



What's Inside?

- Calendar, Birthdays, and Believe in Baltimore Podcast, p.2
- Letter from Pastor Billy and Youth and Young Families Dates, p. 3
- What's Going On at Govans?, p. 4
- May Mission Offering: Soul Kitchen, p. 5
- News from Kay Papa Nou, p. 6
- Pastoral Ponderings, p. 7
- Church Works: News from the Session, p. 8
- Second Service Music News, p. 9
- News from Butoke, p. 10
- Easter 2022 Pics, p. 11



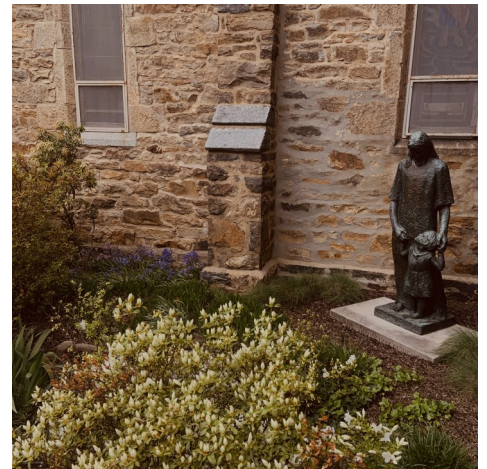
PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Rev. Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

People generally think about December or March/April as the most important times of the church year. It's true Advent/Christmas and Lent/Holy Week/Easter are the most important Christian holidays and fall in those months. But, for me at Govans, May and June are close runners up.

We start off with our Annual Congregational Program meeting, the first Sunday in May where the leaders of all our amazing committees and teams summarize the ministry that has been done over the past year (in written form fortunately or we would be in the meeting all afternoon, but make sure you read those reports!). We also hear the nomination for new elders



from the Elder Nominating Committee and excitedly look forward to the future.

Mother's Day comes next. Not an official Christian holiday but let's face it, lot's of faithful moms leverage their

...continued on page 7

SECOND SERVICE MUSIC NEWS:



Greetings, Govans community! Marie Herrington here, I want to thank all of you for welcoming me as your Second Service Music Director here at Govans. I'm incredibly excited to get to know all of you and to program a wide selection of beautiful music with you all.

This coming May, we have some exciting music we'll be performing. You probably already know the popular Baroque composer J.S. Bach, along with Bach, we have many more composers to showcase to you who have painted the musical world we

...continued on page 9

May Calendar

1 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10:00 am
1 - Congregational Meeting, 11:00 am
1 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup , 4:30 - 6:00 pm
4 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 pm
4 - Personnel Committee, 6:00 pm
8 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 am
8 - YSL Council Meeting, 3:00 pm
8 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup , 4:30 - 6:00 pm
9 - Finance Committee, 7:00 pm
9 - Communications Committee, 7:30 pm
11 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 pm
13 - Racial Justice Movie, 13th, 6:30 pm
15 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 am
15 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup , 4:30 - 6:00 pm
16 - Community Children's Choir at 4:30 pm at Govans Elementary School
16 - Facilities Committee, 6:00 pm
17 - Session Meeting, 6:30 pm
18 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 pm
21 - Canoe and Scoop for Young Families, 9:00 am
22 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 am
22 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup , 4:30 - 6:00 pm
25 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 pm
27 - Youth Group, 6:30 pm
29 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 am
29 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup , 4:30 - 6:00 pm

May Birthdays

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

Congratulations to Oscar Harris!

We want to thank all the church members who have provided such wonderful support and encouragement for our son Oscar over the past 15 years. We are happy to announce that at the conclusion of the Spring Semester Oscar will graduate from Brown University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in Biomedical Informatics.

- Tom and Sasha

BELIEVE IN BALTIMORE PODCAST:

This month on *Believe in Baltimore*, Rachael Neill and Joe Santamaria (pictured) from GEDCO CARES share their work providing food, emergency rental support, and job search education for our neighbors this month on Govans' community podcast, *Believe in Baltimore*. Rachel Neil works as the Director of Community Services at GEDCO's CARES. Joe Santamaria works as Assistant Program Director at CARES. Joe is a former educational professional and now works in community services with a specialization in workforce development. He grew up in Pennsylvania, went to graduate school for psychology, and likes to play guitar and make barbecue. You can learn more about GEDCO and all of their programs on their website, gedco.org. We also discuss the Govans Presbyterian Church community garden in this episode. Learn more about that garden, and how you can be a gardener, on Govans' website.



Believe in Baltimore is a podcast conversation with community leaders and change-makers in Baltimore, Maryland, hosted by Govans Presbyterian Church. In each episode, we welcome a local leader to share about their work in Charm City, as well as their hopes and dreams for our community. For more information or to send us your show ideas, email Billy at billy@govanspres.org.

Listen to these episodes and all of the podcast episodes on Govans website, govanspres.org/podcasts. If you have ideas for future podcast episode themes or guests, please email billy@govanspres.org.

LETTER FROM PASTOR BILLY

Hello Govans,

This Eastertide, I have been drawn to Brother Steindl-Rast's quotation: "Another name for God is surprise." It makes me wonder: where have I found surprise in my life? Where am I open enough to be surprised?



Reflecting on this quotation, Mark Nepo writes: "Life is surprising, thank God, and God, the chance to know Oneness, lives in surprise." Nepo then offers the following meditation: "Center yourself and pray for the strength of spirit to be open to surprise. As you exhale, try to relax your resistance to the unexpected. As you inhale, try to make a passageway for everything larger than you. Enter your day."

I hope that our celebrations of God's new life are helping you "to make a passageway for everything larger than you." On Palm Sunday, I challenged our children not just to retell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, but also to reenact it—to look for their place in the story. In a similar way, I hope that you'll look for your place and part to play in God's story of love overcoming the powers of violence and empire, both thousands of years ago and today in our continued stories of resurrection.

Peace,
Pastor Billy

Youth and Young Families Activities:

- Sunday, May 8 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am
- Sunday, May 8 - YSL Council at 3:00 pm on Zoom
- Sunday, May 15 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am
- Monday, May 16 - Community Children's Choir at 4:30 pm at Govans Elementary School
- Tuesday, May 17 - Preschool Chapel - 10:00 am to noon
- Saturday, May 21 - Canoe and Scoop for Young Families from 9:00 am to noon
- Sunday, May 22 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am
- Friday, May 27 - Youth Group at 6:30 pm - Welcome Party for Marie Herrington
- Sunday, May 29 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am

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

Church Staff

Rev. Tom Harris, Senior Pastor

Rev. Billy Kluttz, Associate Pastor

Lea Gilmore,

Minister for Racial Justice &
Music Director, 1st Service

Marie Herrington

Music Director, 2nd Service

Pam Wallace, Finance
Administrator

Andy Wilson, Office Manager

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 June/
July 2022 newsletter is
May 15, 2022. Please
send to Andy Wilson
(wilson@govanspres.org)
or call the church office.*

Believe in
Baltimore

Hosted by Govans Presbyterian Church



What's Going On At Govans?

GOVANS  Racial Justice
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Ministry

Outdoor Film Screening and Discussion

Friday, May 13

Gather at 7:30 - Movie at 8:30 pm followed by
discussion

www.govanspres.org



Canoe and Scoop

May 21

9:00 am - Noon

Middle Branch Park

www.govanspres.org

GOVANS  Youth and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Young Families

Govans Book Club

10:00 am on the second

Friday of the month

Live on Zoom

Email Bobbie Cook
(cookbobbie347@gmail.com) for the
more information and the Zoom link



Online Bible Study
The Book of Daniel

Join us Wednesdays as we study one of the most intriguing, strangest, and perhaps most relevant books of the Bible. This study of Daniel will take us through the end of June and then we will take our summer break. Email tom@govanpres.org for more information!

12:00 noon on Zoom
Everyone is welcome!
Email tom@govanspres.org for more information.

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.


GOVANS

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

May Mission Offering

The Mission Offering for May is Govans' own *Soul Kitchen*. Each and every Sunday, Soul Kitchen serves meal consisting of two separate entrees, including something to drink, eating utensils and a dessert or fresh fruit to members of our local community.

This past year we have continued our partnerships with Roland Park Presbyterian, Loyola University's Center for Community, Service and Justice program and our own Youth Group. Once a month on different Sundays, volunteers from each come help us cook, pack meals, serve and clean up. It is an awesome opportunity to share in the fellowship of Soul Kitchen, and the help is greatly appreciated.

Soul Kitchen has also started up partnerships with the farms Rockrose Community, Strength to Love 2, and The Farm Alliance of Baltimore. They all have provided Soul Kitchen with fresh local produce free, or at a reduced rate. We are delighted to support Baltimore's urban farms with our purchases and value the generosity they have shown our mission.



****All donations marked "Mission Offering" will go support the work of Soul Kitchen****



NEWS FROM KAY PAPA NOU:

Kay Papa Nou and Unity House in Haiti were started by David and Danny Guillaume to provide a home for Haitian children in need. Their efforts since 2004 have provided housing, food, school and religious education for 30-40 children.

A steady increase in gangs, crime and kidnappings in Haiti has changed daily life. David and his father negotiated with kidnappers who abducted a young man from their church in February. The ransom started at two million goudes but after a week of negotiation, the kidnappers released the young man after 850,000 goudes were paid (\$8,000). More recently, gang members in cars with guns came to the chapel in Canaan to kidnap Pastor David and Danny. Under the wings of God, David and Danny were protected by their absence the day of the event but the chapel was forced to close. David was forced to build a wall around the boy's home located next to the chapel to keep the boys safe. The situation in Haiti has reached another kind of crisis, a war on the ground. Not an earthquake this time but continued rising poverty and the growing power of gangs. Citizens are no longer safe. Travel on many roads is dangerous because gangs rule many roads.



Pelancia, Danny, Louvencia



Children at the elementary school

Education

Education continues for the children. The high school in Canaan closed because of lack of funds and gang violence. High school students now attend two outside schools according to their classes and sections. Elementary school children (grades 1-6) attend CHRICHA School in Canaan. The school has a wall around it and was built with the help of a Canadian organization. Many children from the neighborhood attend this school. Danny is the Principal, Louvencia is a teacher, and Pelancia is the Manager/Project Coordinator. Young adults continue their post secondary education. Pamelitha and Rosedarlie are studying nursing. Jhonson is studying accounting. Nehemie is in her last year of medical school.

Daily Life

Day-to-day life for children in Haiti is very different than that for children in the U.S. At Kay Papa Nou, there are 19 girls; at Unity House, there are 14 boys. The children learn to work together and perhaps look at the world from another's perspective. Outside activities occupy much of a child's life here; while in Haiti children remain at home and are kept busy with homework and chores. Of course there is time for play, but always at home and without electronic games and television. After a blessed night under the protection of God, children enjoy a gracious morning full of sunshine and a cool breeze from the north. They rejoice in the rest and the opportunity to clean their house and yard.



Phoebe cleaning



Boys at Unity House cleaning yard

"We are happy to see them working together with a good spirit for the progress of the house where they live."

We share responses to a few questions asked of David and Danny's ten year old daughter Joyce Murielle.

1. Does anyone need your prayers today? Last Friday Sister Fedia was not feeling well and asked me to pray for her. God's answer was positive.

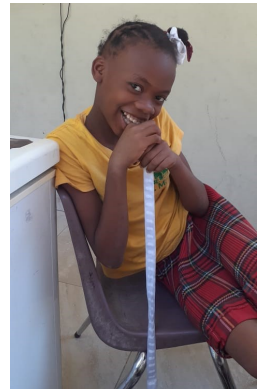
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2. What do you want to thank God for today? *I would like to thank Him for His grace, His love and the healing He granted to Sister Fedia as well as the protection of my family and my neighbors.*

3. If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be? *I would like the wickedness of men to end by making them good and honest men.*

4. Do you have a favorite story? *In the Bible, I prefer the story of Joseph and his brothers.*

Haiti has not received much press coverage. Lack of coverage does not mean life has returned to normal. The gangs plague daily life. Costs for basic supplies continue to increase. With our support, David and Danny have provided a semblance of normal life for the children and young adults in their care and an educational foundation for the children's future.



Woodline Posing



We are thankful to our supporters for continued support of the young children and young adults at Kay Papa Nou and Unity House in Haiti. If you wish to make a donation to Neighbors Near and Far to support the children, please go to <http://www.neighborsnearfar.org> and use the Donate button. You can also send contributions to: Neighbors Near & Far, 374 Old Trail Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.

Pastoral Ponderings...continued from cover page

extra clout on that day to get the whole family to church. In addition, over the years, as we have embraced the mothering aspects of God, we get to fly the divine feminine flag with extra flourish.

Oftentimes there is a Youth Sunday on Mother's Day or the next Sunday, but this year Youth Sunday will be June 12, which allows us to enjoy the leadership of the youth in worship in a combined service. Be sure to come support our Youth Servant Leaders as they preach and lead us!

May 29 is Memorial Day Weekend. Memorial Day is also not a religious holiday but a meaningful time in the context of worship to remember those who have died in the many wars our nation has fought over years. In the church it is also a time to grieve the brokenness of humanity that calls so many to make that sacrifice.

Coming to June 5, we get to celebrate the ordination and installation of the new elders we elected back on May 1. Ordinations are really quite special in the Presbyterian Church as members answer God's call to be "set aside with prayer" to lead and govern the church. Then, fingers crossed, there will be some form of Church Picnic after the service!

So prepare yourselves for a great month and a half of worship as we come to the close of our program year and look forward to another great year of ministry together.

Peace,
Tom

ChurchWorks

News from the Session



The Session met for our regularly monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

We took the next step in a major renovation of the Preschool Building by hiring Architect Jerome Gray and General Contractor A.R. Marani for Phase 1 of the project including design and cost estimates. The centerpiece of the project is the replacement of the 70 year old single pane window walls on the east and south side of the building. We are also

considering improved interior design of the room, playground renovation, and parking lot replacement as part of this project. Please speak with any Session member if you have any thoughts on areas that need improvement.

We heard a proposal from Jody Morris about the creation of a community run urban garden on the lawn on the north east corner of the church property. We approved Jody and a team of church members to start exploring the viability of this project and seeking out community partners. The vision is for this to be a project with significant community involvement and leadership so it can serve as a bridge not just between the church and local neighborhoods but between the many different and diverse neighborhoods around the church. Please speak with Jody Morris if you would like to learn more or get involved.

We approved the summer worship schedule. Beginning June 5, we will have single combined 10am services throughout the summer with the intention to move back to two services on September 11.

We also approved our tenor section leader Dave Willerup who is a skilled furniture maker to build two roll top desks for the AV equipment in the back of the sanctuary. Dave specializes in environmentally conscious building with reclaimed lumber. His work includes a recently completed AV booth for Light Street Presbyterian.



South facing window wall

Finally, we heard the report from the Elder Nominating Committee and we are thrilled that Sam Fuller has agreed to serve a second three year term on Session and Karl Starks and Jen Parks have agreed to join Session for their first term. They will be nominated next Sunday at the Congregational Meeting following the combined service.

Please speak with Pastor Tom, Pastor Billy, or any member of the Session if you have any questions or feedback.



North east corner of the front lawn - site of potential community garden

Second Service Music News, continued from cover page...

know today. But first, I want to showcase some fantastic guest artists that will be playing with us this coming month.

On **Sunday, May 8**, we will be honoring all godmothers by showcasing pieces written by women composers such as Jane Marshall, along with joyful choral music sung by our lovely soprano and alto section of the choir. We also will be having the honor of hearing the talented Kaylyn Parks on viola for the prelude. Kaylyn is a fantastic saxophonist, violist, and ringer, as well as a very skilled softball player and cross country runner. We are so happy to welcome such a talented musician who also happens to be a beloved member of the Govans community.

You won't want to miss **Sunday, May 15**, it's handbell day! We will be welcoming our talented ringers who will be showcasing some beautiful handbell music, along with our lovely chancel choir who will be performing music by the very challenging Renaissance composer, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. Palestrina paved the way for all rich, multi-faceted polyphony that we know today; if it weren't for Palestrina's compositions, Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms wouldn't be the composers we know today.



Maurice Duruflé

On **Sunday, May 22** we will be showcasing the exquisite 20th century French Requiem. Maurice Duruflé's requiem is known as "the best requiem ever composed" by many classical fanatics, here's what journalist and member of the

Washington Chorus, Alan Taffel has to say on the Duruflé requiem: "Duruflé's intended flow will elude all but the most skilled singers, players, and conductors. At the same time, capturing such a performance presents a challenge to even the most accomplished sound engineer. That's because, although this Requiem eschews the Sturm und Drang of those by Verdi, Berlioz, and Mozart, there are still plenty of climactic moments that push the audio envelope." - Three Duruflé Requiems by Alan Taffel, 2017.

This month you'll hear some excerpts of the beautiful Duruflé requiem sung by our choir, along with guest organist/pianist, Timothy Krippner. Timothy is a concert pianist hailing from the Pacific Northwest, who has taken part in performances all over the United States. Timothy's studies have taken him from the Pacific Northwest to the Midwest, South, and East Coast, with performances and festivals ranging from the United States to Italy and Austria. His soloistic endeavors have led to concerto performances with the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra and the Spokane Symphony, top prizes in the Seattle International and Chicago International Piano Competitions among others, and the honor of being lauded as "a true artist" by the late Aldo Ciccolini. Timothy's most recent performance was with world famous violinist, Midori, taking place at the Peabody Conservatory.

On **Sunday, May 29**, we will be honoring those who died fighting for our nation by showcasing some powerful old and new American composers. We have a very special composer we will be showcasing named Kevin Crouch, who is a living Baltimore-based choral composer currently working at Grace and St. Peter's Church on Park Ave. Kevin is a classical tenor, choral conductor, composer, and educator who has performed with Concert Artists of Baltimore, Mastersingers of Wilmington, Baltimore Choral Arts, and more. Kevin's gorgeous Easter piece titled "A Better Resurrection," is a centering and meditative Easter piece that we will be showcasing to close off the end of the Easter Season with our beloved chancel choir. We will also be performing the very famous "At the River," by well renowned American composer, Aaron Copland. Copland is known as by far the most truly American composer, for introducing harmonic and melodic patterns that happened to create a "uniquely American orchestral sound" that would shape American music decades to come.



Aaron Copland

Join us for some lovely multifaceted music this Easter Season, and I wish you all God's peace.

News from Govans' Mission Partner Friends of Butoke in the DR Congo:

Dear Friends,

Much has happened since we last communicated with you. Dr. Jean and his associates at Butoke have been very busy. The



Mother with identical twins

new 16-room clinic in Tshimbundu is completed and is up and running. Tshimbundu is situated in an area where three health zones meet. This area has been severely underserved. The clinic is approximately 12 miles south of Tshikaji, where the Good Shepherd Hospital is located. Twelve miles doesn't seem very far – unless you have to walk! Especially when you are nine months pregnant! The clinic was intended to be a maternity center. As there is no other healthcare available in the area, the clinic has become a general medical facility. In addition to C-sections they have already performed many hernia repairs, several appendectomies, and have removed several cysts. Infectious diseases are the most common complaints; malaria (about a third are so severely anemic as to need blood transfusions), amoebic diarrhea and typhoid fever. Arthritis, diabetes, asthma, and trauma round out the most common reasons for admission.

There is still much work to be done as the clinic desperately needs a clean water source and Dr. Jean would like to replace the “traditional toilet” (i.e. a hole in the ground) with a better toilet. In the future Dr. Jean would like to build a guest house for women who are waiting to give birth. These women begin the long trek to the clinic, prior to their due dates, hoping to arrive at the clinic prior to the start of labor. All of these items are beyond the funds Butoke expects to receive this year to fund its operations.



Maternity Clinic in Tshimbundu

If you would like to help, your donations can be sent to Friends of Butoke, 32942 Kiwi Court West, Lewes, DE 19958 or give online at www.friendsofbutoke.org.

As for the rest of Butoke's activities, the clinic in Kananga, Musue Bantu, remains busy with similar types of complaints. Covid has seemed to have had much less of an impact on daily life in the DRC than in North America. This is perhaps because the population is very young and spends most of the time outside. The median age in the DRC is 17.0 while it is 37.9 in the USA. The people of the DRC perceive the threat of Covid differently than we do as they live with other deadly diseases all the time (malaria, typhoid, TB, HIV).

Butoke continues to provide support to 28 agricultural associations. Soybeans have been successfully introduced as a source of protein to help protect malnourished children. These associations also grow corn, beans (cowpeas) and voandzou (similar to peanuts). The pineapples grown by Butoke are used by the orphans and at the nutrition center.

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News from Friends of Butoke - continued from previous page...

In Tshimbundu, Butoke opened a primary school and a secondary school with three career tracks; general studies, sewing and agriculture. The primary school already serves 346 students and the secondary schools serves 536 students. They continue to operate a primary school and a secondary school in Tshikaji as well (385 and 510 respectively). The secondary school in Tshikaji has four career tracks, offering mechanics, general studies, sewing and agriculture. The teachers at the Butoke schools receive a much-reduced salary compared to other teachers. However, families of Butoke's teachers receive free medical care, a benefit unheard of in other schools.

All of Butoke's 34 orphans attend school, either in Tshikaji or Kananga depending on their chosen course of study. There are an additional eight students studying to obtain bachelor's degrees. We celebrate with the rest of Butoke's staff the five students who obtained their degrees in 2021. They are quite a testament to the love, care and support they have received at Butoke.

Over the last 12 years, John Mossel has served as the President of Friends of Butoke. His dedication has been a blessing to the Board as well as to the marginalized people in DR Congo. His encouragement to Board members and friends has always been to support the orphans. John will continue to serve on the Board. Jeannine White will assume the role of President with the mission of raising funds for Butoke to minister to victims of poverty, oppression and abuse in areas of food security and nutrition, education, access to health care, malnutrition, care of those with disabilities, and human rights.

We thank you for your prayers and your tangible support which makes our mission possible!

EASTER AT GOVANS



GOVANS
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."

GOVANS  | Racial Justice
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Ministry

Outdoor Film Screening and Discussion

Friday, May 13

Gather at 7:30

Movie at 8:30 pm

followed by discussion

www.govanspres.org

