lea Gilmore,
Minister for Racial Justice and
Multicultural Engagement &
Music Director, 1st Service

Deborah Lewis
Interim Music Director, 2nd
Service

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 HERALD & BELLRINGER

*The deadline for
submissions for the
December 2021 newsletter
is November 20, 2021.*

*Please send to
Andy Wilson
(wilson@govanspres.org)
or call the church office.*

Youth and Young Families Activities:

- Tuesday, November 2 - Breakfast to Go for Preschool Parents - 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, November 6 - Young Families Hike at Oregon Ridge Park - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 7 at 11:15 a.m. - Intergenerational Sunday school on the playground after worship (kids ages 1-18 and parents are welcome)
- Sunday, November 14 at 10:05 a.m. - Intergenerational Sunday school on the playground after worship (kids ages 1-18 and parents are welcome)
- Tuesday, November 16 - Preschool Chapel - 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Friday, November 19 - Youth Group: Advent Art Making Night (wear clothes you can get dirty) at 6:30 p.m. at the church
- Sunday, November 21 at 10:05 a.m. - Final Intergenerational Sunday school (of the calendar year) on the playground after worship (kids ages 1-18 and parents are welcome)
- Young Families Night at Soul Kitchen - Thanksgiving Edition! 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- November 23 - December 6 - Pastor Billy on vacation

Call 410-220-4959
to hear our latest sermon



sermonbyphone.com

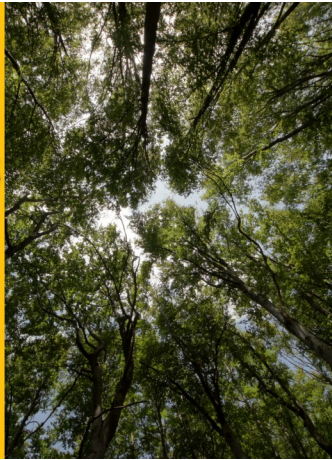
What's Going On @ Govans?

GOVANS  Youth and Young Families

Family Hike at Oregon Ridge Park

**Saturday, November 6
11:00 a.m.**

We will hike the Loggers Trail (approx. 2 miles) at Oregon Ridge Park in Cockeysville starting at 11:00 a.m. We'll park and gather near the Nature Center to begin the hike. All families with children ages 1 to 18 are welcome. Email billy@govanspres.org for more information.




You are Invited to Join the Govans Community Gospel Choir! -November 15 at 7:00 p.m. - "Gospel" means good news. Let us gather in community singing together the good news! No

experience is required.

Just bring your heart and soul. We promise you will leave inspired and energized. This is an in-person and virtual gathering. We will meet in the Govans sanctuary and via Zoom. Masks are required at all times. Let us make a joyful noise! Please contact me for more information at lea@govanspres.org.

Hope you can join us!

-Lea Gilmore, First Service Music Director

GOVANS  Music Mondays

Community Gospel Choir

Monday, November 15
In-Person and on Zoom
7:00 p.m.



All are welcome, no experience necessary. Contact Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org) for more information and the Zoom link.

The Woodbrook Players are Back with Delusions - Three One-Act Plays. Tickets are available by advance purchase only at:

<https://woodbrookplayers.wixsite.com/home>.

THE WOODBROOK PLAYERS PRESENT

DELUSIONS

THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS

Sorry, Wrong Number by Lucille Fletcher
DMV Tyrant by Christopher Durang
Mere Mortals by David Ives

Saturday, Nov. 13 & Friday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, Nov. 14 & Saturday, Nov. 20 at 2:00 PM

TICKETS BY ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY

ADULTS - \$20 STUDENTS - \$15
OPENING NIGHT SPECIAL - ALL TICKETS \$15

[HTTPS://WOODBROOKPLAYERS.WIXSITE.COM/HOME](https://woodbrookplayers.wixsite.com/home)

GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5828 YORK ROAD
BALTIMORE, MD 21212

GOVANS  Racial Justice Ministry

in partnership with... 

The Color of Food

Exploring American Foodways through the Lens of Racial Justice with **Derrick Weston**

Live on Zoom
Weekly on Saturdays through
November 20 @ 2:00 p.m.



GOVANS  Music Mondays

Nicolas Carter



Live on Zoom

Monday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. ET

Nicolas Carter is a talented and versatile International harpist, born in Minnesota and raised in Paraguay where he learned to play the Paraguayan harp. His authentic, warm and friendly interaction creates an intimate experience bringing inspiration, motivation and joy. Carter has been composing, recording, teaching and performing for over 30 years and has played all over the United States, Latin America, Europe and Israel. Come and relax, renew, refresh with nurturing soul music and touching stories of Latin American culture.

Email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org) for the link.



GOVANS   **Online Bible Study**

with Knox and Govans Presbyterian Churches
Wednesdays at 12:00 noon on Zoom
Everyone is welcome!

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

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Heritage Sunday - November 21, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we tip our hats to the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church. No potluck this year, but we will hear the always popular bagpipes in both services!

Thanksgiving Eve Service - November 24, 7:00 p.m.

Come give thanks for all God's blessings. Prepare yourself for the big day with music from both music teams, scripture, a brief message from Pastor Tom and prayer. The service will be about 45 minutes.



First Sunday of Advent - November 28, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Advent is the time of year we turn our attention toward the coming of Christ into the world. We look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. We also become more attentive to how Christ is born into the world everyday in so many ways. We will read from the prophets, light candles on the Advent wreath, and sing of the coming of Christ into the world.

Second Sunday in Advent - December 5, Combined Communion Service, 10:00 a.m.

We will continue our Advent devotions and come together as a single congregation to remember and symbolically share in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Third Sunday in Advent - Music Sunday - December 12, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Both music teams are preparing special musical offerings for this special Sunday. The music will be the sermon! In the 9:00 a.m. Service Lea and the band will host the Annual Holiday Coffee House. All are encouraged to share songs, poetry, instrumental solos and more. Please contact Lea Gilmore to participate: lea@govanspres.org. In the 11:00 a.m. service, Debby Lewis and the Chancel Choir will present the celebrated "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi, with strings, oboes, and soloists.



Christmas Eve Pageant and Lessons and Carols - December 24 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Join us at 4:30 p.m. for our annual **Christmas Pageant**. It will be a hybrid pageant with participants on Zoom and in-person. Lea and the band will provide the music and Pastor Tom will offer a brief Christmas message. Join us at 8:00 p.m. for our annual **Christmas Lessons and Carols**. Debby and the band will provide wonderful a variety of Christmas music interwoven with scripture passages that tell the story of Christmas from Genesis to Revelation!

NOVEMBER MISSION OFFERING: TURNAROUND

TurnAround opened its doors in 1978 to serve survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence in Baltimore County. After seeing a gap in services for individuals abused through sexual violence in Baltimore City, the agency expanded in 1995 to provide counseling and support services to survivors there.

They provide their clients with trauma therapy, legal advocacy, abuser intervention, other assistance. TurnAround is the rape crisis center for Baltimore City and County and provides 24/7 crisis helpline and text line. Learn more at www.turnaroundinc.org.



***All donations during the month of November marked "Mission Offering" will be given to TurnAround, Inc. Thank you for your support. ***



Letter from Pastor Billy - continued from page 3.

billy@govanspres.org). We have several speaking parts for older children and youth! Everyone is invited to be part of the Christmas pageant.

Advent, for me, also means lots of carols and singing. One of my favorite Advent hymns is *All Earth is Hopeful (Toda La Tierra)* by Albert Taulé. I'll leave you with its first stanza as a prayer for the liturgical season ahead:

*All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set everybody free*

Peace,
Pastor Billy

WHY THE GOVANS RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY IS IMPORTANT TO ME?

by Maria Wong

As a Chinese American, I have grown up with a lot of unresolved issues with my own identity. My relationship with my racial identity has evolved over time. Part of being a person of color is learning to reconcile family and personal history as a minority with existence within the dominant culture. One can't help but become aware of the lines of class and education and the weight of expectation due to race. In many ways, I have been fortunate in my experience as a "model minority," being viewed favorably because of preconceived notions about "my people" - but I am painfully aware of how other people of color are not so fortunate.

The Racial Justice Ministry is important to me because I can tease apart some of my internal conflicts with race in a supportive atmosphere. It helps me come to terms with my own biases and share my experiences - but most of all, it provides a constructive outlet. The RJM reminds us that being in relationship with God is about

more than seeking solace from our personal injuries, but that we are called to seek justice in the world. It reminds us that others struggle with racial injustice in ways that our personal experience cannot imagine. It broadens our awareness and provides tools to be truly in community. The RJM is important not because the "dominant" culture has nothing to offer us, but because of the vast and beautiful world of cultures that should be equally lifted up and celebrated. We are all enriched when we celebrate the glory of ALL of God's people.

For more information about the Govans Racial Justice Ministry, please contact Lea Gilmore at lea@govanspres.org



Maria Wong is a longtime member of Brown Memorial Woodbrook and Govans Presbyterian Churches.



Racial Justice Ministry

Pastoral Ponderings - continued from page 1

generosity. It calls on us to reconnect with family and friends. It challenges us to be kind to others. You will see in this newsletter that we have a full worship schedule at church over the next two months. Your participation is needed! You will also see multiple opportunities to give through the church to those in need. And of course, if you haven't turned in your pledge card, that invitation is there as well.

I encourage you to take a deep breath and enjoy the home stretch. Enjoy this gauntlet of gratitude, generosity, love, and kindness. Every season is precious. Every month. Every day. Enjoy.

Peace,
Tom

Soul Kitchen Thanksgiving Feast

Sunday, November 21



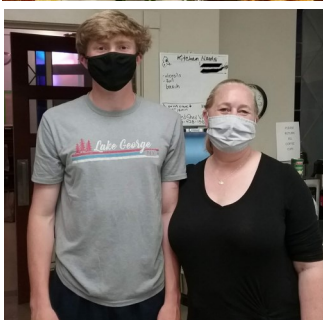
Soul Kitchen is **COMMUNITY**. It takes our community to feed our community. With the help of volunteers, our food partners, our church and your generous support, we come together each and every week to provide, prepare and serve meals for our community.



Soul Kitchen is **RESPECT**. Each and every member of our community deserves our respect. Whomever, and for whatever reason our guests come to Soul Kitchen, all are warmly welcomed. What higher form of respect can there be than feeding someone through the giving of your time, talent and donations?



Soul Kitchen is **LOVE**. Our ministry, our mission, our passion is to follow the teachings of Jesus; to love each and every person as we love ourselves. We show our love by making empty bellies full, by offering a smile and conversation. We show our love each and every week by serving the best possible meals we can.



This Thanksgiving, please help us to purchase, create and serve our community an awesome Thanksgiving meal. Information on how to volunteer and donate will be in the "What's Going On @ Govans?" email during November. Subscribe at www.govanspres.org/connect.



Thank You from Mary Hamlin-Spencer:

Thank you so very much for the wonderful retirement send-off on Sunday, October 17. From the surprising and generous check for Bill and me to help fund our dreams of returning to Scotland, to the incredibly delicious outdoor reception following the service, Bill and I were overwhelmed with your love and generosity.

Bill and I have so enjoyed getting to know everyone at Govans, despite the pandemic shut-down! In many ways, the connections made during this challenging past year are the richer for having to forge them remotely. I am so very grateful for having gotten to know so many of you, and for the many ways you helped support music at Govans, from contributing to congregational virtual hymns (a special shout-out to those who stepped up for 'Silent Night'—you know who you are!), to Beth Bryant, who opened up Woodberry Crossing for an outdoor choir rehearsal/recording session one warm November Saturday in 2020. And of course a special shout-out to the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir, who have been so faithful in persevering to make music to beautify our services this past year. Finally, it has been an honor and pleasure to be a part of the truly amazing staff at Govans, a strong and talented team! So many rich memories for just one year among you!

With thanks and love,
Mary



GEDCO 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving Tribute

November 11, 2021
In-person at the B & O
Railroad Museum and
Virtual Live Stream,
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Register and learn more
at: [https://
gedco.org/2021tribute/](https://gedco.org/2021tribute/)

JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE

30th Anniversary
GEDCO
*Building Caring and Compassionate Communities
Since 1991*

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR
2021 THANKSGIVING TRIBUTE

CHRISTMAS GIVING DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

To subscribe to our weekly “What’s Going On @ Govans” email, visit www.govanspres.org/connect.

VIRTUAL “ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR”

As a result of COVID 19 and the continued health risks related to gathering, you will not be able to shop in Sharp Hall like past years. We will provide a list of the nonprofit organizations that have participated in the last few years. The list will include a brief description of their work and a link to either purchase items online or donate to support their work. Look for your “What’s Going On @ Govans” email the first week in December to purchase some Christmas gifts and make contributions in honor of friends and families to some of the nonprofits in special need during this very difficult time.

BECOME A “CHRISTMAS ANGEL” FOR RESIDENTS OF GEDCO’S MICAH HOUSE AND OUR SOUL KITCHEN GUESTS

The residents of GEDCO’s Micah House and some of our Soul Kitchen guests need Christmas Angels during the pandemic. We will have wish lists for over 25 individuals. We won’t have the ability to pick a list from our “Angel Board”, but you will be able to sign up for a resident online. Specific items will be included in the signup sheet and a list of items to purchase and wrap. The December 3 “What’s Going On @ Govans” will include a link to a “Signupgenius” to become a “Christmas Angel”. Here is the schedule for this year:

- **December 5** – use “Signupgenius” to become a “Christmas Angel”
- **December 18** – deliver wrapped gifts to the church between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you have questions about the process or using the online signup, give me a call and we will get you signed up. aye Gooch, Mission Committee Chair, 214-709-8848

CHRISTMAS FOR THOSE DEALING WITH HOMELESSNESS – WARM HATS AND SOCKS

Some of our guests at Soul Kitchen and others in our community are dealing with homelessness. A very essential need for all of us is warm dry feet and a warm hat. While spending time outside in the cold and wet winter, many persons dealing with homelessness find themselves without warm socks or hats. During the Christmas season we will be collecting adult warm durable socks and hats to provide a little warmth to our neighbors in need. Drop them off at the church on Sunday or between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.

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!



Welcome to our New Alto Section Leader, Nerissa Paglinauan

Nerissa Paglinauan (pronounced ne-REE-sa pag-lee-NOW-an) holds Bachelor's degrees in music and child development from Tufts University where she received the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Department of Music. She has sung with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society since 2005, and previously was a member of the Cathedral Choral Society in Washington, DC for five years.



*Nerissa Paglinauan, our new Alto
Section Leader*

Nerissa is trained in both piano and voice, and has been a church musician since the mid-'90s, beginning in high school as a cantor for the Church of the Nativity (Timonium). In college, she sang and played guitar and piano for the Catholic Community at Tufts, serving as its Director of Music Ministry during her senior year. She went on to be a chorister/cantor for Holy Trinity (Washington, DC), St. Francis of Assisi (Baltimore), and Epiphany Episcopal (Timonium).

When not making music, she works as the Program Manager for Towson University's Asian Arts and Culture Center. In her free time, she enjoys playing the piano and ukulele, cooking, hiking, and spending time with her husband Bruce, and sons Jonah and Braeden.



The Session met for our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 19. Here are some highlights from our meetings:

We had a first review of the 2022 draft budget. Expenses are expected to increase significantly as we have added paid support for the live worship broadcasts and we plan to give the Presbytery's recommended cost of living increases to the staff. The cost of living increase for 2022 is 4%.

We completed a review of the membership rolls. Over the past year we have been reaching out to members who have stopped participating in the life of the church. Those who did not respond to two appeals

were removed. In total, we removed 78 members from our Active Member Rolls. That will bring our total membership down to about 175.

We made one change to our COVID restrictions. We are now allowing one singer at a time to remove their mask during worship.

We appointed a search committee to begin a search for a Second Service Music Director. Thanks to Maria Wong, Ashley Short, Karl Starks, Jocelyn Taylor, Anita Hendrix, Laura Kittel, and Doug Storey (who will serve as chair). This committee is charged with doing a thorough review of the job description and, if necessary, seeking input from outside the church. They will advertise the position, vet and interview candidates and recommend a candidate to the Session. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their work.

If you have any questions about these decisions or any thing else, please speak with Pastor Tom or any member of the Session. Thank you.


PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5828 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
410-435-9188
www.govanspres.org

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

The Woodbrook Players are Back!

THE WOODBROOK PLAYERS PRESENT

DELUSIONS

THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS

Sorry, Wrong Number by Lucille Fletcher
DMV Tyrant by Christopher Durang
Mere Mortals by David Ives

Saturday, Nov. 13 & Friday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, Nov. 14 & Saturday, Nov. 20 at 2:00 PM

TICKETS BY ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY

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