



What's Inside?

- March Calendar, Birthday, Gardening at Govans, page 2
- Letter from Pastor Billy, Youth and Young Families Events, page 3
- What's Going On at Govans, page 4
- Lent at Govans, page 5
- Govans' New Section Leaders, page 6
- *Christ Can*, a poem by Pastor Tom, page 7
- Racial Justice Ministry Public Statement, page 8 and 9
- Church Works, Tax-Advantaged Giving, page 10
- *Believe in Baltimore* Podcast, page 11
- March Mission Offering, page 12
- Holy Week, page 13
- The Children of Kay Papa Nou and Unity House, page 14-15

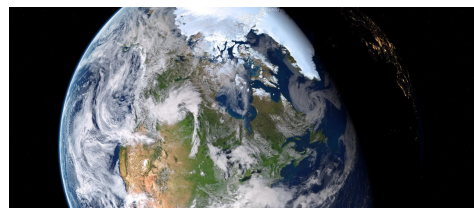


PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Rev. Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

As I write this I'm sitting outside watching the sunset. The temperature is 64 degrees in February. The high today at BWI was 75 degrees which was close to a 148 year old record. Those of us who are deeply concerned about climate change have mixed feelings about such unusual weather. Shouldn't we grieve for the loss of predictable rhythms of seasonal temperature which have sustained local ecosystems and life on earth for 1000's of years? Is it OK to enjoy a February day like this?



Indeed it is hard not to enjoy a 75 degree day, even with that nagging feeling that this is not right. We are not alone as we navigate this moral maze. Younger generations today have been defined by dire and realistic predictions about the end of life as we know it: rising tides, entire

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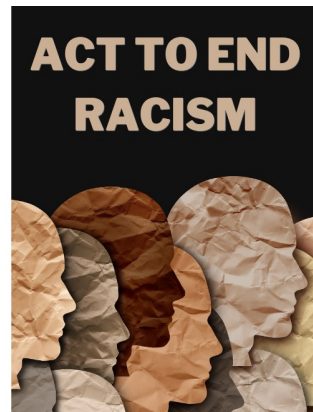
SESSION APPROVES RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY PUBLIC STATEMENT

The Racial Justice Ministry Working Group drafted a Public Statement outlining the specific ways we are seeking to be an anti-racist church. The statement that follows was approved by the Session at their February 15, 2022 meeting:

In the spirit of Christ, Govans Presbyterian Church strives to be an anti-racist church. We practice the love of Jesus in a relational ministry, and we fight for equality and equal opportunity for all people.

Definitions and assumptions that embody the work of our ministry:

- Racism is a sin, endemic within the United States and the body of the Christian church. It appears in many forms.
- **Individual Racism** includes both prejudicial acts from a person in power of one race toward another, typically marginalized person of a different race.¹



...continued on page 8

March Calendar

5 - The Little Prince and the Fourth Gospel, 3:00 pm
6 - In-Person and Online Worship, 10:00 am
6 - Congregational Meeting, 11:00 am
6 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
8 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 pm
11 - Govans Book Club, 10:00 am
12 - The Little Prince & the Fourth Gospel, 3:00 pm
12 - Young Families Art Gallery Trip, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
13 - In-Person and Online Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 am
13 - Youth Servant Leader Council, 3:00 pm
13 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
14 - Finance Committee, 7:00 pm
14 - Session Meeting, 6:30 pm
15 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 pm
19 - The Little Prince & the Fourth Gospel, 3:00 pm
20 - In-Person and Online Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 am
20 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
21 - Facilities Committee, 6:30 pm
22 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 pm
26 - The Little Prince & the Fourth Gospel, 3:00 pm
27 - In-Person and Online Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 am
27 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
29 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 pm

March Birthdays

4 - Lucia Clay-Robison
5 - Phyllis Ross
4 - Nathan Green
9 - Shelly Clay-Robison
10 - Charles Elliott
10 - Chris Herfel
12 - Dotty Sharp
14 - Sasha Harris
15 - Mary-Jane Hardin
16 - Jenny Hoffman
17 - Terry Shaw
20 - Mary-Beth White
24 - Darbey Gover
26 - Jon Morgan
29 - Ashley Short
30 - Paulina Conrad



IT'S GARDENING TIME AT GOVANS!

If you want to help support fresh produce for hungry neighbors, keep an eye out for an upcoming gardening day and send Jody an email to learn more and volunteer (jodyomorris@gmail.com).



LETTER FROM PASTOR BILLY

Hello Govans,

I cannot wait to dive into *The Little Prince* and the Gospel of John with you. Our small group will meet on Saturdays in Lent via Zoom. We will discuss the classic children's book and its connections to John's gospel in English from 3:00 to 4:00 pm and then in French from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. You are welcome to join for one or both conversations. You do not need to purchase the book beforehand, but you are welcome to if you would like to read along from home or between gatherings.



The gospel of John and *The Little Prince* have lots of interesting parallels and differences. John's gospel doesn't contain parables, whereas *The Little Prince* can be read as one extended parable. There are also lots of shared symbols and images between these two stories (sheep, especially) and both books offer us a self-sacrificial story devoted to the power and importance of life. My favorite section of *The Little Prince* is the conversation about taming between the Little Prince and the fox:

[I]f you tame me, it will be as if the sun came to shine on my life. I shall know the sound of a step that will be different from

...continued on page 6

Church Staff

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

Lea Gilmore,
Minister for Racial Justice &
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

Youth and Young Families Activities:

- Saturday, March 5 - Community Kickball Game for young families and neighbors at Alhambra Park at 10:30 am
- Sunday, March 6 - Intergenerational Sunday School after service at 11:10 am in the gallery
- Monday, March 7 - Community Children's Choir at Govans Elementary - 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Saturday, March 12 - Young Families Guided Tour of York College Galleries with Matt Clay-Robison from noon to 2:00 pm
- Sunday, March 13 - No intergenerational Sunday School - Special Adult Options on mission work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Sunday, March 20 - Intergenerational Sunday School, 10:10 am
- Friday, March 25 - Youth Group, 6:30 pm
- Sunday, March 27 - Intergenerational Sunday School, 10:10 am

Contact Pastor Billy (billy@govanspres.org) for more information and to sign-up up for weekly Youth and Young Families Updates.



**THE HERALD &
BELLRINGER**

The deadline for
submissions for the April
2022 newsletter is March
15, 2022. Please send to
Andy Wilson
(wilson@govanspres.org)
or call the church office.

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.

What's Going On At Govans?

GOVANS  Youth and Young Families
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Young Families Art Gallery Tour

Saturday, March 12 - Noon to 2:00 pm

Govans young families are invited to a guided art gallery tour at the York College Galleries (37 W. Philadelphia St. York, PA) led by Gallery Director Matthew Clay-Robison. We'll tour the downtown gallery and then enjoy lunch together at Central Market. There is no admission fee for the gallery, but please bring money for lunch. If you are interested in carpooling, please let Pastor Billy know how many seats you have available in your car (or how many passengers will need seats), billy@govanspres.org.



COMMUNITY KICKBALL RETURNS!



Community kickball and outdoor games have returned to Alhambra Park. The first Saturday of each month, Govans Presbyterian Church and other local Presbyterian congregations gather for games and refreshments with our neighbors at Alhambra Park (5200 Alhambra Avenue) from 10:30 am to noon. The next gatherings will be on March 5 and April 2. Email billy@govanspres.org to learn more. Pictured here, Tanya Morrell and Pastor Billy weather the cold for smores in the park in February.

GOVANS BOOK CLUB

10:00 am on the second Friday of the month
Live on Zoom

Next meeting is Friday, March 11 at 10:00 am. The book selection is *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. All are welcome!

Email Bobbie Cook
(cookbobbie347@gmail.com) for more info.



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

Intergenerational Sunday School

FOR PARENTS AND KIDS
10:10 AM IN THE GALLERY
(11:10 AM ON FIRST SUNDAYS)

Email Pastor Billy
(billy@govanspres.org) for more information.



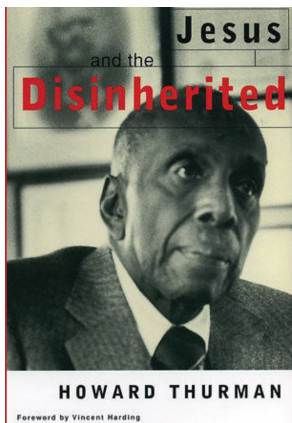
WORSHIP @GOVANS

Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 am
*10:00 am on the first Sunday of the month

In-Person and Online
Details at www.govanspres.org



LENT AT GOVANS



LENTEN STUDY OF JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED

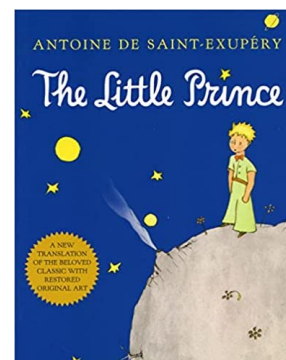
Join Rev. Kevin Johnson and Pastor Tom Harris on Tuesday evenings in Lent for a deep dive into this theological classic. In the forward Vincent Harding writes, "Jesus and the Disinherited is the centerpiece of the Black prophet-mystic's lifelong attempt to bring the harrowing beauty of the African American experience into deep engagement with what he called 'the religion of Jesus'". Books will be available to purchase by contacting the church office (wilson@govanspres.org or 410-435-9188). Register to receive the Zoom link at www.goavnspres.org

The study will take place on Zoom at 7:00 pm March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5.

THE LITTLE PRINCE AND THE FOURTH GOSPEL

Saturdays during Lent - 3-4 pm, 4-5 pm - March 5 through April 16 - Online only

Discover a new appreciation for Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic children's novel *The Little Prince* as we read it alongside the Gospel of John this Lent. Pastor Billy will offer two weekly discussions of the book and related sections of John's Gospel on Saturdays via Zoom. On Saturdays, he will lead an English-language discussion of the book from 3:00 to 4:00 pm and a French-language discussion from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. To RSVP and receive a reading guide, email billy@govanspres.org. No prior reading is required to participate each week, we will read the chapters together during the session. The French session will be led using intermediate French; French speakers of all levels are welcome to participate.



Lenten Text Devotionals

Want to deepen your spirituality during Lent? Sign-up for Govans' daily text message devotionals. Each day during lent, Pastor Billy will curate inspiring quotes, prayers, and lyrics to inspire you as we journey together toward the cross and good news of Easter.

Text "govans" to 94000 to subscribe. Message and data rates may apply.



Ash Wednesday Service

March 2 - 7:00 pm

Join us for music from both music teams, scripture, message, prayer and the ritual Imposition of Ashes.



Special Lenten Sermon Series

"Unbinding Grief, Unbinding Life"

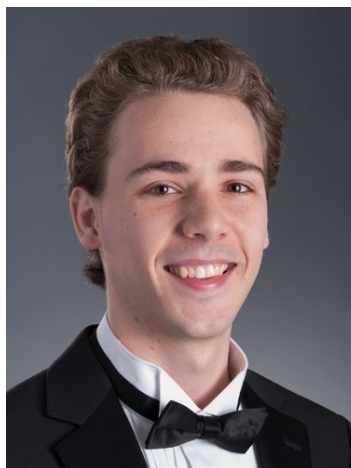
Throughout the season of Lent, we will be reading the Story of the Raising of Lazarus in John 11. This story explores the relationship with grief and new life for several different characters including Jesus himself.



GET TO KNOW GOVANS' NEW SECTION LEADERS

David Willerup (right), Govans new tenor section leader, is a husband, a father of three, and grandfather of two, a singer, a woodworker, and a really bad fisherman. He's been singing in churches since he was a toddler with his first unofficial solo blowing directly into the microphone when the Sunday School sang "This Little Light of Mine."

Besides singing in multiple choirs and performing in multiple collegiate musicals, he's been a worship leader and soloist for four different churches over the last 27 years with Govans being his fifth. He is honored to fill this role with the good people of Govans.



Darren Schmidt (left), Govans' new bass section leader, is an award-winning composer and performer from Baltimore. Since graduating from Towson University where he studied Voice, French Horn, and earned his composition degree, Schmidt has performed in a variety of groups including barbershop quartet *Pratt Street Power*, barbershop chorus Parkside Harmony, the 229th Army Band, and the Bach in Baltimore Choir. Curious souls are welcome to explore his music at dpscomposer.com.

Welcome to David and Darren!

Letter from Pastor Billy (continued from page 3)

all the others. Other steps send me hurrying back underneath the ground. Yours will call me, like music, out of my burrow. And then look: you see the grain-fields down yonder? I do not eat bread. Wheat is of no use to me. The wheat fields have nothing to say to me. And that is sad. But you have hair that is the color of gold. Think how wonderful that will be when you have tamed me! The grain, which is also golden, will bring me back the thought of you. And I shall love to listen to the wind in the wheat.

There are many other ways to connect with God and your neighbors this Lenten season at Govans, as well. Text "govans" to 94000 and you'll receive a daily (Monday through Saturday) text message devotional featuring an inspiring quote, question, or portion of Scripture to guide you to Easter.

You're also invited to mark the beginning of this penitential season. Pastor Tom and I will offer the imposition of ashes during Govans' Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm online and in-person. I will also be offering "to-go" ashes. Rev. Tim Hughes-Williams and I will offer ashes "to go" outside of Light Street Presbyterian Church (809 Light Street) on Ash Wednesday (3/2) from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Codetta Bake Shop will offer free baked goods and coffee for those walking by to receive to-go imposition of ashes. I am thrilled to offer our neighbors connection in this way and I am especially excited that a local, Muslim-owned bake shop wants to support our community engagement efforts.

Peace, Pastor Billy

POEM FROM PASTOR TOM:

The following poem, written by Pastor Tom, was delivered as part of his sermon on February 20, 2022:

CHRIST CAN

Look it up! It's in the book!
Black and white
Plain as day
So we say and so it is
Look it up! It's in the book!
Christ can't!
Christ can't be from Galilee
Christ can't heal on the Sabbath day
Christ can't share a meal with sinners
Christ can't touch the unclean.
It's in the book! Look it up!
Christ can't.
We the powerful and privileged say its so
We the educated already know
Its in the book. Look it up.
Don't understand the book?
Trust us.
The book says we decide what the book says.
We say the book says Christ can't.
Christ can't be the son of a carpenter
Christ can't be poor
Christ can't be uneducated
Christ can't come in peace.
Look. It. Up.

But, who is this Christ who can't?
Who is this Christ you've bound so tightly in your book?
Who is this Christ who bends to your will?
Who you define?
Who you control?
Open your eyes and see.
Christ is not found in a book.
Christ was never in the book.
Not black and white
Not plain as day
Not who you say so you say
So...don't look it up
Instead look up.
Look up and see
Look up, not to the hills or the horizon or the heavens.
Look up, not your own exalted self image.
Who can even see that high?
Look up instead to the place you fear to look
Look up to powerlessness
Look up to pain
Look up to grief and strife



Sorrow and shame
Don't look it up in a book
Look up – to the cross
Look up to Christ crucified
There on the cross we see.
All of us see together
Plain as day,
Clear as crystal.
We all can see:
The peasants and lords,
The Uneducated and illuminated
Black and white and brown and brilliant
Gay and straight and transexual and tranfigured
Plain as day
Look up and see
Christ can.
Christ can suffer
Christ can bleed
Christ can scream
Christ can doubt and Christ can dream
Christ can die and Christ can rise
Look up and see Christ can.
Not the Christ of the book
But Christ unbound
Not the Christ of the words
But the Christ of the world.
Not the Christ who saves from pain
But the Christ who invites us into pain
Who walks with us through the pain
Who rises with us beyond the pain
Not the Christ who defends our pride
But the Christ who convicts our privilege

This Christ can.
This grizzled and grieving
Salty and suffering
Dirty and dying
Loose and living
Wooing death and winning life
This Christ can!

SESSION APPROVES RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY PUBLIC STATEMENT...continued from cover page

- **Systemic Racism** includes ideologies within systems and organizations of power that result in and support continued unfair advantages to some people and harmful treatment of others based on race.
- **Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)** is a term recognizing that not all people of color experience the same inequities or injustices in our society. We use this term to emphasize groups most marginalized in our Church.
- **Antiracism** is active engagement in work to oppose individual and systemic racism.
- While individuals can and do perform racist acts, systemic racism is more insidious and dangerous to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).
- We recognize that dismantling racism is not, and must not be, primarily the work of people of color. Govans' commitment to being anti-racist is a congregation-wide commitment, with white and BIPOC members collaborating as a team. We recognize that racism in our church and society creates severe disadvantages for non-white people, and that white people benefit from the power differentials created by those very disadvantages. Because of this, we understand that the white members of the congregation have a particular responsibility to vigilantly work to recognize, correct, and if possible, reverse the destructive and sinful effects of racism in our church and the surrounding community.

"Our lives begin to
end the day we
become silent about
things that matter."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Why must we become an anti-racist church? We answer this question guided by perspectives of Theological and Presbyterian faith traditions.

- There are three basic tenets of the Christian faith:
 - All people are created in the image of God.
 - Jesus told us to do unto others as we would like them to do unto us; but racism does to others what we would hate done to us.
 - Jesus also said, love our neighbors, but racism inhibits the practice of love in communities
- The sin of racism causes a division between the races and marginalizes a significant portion of our population, resulting in severe and ongoing inequality between the races in education, wealth, health, income and opportunity.
- While individuals can and do perform racist acts, systemic racism is more insidious and dangerous to our society and to the Christian Church.
- According to the Presbyterian Church Anti-racism/Racial Justice Policy Statement: "Our identity [as Christians] compels us to oppose the forces of injustice. Antiracism, therefore, is prescriptive for what a faithful community must do in the quest to let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. The church must actively oppose the forces of racism in concrete and strategic ways."³
- "We know that all people are sacred and worthy. We are made equal by God, who created humanity in God's own image. Out of our deep love of God and neighbor, when we see people being treated as less than equal we will speak out."
- In 1999, the 211th General Assembly declared that we will "assume an antiracist identity, provide adequate staffing and funding for implementation of the church-wide strategy for antiracism...and urge governing bodies and congregations to assume an antiracism identity, [making] available to the church training resources, which are essential for the implementation of the church-wide strategy." (1999 Statement PCUSA).
- We grieve that these statements and initiatives from our denomination and church have not resulted in

sustained action.

- Therefore, we conclude that now is the time to act rather than analyze and in a spirit of repentance Govans Presbyterian Church seeks to become an antiracist church.

Particular Actions our church is taking to make Govans Presbyterian Church an anti-racist church:

- Showing the level of commitment in a financial and practical way, the Session established Racial Justice as a dedicated ministry of the church and Committee of Session (not simply a program); this ministry is financially supported by hiring a Minister of Racial Justice (January 2021).
- We formed a Racial Justice Ministry Working Group which includes church members as well as members from broader community
- We are educating ourselves and offering opportunities to the congregation and community to join in this education. (Book Groups, Racial Justice Speakers Series)
- We are engaging with the community around racial issues (Storytelling, Movie Nights, Open Space Conversations).
- We are currently forming antiracist policies on hiring, contracting and other employment issues, to become anti-racist and to encourage BIPOC to apply for open positions at any level within our church organization.
- We are in contact with other denominations and other PCUSA congregations that have taken on the difficult, ongoing work of pursuing racial justice to learn from their triumphs and mistakes
- We are interviewing older Govans and former Brown Memorial parishioners to learn from our past mistakes and successes within living memory, and the effects of policies and pastors from our past on the Govans' neighborhood
- We are preparing a short questionnaire to assess church members who are not formally interviewed to learn their perspectives on racial justice, our church history and more
- We will be using Adult Options and other church forums to explain the history of Govans' involvement in fighting for (and impeding) civil rights, so we can learn how to proceed, especially within the Presbytery's Matthew 25 initiative.



¹Paraphrased from *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. 2018.

²Definition of antiracist from *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi: "To be antiracist is to think nothing is behaviorally wrong or right – inferior or superior – with any of the racial groups. Whenever the antiracist sees individuals behaving positively or negatively, the antiracist sees exactly that: individuals behaving positively or negatively, not representatives of whole races. To be antiracist is to deracialize behavior, to remove the tattooed stereotype from every racialized body. Behavior is something humans do, not races do."

³From the Presbyterian Church Anti-racism/Racial Justice Policy Statement: "Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ...Racism is the continuing legacy of white supremacy. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of creation over the entirety of creation."

⁴Paraphrased from *A Charter for Racial Justice Policies: The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*—2016.

⁵Paraphrased from *Presbyterian Today* article titled "Antiracism work is heart work"—2021.

⁶Quoted directly from *Commit to Becoming an Antiracist Church* on The United Methodist Church Website.

To learn more about the work of Govans' Racial Justice Ministry, visit

www.govanspres.org/what-we-do/racial-justice/.





The Session met for our monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 and we wanted to share some highlights from the meeting:

We are excited to announce that we approved a Public Policy Statement on Racial Justice. This was the result of great work by the Racial Justice Ministry Working Group. The statement offers definitions of terms like individual and systemic racism, and anti-racism. It provides a theological foundation for our anti-racist work. And it details the specific actions we will take as an anti-racist church. The full statement is linked in the weekly email and will be in the March edition of the paper newsletter.

We also approved an anti-racist hiring policy which will guide us whenever we search for new staff members at Govans Presbyterian. We have learned that without intentional anti-racist steps taken in a hiring process, unconscious racial biases can influence our decisions far more than we realize.

We approved the 2022 Mission Budget. Thanks to the Mission Committee for preparing this budget. With the help of generous support from the congregation, as well as the Brown Memorial Woodbrook Mission Endowment and other mission endowments we increased our giving to almost all our Mission Partners and added two new Partners. We added The Center which is a youth urban mission camp run by our Presbytery in Baltimore City and Strength to Love, a community based urban farm which addresses food apartheid in the city and trains formerly incarcerated individuals in agriculture and workforce development.

Finally, we made plans for our Annual Congregational Financial Meeting which will be held after our combined service on March 6th. The congregation will be receiving the Annual Financial Report before the meeting thanks to the hard work of Charles Forbes and Pam Wallace. At that same meeting will elect the Elder Nominating Committee. We also will ask you to consider a recommendation from the Session that we reduce the

size of the Session from 12 to nine members over the next few years as a way to free up leaders for other leadership opportunities in the church.

If you have any questions about any of these actions or anything else related to the Session please speak with me, Rev. Harris, Rev. Kluttz or any member of Session.

SPECIAL TREATMENT AVAILABLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GOVANS ENDOWMENT FUND

With many of our members 70½ or older and facing Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) every year, please let me remind you that you can donate directly to our IRS-qualified Endowment Fund (EF) through Qualified Charitable Contributions. This is an excellent way to fulfil your annual pledge to Govans. Further, they can offset part or all of your RMD. This allows you to make a contribution over and above any you might qualify for through your income tax return, and direct contributions are not subject to income taxes, even if you do not itemize your deductions. Finally, the program has been permanently extended and allows for total distributions up to your RMD amount, or \$100,000 per year, whichever is less. Gifts may be made from either traditional IRAs or Roths, but they must be made directly from your custodian to the EF. They cannot go into your account and then on to the Endowment Fund to qualify for this special treatment. Your tax advisor or IRA custodian will want to know that Govans is a 501(c)3 organization under IRS Group Ruling No. 1617.

For more details on how to make a contribution, please contact your financial or tax advisor, or email me at fgaede@comcast.net.

Thanks,
Fred Gaede,
Finance Committee



BELIEVE IN BALTIMORE PODCAST: Transforming Vacant Lots with Project VITAL

Dr. Kristin Mmari, Brandi Welsh, and Natasha Neale join Pastors Tom and Billy to share about Project VITAL's work to transform vacant lots in Baltimore City through greening initiatives and youth-led transformation. Learn about the project online at: www.bnaijfi.org/projectvital, as well as, BMORE Beautiful and the Baltimore City Green Network plan. You can also support the project by helping to identify lots and greening activities in your neighborhood by visiting Project VITAL Greening Lots (arcgis.com).



Listen to this and all episodes of *Believe in Baltimore* at:

www.govanspres.org/podcast



Before



After

Pastoral Ponderings...continued from cover page

cities becoming uninhabitable, enormous displacement of populations, water shortages, collapse of food changes, mass extinctions. These predictions were part of the air they breathed as they became adults. They drank the water of apathetic adults and to be fair the majority of these younger generations have not done much more than their parents to address the threat. We all keep playing our violins on this sinking ship.

So far this is about the most mournful of Pastoral Ponderings. However, the message is really not; at least not entirely. Because the answer to the question "Should we enjoy a 75 degree February day that is almost certainly and organically connected to climate change?" is...yes!

Yes we should enjoy it. We enjoy it because our grief and guilt and worry solves nothing. We enjoy it because even though it seems wrong, the mere fact that it exists means there is something right about it; at least if we assume that God is in fact in control of all things. We enjoy it because joy in each moment requires us to cease striving for a happiness wholly dependent on a future ideal.

Does this mean we give up on change? That we decide nothing can be done? All is lost? "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die"? (1 Corinthians 15:31) No. We must act. We owe action to future generations. We owe action to our children. We must speak, march, and vote. We must change the way we eat and the way we drive. We must advocate for a radical change in public policy – local, state, national – for in the end we can't just drive our way out of this crisis in our electric cars. Only massive public policy change will help. We can't risk being moderate about climate change.

AND, we can breathe in the air on a 75 degree February day and give thanks to God. Give thanks for the warm sun on our skin. Give thanks for being alive. Experience joy. For joy today is essential to any joyful future.

Peace,
Tom

MARCH MISSION OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, and **Self-Development of People** - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

One great way to participate in raising money for our March Mission Offering is feeding your fish bank! Keep an eye out for coins and spare change this Lent as we fill paper fish banks to support One Great Hour of Sharing. Govans youth will decorate fish banks in Sunday school and older members can take a fish bank home after in-person worship. Email Pastor Billy at billy@govanspres.org if you would like a fish bank delivered to your home. Throughout Lent, we will fill our fish banks with coins in preparation for a very noisy Easter offering. Bring your fish bank with you on Easter Sunday morning as we celebrate new life and a better quality of life that our work together in the world can bring.



HOLY WEEK

2022

Palm Sunday | April 10

9:00 | Poem Sunday

11:00 am | Special Music

Maundy Thursday | April 14

7:00 pm | Online and In-person Worship

Good Friday | April 15

7:00 pm | Online and In-Person Worship

Easter | April 17

6:30 am | Outdoor Sunrise Service

9:00 am | Online and In-Person Worship

10:00 am | Easter Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo

with Animals from Woodberry Crossing

11:00 am | Online and In Person Worship



WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG

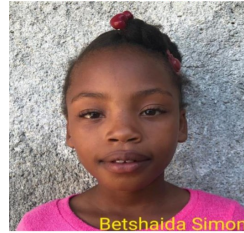
THE CHILDREN OF KAY PAPA NOU AND UNITY HOUSE DECEMBER 2021



Felancia Durand



Dandja Guillaume



Betshaida Simon



Woodline Vincent



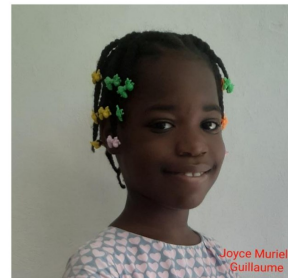
Jean Rolanda



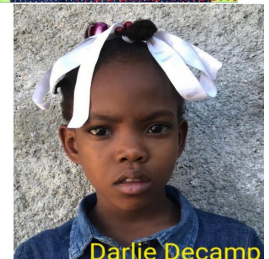
Clémence Gilles



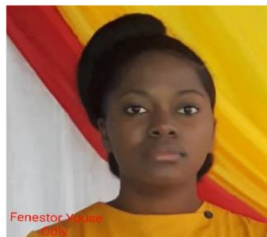
Fedia Vellard



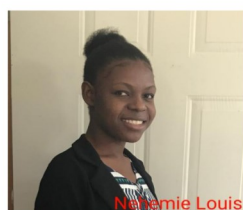
Joyce Murielle
Guillaume



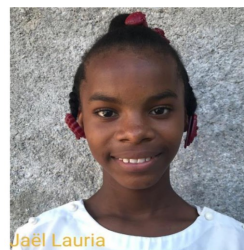
Darlie Decamp



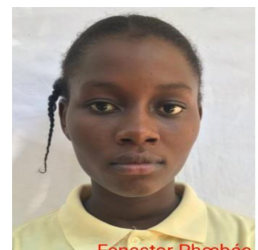
Fenestor Victor



Nihemie Louis



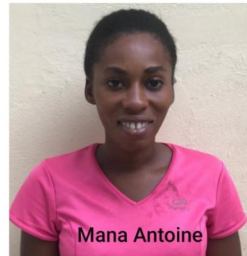
Jael Lauria



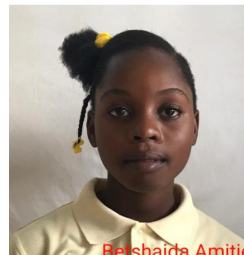
Fenestor Phœbé



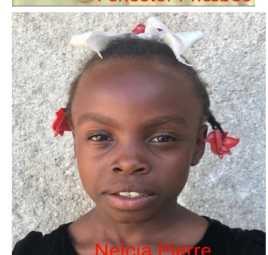
Rose Darlin
Fenestor
Pamelitha Durand



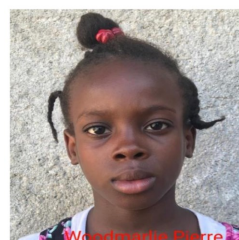
Mana Antoine



Belshaida Amitié



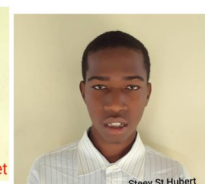
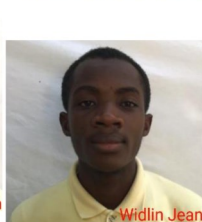
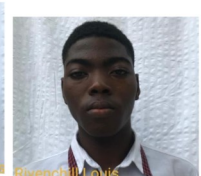
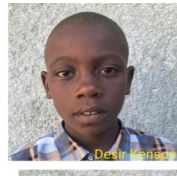
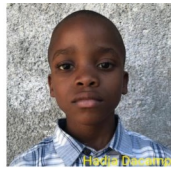
Nelcia Pierre



Woodmarie Pierre



Landa Jean



To learn more about how you can support Govans Mission Partner Kay Papa Nou and Unity House in Haiti, contact Joyce and Ted Kruse at krusetj@comcast.net.

The logo features a stylized cross icon composed of four colored segments (yellow, blue, red, and green) to the left of the word "GOVANS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below "GOVANS" is the text "PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.
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Baltimore, MD 21212
410-435-9188
www.govanspres.org

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