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GOVANS CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH



During the month of June, Govans will be celebrating LGBTQIA+ pride in various ways. We will be present at the Baltimore Trans Pride 2022 event in Station North on Saturday, June 4 and we will march at the regional Baltimore Pride Parade in Charles Village on Saturday, June 25. If you would like to participate in any of these events please contact Pastor Billy. We also feature special "Pride Moments" during our worship services in June.

Then, on Tuesday, June 28 at 7:00 p.m., Pastor Billy will facilitate a discussion: ***Reading the Bible from an LGBT Perspective*** live on Zoom. What unique gifts and questions do LGBTQ people bring to reading the Bible? Presbyterian pastors Brooke Scott and Lee Catoe will discuss their perspectives on Biblical interpretation and their recent series on how LGBTQ people interpret the Gospel of Mark in the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s social justice journal, *Justice Unbound*.

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Dear Friends,

After a winter of bare trees and bare ground, I'm always surprised by the abundance of growth as we move into summer. In my mind, I can imagine what the trees will look like when they are clothed again with green, but I'm never prepared for the magnitude of the growth; so many leaves!

Sometimes it may seem like we are not growing and changing as much as we would like. But, I wonder if in God's eyes we are producing far more than we realize. Our perspective of our own growth and change is so limited. It may also be that like the trees and other plants, we don't grow all at once. We have seasons where we pull inward



and conserve energy and regroup, seasons of blooming and emerging, seasons of fruit bearing, and seasons of slowing down. Regardless, I hope we all take a moment this summer to appreciate the abundance of life all around us, and realize that this growth is happening within us as well.

Peace,
Tom

June Calendar

6 - Community Choir Concert, 5:10 p.m.
8 - Final Bible Study before summer, Noon
10 - Church Book Club, 10:00 a.m.
12 - Youth Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.
12 - Small Group, 12:30 p.m.
12 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-9:00 p.m.
13 - Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.
19 - Juneteenth Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
19 - Small Group, 12:30 p.m.
19 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-9:00 p.m.
20 - Church Office Closed - Juneteenth
21 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
25 - Pride Parade, 1:00 p.m.
26 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
26 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-9:00 p.m.

June Birthdays

2 - Beth Goldsby, Laura Kittel
3 - Joan Riffert
5 - Joe Gover, Gavin Green
6 - Henry Peck
10 - Carl Brown
12 - Becky Dunlop
17 - Edith Sziburies
18 - Billy Kluttz
19 - Carol Hamilton, Sita Smith
23 - Nick Mills, Frederick Dombrowski, Ken Greene
24 - Leslie Grant
26 - Kaye Gooch, Jean Isteero
28 - Bonny Lewis
29 - Kai Gibbons

GOVANS CELEBRATES

JUNETEENTH

Govans celebrates Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, & Emancipation Day – Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. Join us for a special Juneteenth worship service with a guest preacher, **Rev. Elder Dorothy Parrish-Harris**, on June 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor, Elder, mentor, spouse, mother, grandmother, higher education administrator, college professor, community activist, social justice warrior, life coach, professional mediator, and mentor are all ways in which Rev. Elder Dorothy Parrish Harris enjoys living her purpose. The founding pastor of the Unity Fellowship Church of Columbia (which now meets in Towson, Maryland), Elder Parrish-Harris serves as the Vice President of the UFCM National Board of Directors, as a Jurisdiction Elder of the Midatlantic churches and is a member of the newest class of Bishop Candidates of the Unity Fellowship Church Movement.

Elder Parrish-Harris has been in active Ministry since 2003, and prior to opening the Unity Fellowship Church of Columbia, served in several ministerial capacities, including as Assistant Pastor of the Unity Fellowship Church of Baltimore. She received B.A. and M.A. degrees in English, American Studies and Women's Studies from the University of Buffalo, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Baltimore, and is currently enrolled in Chicago Theological Seminary.

She enjoys traveling (pre-pandemic), gardening, attending operas, listening to music and spending time with family. Rev. Elder Parrish-Harris is enthusiastically married to Willette Parrish-Harris, is the proud mother of Azubike (AH-ZOO-BEE-KAY), Chioma (CHEE-OH-MA) and Josiah and a doting grandmother of 1 year old Grace Kelechi (KA-LET-CHEE).

Email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org), Minister for Racial Just and Multicultural Engagement, for more information.



Rev. Elder Dorothy Parrish-Harris



LETTER FROM PASTOR BILLY

Hello, Govans,

I love Baltimore in the summer. I love walking by the waterfront. I love how our neighbors all gather outside in the evenings to talk, let the children play, and let our dogs run around.

I also love summer reading. If you're looking to add some spirituality to your summer reading list, here are a few that I will be enjoying during the season. I would love to discuss them with you if you decide to pick up a copy:



- Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation by Kristin Kobes du Mez - I'm cheating a little by adding this book (because I just finished it), but the book is so good it deserves the recommendation. Kobes du Mez examines the recent history of white evangelicalism from the perspective of US foreign policy and masculinity.
- The Age of the Spirit: How the Ghost of an Ancient Controversy Is Shaping the Church by Phyllis Tickle - I have recently fallen in love with Phyllis Tickle's writing and speaking on church history and the new forms of Christianity taking shape. In this book, she discusses ancient theological divisions about the Holy Spirit and how those debates are at work in the church of tomorrow—and today.
- Outside the Lines: How Embracing Queerness Will Transform Your Faith by Mihee Kim-Kort - Rev. Kim-Kort is a pastor in our presbytery. In this book, she shares her own path toward self-identification as a queer woman of color. She combines that journey with accessible connections to queer and feminist theory and thoughtful reinterpretations of Biblical stories.

Whether you enjoy reading or not, I hope that this summer season will be a time of rest and renewal for you and your family. Save the date for our summer day camp at Woodberry Crossing (August 15 to 19) and our young families pool party at Pastor Tom's on August 21.

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

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

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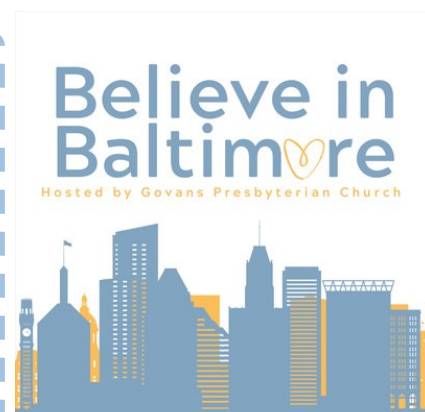


*The deadline for
submissions for the July
2022 newsletter is June
15, 2022. Please send to
Andy Wilson
(wilson@govanspres.org)
or call the church office.*

Youth and Young Families Activities:

- Monday, June 6 - Community Children's Choir Concert - 5:10 pm to 5:30 pm - everyone is invited
- Sunday, June 12 - Youth Sunday at 10:00 am
- Sunday, July 24 - Young Families Night at Soul Kitchen - 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

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



What's Going On At Govans?

Community Children's Choir Concert

Monday, June 6

5:10 pm to 5:30 pm

Govans Elementary School

5801 York Rd, Baltimore, MD 21212

Come hear the kids in our neighborhood make joyful music!

Minister Lea Gilmore and Pastor Billy have been leading a community children's choir as part of the afterschool program at Govans Elementary School. After a year of practice, we are ready to share some of that music with you. The kids will share a few songs, we'll sing together as a community, and we'll recognize the children for their hard work this school year. The short performance will take place in the choir room. Email billy@govanspres.org for more information.



GOVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A Baltimore Curriculum Project Charter



GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Check out the Progress Pride Flag on the Peace Terrace: Artist *Daniel Quasar* combined elements of the rainbow pride flag with the transgender pride flag to create the Progress Pride Flag in 2018. The flags black and brown stripes represent marginalized LGBT communities of color, community members lost to HIV/AIDS, and those currently living with AIDS.



Curious Creatures Summer Day Camp

Woodberry

Crossing

August 15 - 19

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Email billy@govanspres.org for more information.



Join the Govans Garden Group

Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.
email Jodyomorris@gmail.com



GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP AT GOVANS

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
In-person and on line

Details at www.govanspres.org



SECOND SERVICE MUSIC NEWS:

This month, we are especially recognizing and honoring the musical accomplishments of composers and performers of color, and the LGBTQIA+ community. We will also be showcasing two special music director guests, Junwen Liang, and Diane Luchese who will be performing in place of Marie Herrington, while she is at Songfest.

Marie has been selected as one of six composers to write music for one of the largest classical singer festivals in the world, US Songfest, held in San Francisco. Her music will be workshopped and sung by many upcoming and seasoned professionals including Rider University Professor, Victoria Browers. As part of this opportunity, Marie gets to work alongside some of the most renowned living composers such as Libby Larsen, Jake Heggie, John Musto, David Conte, John Harbison, and Sheila Silver. *Congratulations, Marie!*

On June 5, our guest organist will be Music theorist/organist Diane Luchese who joined the Towson University music theory faculty in Fall 1999. Prior to Towson, she taught at the Ohio State University, Chicago Musical College, and the New England Conservatory. She has also held positions as an organist/choir master in the New York, Boston, and Chicago metropolitan areas, and currently freelances as a church organist in the Baltimore area.

On June 12, our guest organist will be Junwen Lian. A native of Nanning, China, Junwen Liang began his piano studies at the age of 9 and made his solo debut at the age of 13. He entered the pre-college program at Guangxi Arts University under the tutelage of Sha Liu and Yu Zhao; then moved to the United States in 2013 as a full scholarship student to pursue a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance at Ithaca College School of Music under the tutelage of Charis Dimaras. Junwen also studied privately with

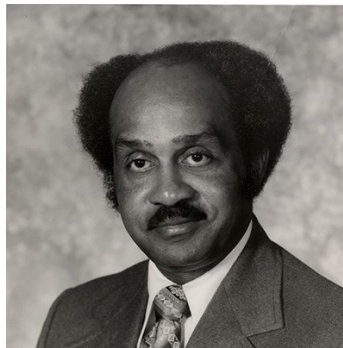
Malcolm Bilson and Wenqing Bouche-Pillon during his first-year undergraduate studies.

Junwen recently completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Penn State, where he served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in Piano and studied with Christopher Guzman. He earned his bachelor degree with a full scholarship at Ithaca College. And a master degree at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he served as an Associate Instructor in Piano. This fall, Junwen will pursue a Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, under the tutelage of Richard Goode.



During the month of June, we are also celebrating and showcasing work by influential historical composers such as Wendell P Whalum and Robert Nathaniel Dett.

Wendell P. Whalum (1931-1987) was a renowned gospel musician, educator, and minister. He achieved international recognition as teacher, organist, conductor, musicologist, arranger, composer, author, and lecturer. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Morehouse College in 1952, and later his Master of Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1965. The University of Haiti granted him the Doctor Honoris Causa in 1968. Dr. Whalum joined the faculty of Morehouse in the fall of 1953, and was appointed Director of the Morehouse College Glee Club, which earned national and international acclaim during his years of leadership. He achieved international recognition as teacher, organist, conductor, musicologist, arranger, composer, author, and lecturer; and he traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad.



Wendell P. Whalum

Robert Nathaniel Dett was born in Drummondville, Ontario, Canada, on October 11, 1882. His ancestors were among the slaves who

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June Mission Offering: St. Andrew's Refugee Services

Saint Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) was founded in 1979 by Saint Andrew's United Church in Cairo. StARS is a refugee service provider in central Cairo that works to enhance the quality of life for refugees and vulnerable migrants through four broad program areas: education, psychosocial, legal, and community outreach. They provide high-quality services meeting the unaddressed needs of displaced people, and offer a safe and inclusive space for displaced people to come together as a community. They work for refugees, with refugees, to make rights recognition a reality. Longtime Govans member, Jean Istiero has been very involved with StARS for many years.

Letter from Pastor Christie of St. Andrew's United Church:

Greetings everyone! It is a joy to share how things are going from the perspective of St. Andrew's Refugee Services and St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo. We have had a busy winter and now spring here in Cairo. Mainly because although things seem to be calming a bit with the pandemic especially due to vaccination rates (according to the last statistics 33.5 million people have been vaccinated in Egypt and currently there are only 124 reported cases in the country—depending on which stats you are looking at) communities are still dealing with the fall out of COVID 19. Job loss, lack



One of the community-based organizations receiving training certificates.



Pastor Christie and Steve

of access to medical care and education as well as a host of other difficulties continue to bring hardship to the refugee communities here in

Cairo. Also adding to this list is the fact that the Egyptian pound (due to the war in Ukraine and other factors) has been devalued so prices are going up and the meager salaries that many in our communities receive cannot keep up. UNHCR reports that seven out of ten refugee families cannot keep up with the costs of their most basic needs.



The Nuer congregation deaconesses in the sanctuary with Pastor John Yien on Easter.

So in the face of all of this StARS continues to work on the front lines in the midst of great need. Thanks to generous gifts both big and small from churches like Govans, we are able to share needed resources with individuals, families and the hundreds of unaccompanied children who arrive on our doorstep every day. We continue to help people who have been forcibly displaced from their homelands and who live in Egypt as Asylum Seekers and Refugees with cash grants, educational opportunities (preschool, school age programs, adult education, hand-craft classes and more), as well as legal, medical and psychosocial support.

StARS assists people like Amira who just last month arrived at St. Andrew's with her two young sons. She had left Sudan and after a harrowing journey to Cairo, Amira did not know what to do or where to go. One of her sons has special needs and she did not have access to resources to help him. She and her sons spent some time living on the street until she met some individuals who pointed her to StARS. Upon arrival she was met with welcome and care. She received a cash grant to rent an apartment and was introduced to the StARS Special Education coordinator (and also a St Andrew's

member), Steve who spent time with her and her two boys. He was able to recommend some assistance for her son and in listening to her, found that she was looking for a church community. Steve found out that Amira is of the Orthodox faith tradition and so he took time with other St. Andrew's church members to research a congregation that would be a good fit for Amira and welcoming to her two sons. He then accompanied her to church and helped introduce Amira to some people at the church so she could find community. StARS also assisted Amira with contacting UNHCR and helping to get her started with the resources that are offered there. While life is still hard, Amira has more security than she did when she arrived and is hopeful that her sons will be enrolled in community schools soon.

This is but one example of the ongoing work of StARS. Connecting with people, sharing gifts and even saving lives. We are grateful for the opportunity to do this work and are grateful for the prayers, encouragement and support we receive from congregations like Govans. Peace be with you. We are grateful for your community.

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



St. Andrew's sanctuary on Easter Sunday



A staff member at StARS doing intake with a client for a cash grant.



The Senior 3 students (2020-/2022) at this year's graduation ceremony



One of the adult Education Students in class.

The Session met on Tuesday, May 17 for our regular monthly meeting and we want to share a couple highlights of the meeting.

The biggest item on the agenda was the development of a policy related to building rentals. Issues under consideration are:

- Where do we draw the line in terms of renting to an organization that does not support our values or is working against them?
- And what legal and ethical guidelines do we need to follow as a 501(c)3 non-profit. We cannot support a political candidate or support organizations that support political candidates. In terms of policy, this question emerges when organizations supporting values we support request a discounted rent for using our building. By discounting rent we are supporting the organization and running afoul of legal and ethical issues.



Wanting to make sure we crafted the language of the policy carefully, we asked an ad hoc team to come back to us with specific recommendations. If you have expertise and interest in this area please speak with Pastor Tom.

We also checked in about rising COVID rates and whether to make any changes in our policy. We did not make any changes. Masks are still optional for church gatherings and will be available in each room of the building. Smaller groups and organizations may still require masks for their meetings. We encourage everyone to share your thoughts and concerns with any Session member as we continue to monitor the situation.

Finally, this was the last regular meeting for Ruling Elders Ashley Short, Kaye Gooch, and Karen Ceanfaglione. We want to express our sincere appreciation for their many years of service.

We hope to see everyone on Sunday, June 5 after the combined service for our annual Potluck Church Picnic!

Second Service Music News, continued from page 5

escaped to the North and settled in that slave-founded town. In 1901, Dett began studying piano with Oliver Willis Halstead in nearby Lockport. Three years later he was admitted to the Oberlin Conservatory, where he majored in piano and composition. In 1908, Dett received his B.M. degree, winning Phi Beta Kappa honors. Dett's later education included studies at Harvard University under Arthur Foote (1920-21), and the American Conservatory in Fountainebleau with Nadia Boulanger. In 1932, he completed a Master of Music degree at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Dett's most important work began in 1913 at the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia. He trained the choir at that traditionally African-American school to a new level of musical excellence. His 40-voice Hampton Singers performed at Carnegie Hall in January 1914. Dett rose to the position of director of the Music Department at Hampton in 1926, the first black to hold that job. That same year, Oberlin Conservatory awarded Dett an honorary Doctor of Music degree, another first for an African American. On December 17, 1926, the 80-voice Hampton Choir



Robert Nathaniel Dett

...continued on next page.

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

assumed national prominence as it performed by invitation at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The unaccompanied program contained Dett's trademark mix of repertoire—early English music, works from the Russian liturgy, Christmas carols, and arrangements of spirituals.

Govans Music Team Showcases LGBTQIA+ Composers during Pride Month

This month, we will also be showcasing music by LGBTQIA+ composers such as Julian Rush, and Paul Vasile.

The **Rev. Julian Rush**, United Methodist pastor who came out publicly in the early 1980s, was born in Meridian, Mississippi in 1936. He speaks of his early years: "I was born gay...I'm sure of that. I was... the grandson of a horse-loving urologist and one of two children of a pharmacist. My mother and dad spent most of their days, except Sundays, working at the drugstore. During my preschool and elementary years, because I was so sheltered, I was the stock definition of a sissy. I had very low self-esteem and desperately wanted to be popular, but didn't know how."

Julian grew up next door to his grandparents so had close family connections. His early years were filled with piano, art, the Methodist Church and Boy Scouts. He had a religious conversion experience at a summer camp meeting he attended with his grandmother between his 10th and 11th grade years. He recalls that this brought about changes in his lifestyle with a more outward focus, responding to and caring for the needs of others. In spite of his deep insecurities, he thrived in his ability to please others and became popular among his peers. He became student director and drum major of his high school band. He was president of the youth group at his church and even the statewide president of Methodist Youth.

Julian moved on from Meridian to Millsaps College in Jackson. He joined a fraternity there and was elected President his senior year. He had developed a strong

bond with another member which they eventually confessed to each other was a deep affection. But neither was able to act on that. Then at a fraternity meeting another member reported that one of the new pledges was thought to be a homosexual and should be expelled immediately. Julian argued for caution and time to investigate this further, but the group overwhelmingly called for immediate expulsion. As

President It was Julian's responsibility to inform this pledge that he was blackballed—without a reason being given. This incident—combined with Julian's distress about his own sexuality—put him a downward spiral which included a suicide attempt. He was unable to complete his school work in order to graduate. A music professor suggested he come back for another year to focus on musical studies. Julian thrived in musical studies and graduated the following year with high marks.



Rev. Julian Rush



Paul Vasile

Paul Vasile is a church musician, consultant, composer, and teacher who finds his greatest joy in collaborative and community-centered ministry.

Committed to modeling expansive, imaginative, and hospitable experiences of music making wherever he goes, Paul's leadership builds trust, invites spaces of creativity, vulnerability, and play, and supports practices of reflection and holistic learning. Recognized as a multitasking musician and liturgist, he is helping to strengthen, energize, and liberate faith communities through the ways they worship and sing together.

With over 25 years of ministry experience in ecumenical contexts, Paul's skills make him a unique resource to congregations in transition or those experiencing anxiety or conflict. Over the past 8 years, he has accompanied communities with a range of challenges through seasons of discernment and transformation.

Conversation Corps: Meet Laura Harris



Govans' Conversation Corps builds stronger ties among the congregation and within our neighborhood. Recently, Conversation Corps members have been interviewing new church members to help us learn their stories, as well. Check out this introduction to new member Laura Harris—and share some of your story when you see Laura online or in-person!

Laura Harris was born in Denver, Colorado. She spent her first four years in Golden, Colorado. Laura is the oldest child. She has a younger sister who lives near her mother in North Carolina; she also has two younger brothers in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania and Baltimore City. Her family moved to Maryland where Laura spent the rest of her growing up years. She attended Hampton Elementary School, Towson Junior High School, and graduated from Loch Raven High School. She attended Sterling Institute in Vermont and worked on a farm in Northern Baltimore County for several years. She then attended Essex Community College, earning an associate of arts degree in veterinary science. For the last 20 years, she has worked as a veterinary technician at the Animal Dental Center in York, Pennsylvania and Towson, Maryland. A woman of many interests, she attended Towson State University and earned a bachelor of science degree in geology in 2020. A brief marriage produced a son, now age 34, who lives in Morgantown, West Virginia. Growing up, Laura and her family attended Center Presbyterian Church and with her father she sang in the choir. It was there that she confirmed her faith. She began attending Govans in August of 2021. Laura says that she "feels included" at Govans and has made friends. She is offering her beautiful soprano voice singing in the church choir.



Laura (second from left) with choir members Anita Hendrix, Jocelyn Taylor, Mimi Cooper, Sherry Peck, and Laura Kittel

BELIEVE IN BALTIMORE PODCAST:

Spiritual directors **Therese Taylor-Stinson** and **Lisa Beacham** join Pastors Tom and Billy for a conversation about spiritual direction (what is it, exactly?) and how we can each find our connection to the Divine and our callings as humans. We discuss [Ephesians 4: 11-17](#) and the intersections of spiritual direction and racial identity, as well.

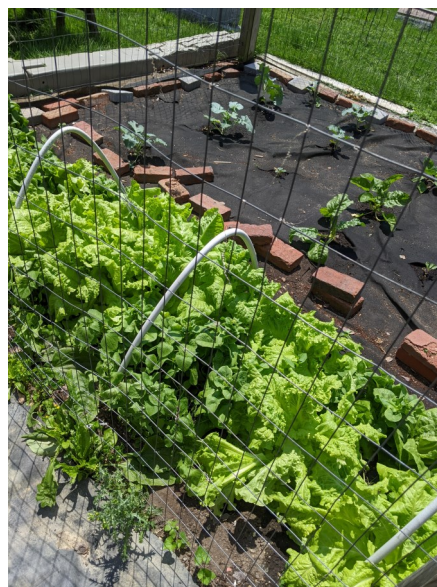


Listen to these episodes and all of the podcast episodes on Govans website, govanspres.org/podcasts. If you have ideas for future podcast episode themes or guests, please email billy@govanspres.org.

Photos from the Canoe and Scoop on May 21:



The work of the Govans Garden Group is in full swing! They meet on Tuesdays starting at 4:30 p.m. Contact Jody Morris or Bonnie Thomson for more information.



GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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410-435-9188
www.govanspres.org

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

GOVANS  **Racial Justice
Ministry**



JUNETEENTH

Celebrate with Govans

Sunday, June 19

at 10:00 a.m.

***Details Inside**

GOVANS  **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Celebrate Pride

***Details Inside**

