



September | 2022

## What's Inside?

- September Calendar, Birthday, Per Capita Sunday - page 1
- Letter from Pastor Billy, Youth and Young Families Activities, page 3
- What's Going On @ Govans?, page 4
- Neighborhood Food Drive, Conversation Corps, page 5
- Pieces of Our Truth: The Turnbull Family, pages 6 and 7
- ChurchWorks, page 8
- Mission Offering, Kay Papa Nou and Unity House, page 9
- Woodberry Crossing pics, page 10
- Pieces of Our Truth, page 11

## PIECES OF OUR TRUTH: THE TURNBULL FAMILY

*Brought to you by the Govans Racial Justice Ministry Working Group. Written and researched by Myra Brosius, member of the Racial Justice Working Group, Truth and Reconciliation Subcommittee.*

For over a century, four glorious brass bells have pealed on the quarter hour, sequestered in our three-story bell tower, marking time above the now-patinaed bronze clock. Besides marking time, however, the bells have another more elusive purpose. Lost to our congregation's collective memory may be the fact that the bells commemorate four members of the Turnbull family, each with a different inscription:

- *In loving memory of Henry C. Turnbull, 1809-1893, Ring in the Christ that is to be.*
- *In loving memory of Anna Graeme*

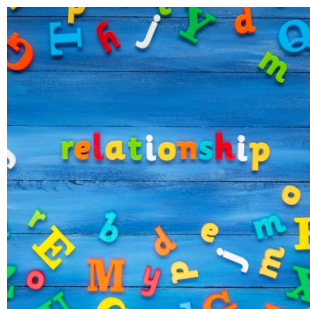


*c. 1906, Archives of Govans Presbyterian Church*

*Turnbull, 1811-1866, Enter into His gates with thanksgiving.*

- *In loving memory of S. Graeme Turnbull, 1839-1863, Praise God in His Sanctuary.*
- *In loving memory of M. Percy Graeme Turnbull, 1878-1887, Oh worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*

*...continued on page six*



## PASTORAL PONDERINGS

*by Rev. Tom Harris*

Dear Friends,

Relationship. Relationships. Relationships. Our faith calls us to relationships. We are called to have a deep and abiding relationship with God, for sure. But, sometimes we forget that Jesus paired two commandments and called them "The Greatest."

Love of God AND love of neighbor. By pairing those, he may have even been suggesting we can only love God BY loving our neighbor. Or to put a finer point on it, we cannot love God without loving our neighbor.

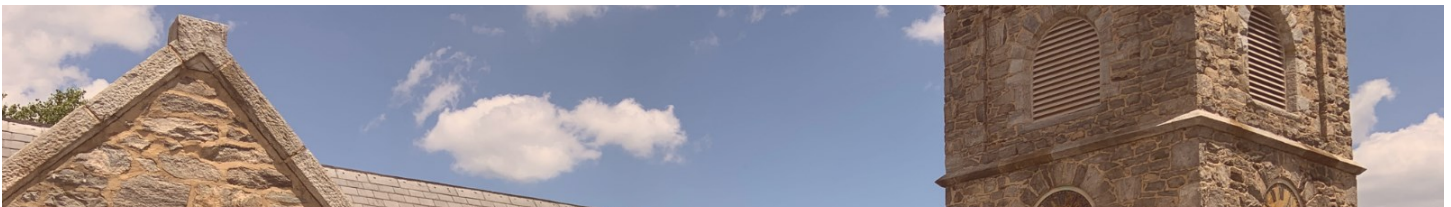
*...continued on page*

## September Calendar

1 - Optional Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.  
4 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
4 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.  
11 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
11 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.  
12 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.  
12 - Music Mondays w/Dan & Claudia Zanes, 7:00 p.m.  
14 - Edith Sziburies Service, Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.  
18 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School  
18 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.  
19 - Facilities Committee, 6:00 p.m.  
19 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.  
20 - Preschool Chapel  
20 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
21 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.  
21 - Neighborhood Food Drive Bag Drop-Off, 6:00 p.m.  
23 - Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.  
24 - Neighborhood Food Drive Bag Pick-Up, 9:45 a.m.  
24 - Racial Justice Ministry Speaker Series, 2:00 p.m.  
25 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School  
25 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.  
28 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.

## September Birthdays

**2 - Calvin Morris**  
**2 - Jeremy North**  
**5 - Fred Gaede**  
**8 - Bruce Dunlop,**  
**8 - Mickl Morris**  
**9 - Kay Simmons**  
**10 - Kamila Alexander**  
**11 - Matthew Moore**  
**12 - Don Taber**  
**13 - Eleanor Schwartz**  
**14 - Sherry Peck**  
**19 - Bobbie Seabolt**  
**20 - Deb Smith**  
**22 - Laura Wake**  
**23 - Trenton Simmons**  
**24 - Matthew Clay-Robison,**  
**Lea Gilmore,**  
**Tabitha Gover,**  
**Theodore Jamison**



## Per Capita Sunday - September 4

Sunday, September 4th is Per Capita Sunday. All members are invited to give the Per Capita we pay to our denomination for every member. This is not required in any way. If you give regularly you are already doing your part as a member. However, some people like the opportunity to give in this way. This year we will be giving the denomination \$38.13 for every member. Most of this will go to our local Presbytery. Some will go to the Synod and some to the General Assembly. If you would like to give your Per Capita please just indicate the designation on your check or giving envelope.



## LETTER FROM PASTOR BILLY

Welcome back, Govans!

Whether you've journeyed far away this summer or just taken some time to relax at your home, I hope that you are as excited as I am about fall at church. I can't wait to see you at Sunday school, youth group, family gatherings, and more this season.



Parents, I hope that you'll also consider how faith can be part of your life at home this autumn. If you're looking for ways to explore and practice Christian spirituality at home, I highly recommend Traci Smith's book, *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*. Another practice that you might want to try this fall is praying before your meals. If you don't have a favorite blessing, you might try John Bell's mealtime prayer that we've used at Govans Sunday school and summer camp. Here are the lyrics (I hope that your kids can teach you the melody):

*God bless to us this bread  
And give bread to those who are hungry  
And hunger for justice to those who are fed  
God bless to us this bread*

Peace,  
Pastor Billy

## Youth and Young Families Activities:

### September

Intergenerational Sunday School begins - Sunday, September 18 - 10:10 am - 10:45 am

September Youth Group - Friday, September 23, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

### October

October Youth Group - Friday, October 21 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 29 - 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

### November

November Youth Group - Friday, November 11 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Young Families Volunteer at Soul Kitchen Thanksgiving - Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3:30 pm

Contact Pastor Billy ([billy@govanspres.org](mailto: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, Bookkeeper

Andy Wilson, Office Manager

Sylvia Usher, Sexton

Pam Ferguson,

Director of Preschool

Gwen Lloyd, Program Director,  
Senior Network

**Govans Presbyterian Church**  
5828 York Rd Baltimore, MD  
21212 410-435-9188  
[www.govanspres.org](http://www.govanspres.org)

Submissions for the  
October/November  
newsletter are due by  
October 12. Please send  
to Andy Wilson at  
[wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org)


**Believe in  
Baltimore  
Podcast: New  
episodes this  
fall!**

[www.govanspres.org/podcast](http://www.govanspres.org/podcast)






## What's Going On At Govans?



# BACK TO SCHOOL @ GOVANS

Sunday, September 11

Featuring a blessing of the backpacks, Christian education open house, and ice cream social

**GOVANS**   
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Join the Govans Garden Group

Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.  
email [Jodyomorris@gmail.com](mailto:Jodyomorris@gmail.com)

**GOVANS**   
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## DAN + CLAUDIA ZANES

Monday, September 12  
7:00 pm ET  
Live on Zoom

**GOVANS**  Music Mondays  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

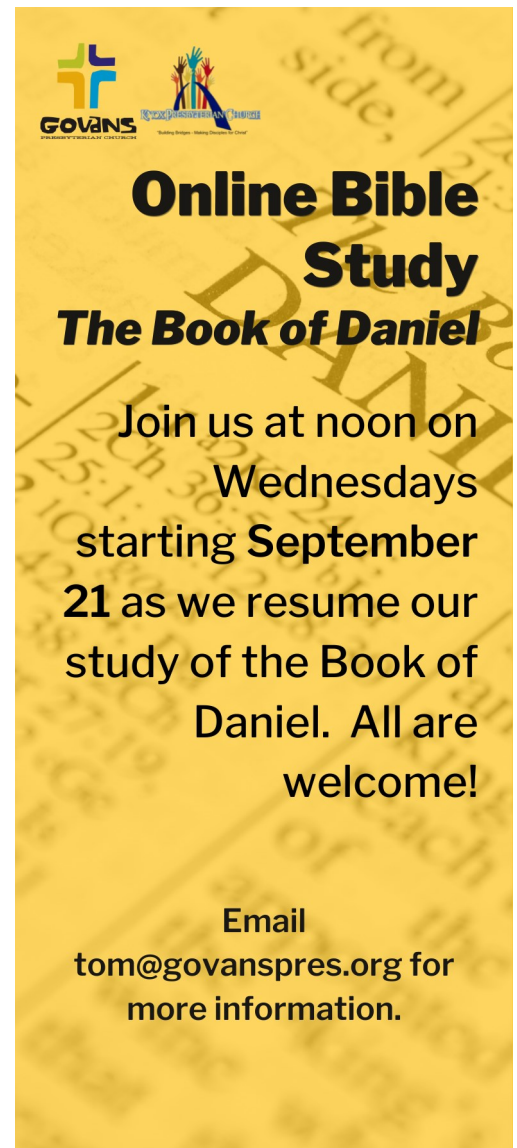


## MEDIATED MISOGYNOIR: *The Erasure of Black Women's and Girls' Innocence the Public Imagination* with Dr. Kalima Young

Saturday, September 24  
2:00 p.m. Live on Zoom

Contact Lea Gilmore ([lea@govanspres.org](mailto:lea@govanspres.org)) for more information and the Zoom link.



**GOVANS**  Racial Justice Ministry Speaker Series  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Online Bible Study *The Book of Daniel*

Join us at noon on Wednesdays starting September 21 as we resume our study of the Book of Daniel. All are welcome!

Email [tom@govanspres.org](mailto:tom@govanspres.org) for more information.

**GOVANS**    
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## RETURN OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD DRIVE!

Join us Wednesday, September 21 and/or Saturday, September 24 as we get the neighbors around our church involved in our ministry. All ages are welcome!

On Wednesday, the 21, we will meet in the Gallery at 6:00 p.m. You will be assigned a team and sent out with a stack of paper grocery bags. Each bag will have an invitation for our neighbors to fill it with non-perishable food for the CARES Food Pantry and leave it on their porch Saturday morning for us to pick up. This will involve walking about a mile in the neighborhoods around the church. This is a drop off activity only. No door knocking required!

If you aren't a big walker or even if you are, we also need people to arrive at 5:15pm to staple the instructions to each bag.

On Saturday, the 24 we will meet at 9:45am and collect the filled bags from our neighbors' porches. Walkers and drivers are needed on this day. Drivers will follow the walkers who will load the full bags in the cars for delivery to CARES. If you are able we welcome you to stay at CARES to unpack the bags and sort the non-perishables.

### NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD DRIVE to benefit CARES Food Pantry

GOVANS 

#### Bag Drop-Off

Wednesday, September 21  
6:00 p.m.

#### Bag Pick-Up

Saturday, September 24  
9:45 a.m.

Contact [wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org) for more info.

## Conversation Corps: Meet Robin Poponne

*Govans' Conversation Corps builds stronger ties among the congregation and within our neighborhood. Recently, Conversation Corps members have been interviewing new church members and staff to help us learn their stories, as well.*

Robin Poponne (she/her) joined the Govans band earlier this year as the Band Vocal Leader. Get to know more about her and her background below.

*Dancing, singing, and writing are my main passions (besides my four grandchildren). I began singing in school choirs and musicals. I received further vocal training in New York and Baltimore. In Washington, D.C., I was a member of Capital Voices, a jazz ensemble and in Baltimore, I performed with Ibe Iye, an acapella Women's shakere group. Later, I joined an American Sign Language performance group and mentored and performed with youth as part of the Urban Choral Arts Society. I twice had the privilege of performing as one of the "Rusty Singers" at the BSO under the direction of Marin Alsop. I am absolutely thrilled to be a member of this musical ensemble, known as "the Band", under the direction of Lea Gilmore. The singers and musicians are extremely talented and generous people who have warmly welcomed me into the Govans Presbyterian Church community.*



## PIECES OF OUR TRUTH...continued from cover page

The Turnbull family, headed by Henry C. and Anna Graeme, funded the earliest structures of Govans Presbyterian Church (Govans) over a period of sixty years, by two generations, from 1844 to 1906. If you look closely you can find the Turnbull name scattered throughout as memorials to family members: the large stained glassed window of Christ the Consoler; one of the narrow stained glass windows aligning the nave of the church;

a plaque in the entry vestibule; a baptismal font lying curiously in the cemetery; and a carved stone monument on the eastern exterior wall of the former Sunday school building, now the Govans Youth Room. With seeming providence, a bronze statue of Jesus by Grace Turnbull, granddaughter of Henry, recently joined the family, carried from Brown Woodbrook Memorial Church to the Govans peace garden.

In discovering the family's gifts, the question arose about how the Turnbulls accumulated their wealth, whether they owned enslaved people, and how they were complicit in racism. Henry's occupation was farming at his estate "Auburn", now Towson University and St. Joseph's Hospital. The mansion is still in use by the University. The value of his estate was \$20,000 (\$760,000 in today's dollars) and included two female slaves aged fifteen and seventeen.

It seems unlikely that two teenage girls worked the entirety of the farm and so, if not slaves, who provided the labor? Baltimore County during the 19th century antebellum had an increasingly diversified



Photo by M. Brosius, 2022

workforce of free and enslaved labor growing a variety of crops. It was also common practice to hire slaves from other owners, on a seasonal basis.

One must ask, how did the Turnbulls reconcile the act of building a church with the ownership of two young women?! This dichotomy was the basis of a national debate at the time where church leaders used the Bible either as

a moral authority against slavery or as a defense for the practice. The Presbyterian Church would split in part over this issue at the onset of the Civil War and true to its character as a border state, Maryland had Presbyterian churches on both sides of the divide.

If we want to examine the truth of the Turnbull's complicity in racism and slavery, as well as ourselves

and the society at large, the reflection cannot stop with the direct ownership of slaves. In Maryland, by the time of the Revolutionary War, the commodities produced through enslaved labor in tobacco plantations, iron furnaces, brick yards, lime kilns, wheat farming, ship caulking, and other industries and commerce formed the foundation of Maryland's economy.

Throughout the antebellum period, the slave economy continued, and all people participated --benefiting from it or supporting it-- directly or indirectly. The Turnbulls were apparently on the receiving end--as Govans is now as their beneficiary.

In addition to the local commodities produced by slave labor, southern cotton was a major factor in America's economic growth, representing over half of the export



Figure 1c. 1906, Govans archives

...continued on next page

## PIECES OF OUR TRUTH...continued from previous page

revenues of the United States which supplied sixty percent of the world's supply. Maryland benefited by providing the industries that served the southern economy such as textile factories, wheat and flour production, banking, insurance, and cotton brokers. Add to that the horrific slave trade surrounding the harbor—where an estimated 30,000 slaves were “sold south” only six miles south of Govans—a mere one hour's carriage ride— and it is not hard to see that slavery paid the way for a sizable portion of America's economic growth. Which brings our story to the banking and insurance industries— a substantial part of the Turnbull family fortune.

Unlike many of the elite class, Henry Turnbull did not inherit much from his family of origin. His father William (1751-1822) was a Scottish immigrant who after being a successful entrepreneur for a substantial part of his life, lost his fortune and so moved his wife and eleven children to a home owned by his brother-in-law in Cockeysville Maryland. When William's son, Henry C. Turnbull grew to adulthood his ambition was the ministry; he enrolled in Princeton Seminary, but was unable to finish due to poor health.

As the story goes, however, Henry's future benefitted significantly by his marriage to Anna Graeme Smith. Anna's father, Sam Ferguson Smith, was a prominent Philadelphia businessman who made a considerable fortune in the banking and insurance industry and Anna and Henry benefitted substantially. As benefactors of the Turnbells, Govans also benefitted. Again the question arose: were racist practices involved in the accumulation of Smith's fortune?

The banking industry of the United States was born and grew in Philadelphia with the first commercial bank established in 1782. Sam F. Smith was prominent in that industry for about fifty years. Among other positions of power, he was director of the Philadelphia National Bank for ten years, retiring

in 1852. In 2005 Wachovia apologized for their predecessor, Philadelphia National Bank, who, as they testified: “profited ... indirectly from slavery” because they were run by, or invested in, people who made money from slavery .....[including] holding “U.S. government bonds during years when the United States permitted and profited from slave labor directly through taxation,”

Around the turn of the 21st century, it was discovered that in the 19th century insurance companies, in doing business with slave owners engaged in the morally

abhorrent practice of selling life insurance for their enslaved. In response to this discovery, the states of California, Illinois, Maryland and Iowa adopted legislation requiring insurance companies to uncover and report any of these historic practices to their legislatures. As a result, various examples of this practice have come to light. Baltimore Life was the first insurance company to insure a slave on behalf of its owner. More research is necessary to make a direct connection of the practice of insuring slaves to Smith and the insurance company he directed, the Pennsylvania Company, established in 1812 as a

pioneer of the industry. It appears that the greatest share of that market was held by Companies in Baltimore and the south.

### A Baltimore Family During the Civil War

Henry and Anna Turnbull were by most accounts upstanding, and generous Baltimoreans, raising nine children. Henry was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church before dedicating himself to helping establish Govane Chapel where he also was the first elder and supported the church for many years until at least the end of the Civil War. Like many Baltimoreans, especially those of means, Henry and Anna were southern sympathizers. Their first-born son, Samuel Graeme was a confederate soldier who died at the age of twenty-four from diphtheria. And now, four times per hour a bell rings in our tower to the memory of a confederate soldier!



*M. Percy Graeme Turnbull memorial bell. Digital Maryland, J. Schuller and D. Kobi*



## Pastoral Ponderings...continued from cover page

That's why church is so important to the practice of our faith. At church we get to practice loving our neighbor with other people who are intentionally practicing loving us back! We get to practice loving our neighbor with people who are also trying to love God by loving us.

As we enter the fall program year at church, I encourage you to seek out relationships, old and new. Get involved in a music team, or a committee, or a Bible study, or a service project. We can get to know people just by working alongside them in this way and we then have the opportunity to go deeper. Learn about their families, their vocation, their joys and concerns. I hope in the coming year, you will make church a priority in your life so that you can practice loving God by practicing loving others, with people who are practicing loving you right back.

Peace, Tom



## ChurchWorks

### News from the Session

The Session met for our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday night and we want to share some highlights of the meeting.

On September 11th we will be celebrating Back to School Sunday. Between the service we will have a Sunday School Open House, Adult Options Open House, Ministry Fair, and Ice Cream Social. During the worship services which will be at 9am and 11am we will have a Blessing of the Backpacks. This will be the first Sunday back to our two service Sunday schedule with combined services happening on the first Sunday of each month.

During the fall of this year the Session will be distributing a congregational survey and planning a town hall style meeting to help us evaluate the two service Sunday schedule and help the congregation discern if we want to continue that model or try something else. When the survey is ready it will be widely distributed and we will make every effort to get participation from every member.

We are continuing to work on transitioning to our more formal committee structure including rotating committee memberships. We hope this will allow for the greatest level of participation in the work of the church by the most people. If you are not currently serving on a committee or would just like to get more involved please speak with Pastor Tom, Pastor Billy, or any member of the Session.

We are also looking ahead to a full schedule of great programming in the fall including the return of Music Mondays, the Racial Justice Speaker Series, a joint service with Knox Presbyterian, mid-week Bible study, small groups, the Neighborhood Food Drive, youth group and young family activities, and much more. Please use these opportunities to get involved in the life of the church and get to know some new people in our wonderful congregation.



## SEPTEMBER MISSION OFFERING:

# KAY PAPA NOU AND UNITY HOUSE

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.

Our work in Haiti began in 2007 when a small group from Govans went to visit missions and ministries in Port-au-Prince to learn more about what we could do in this poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Through our contacts we met Dani and David. At that time, they and the children were facing eviction, so our group came back to Govans, presented the need and the church immediately paid the rent for a year. We have continued to support them ever since.

As you may now, this year a steady increase in gangs, crime and kidnappings in Haiti has changed daily life. David and Dani and the children have fled north to Williamson-Arcahaie for their safety. Our support for the daily needs and education of the children continues.

For many in Haiti, graduating from high school is a dream that is out of reach. Only one in three Haitians graduates from high school, and the literacy rate is only about 60 percent. Support from Govans and Roland Park makes dreams come true.



Dessalines Shama



Jean Markes



Jean Landa



Jean Widelin



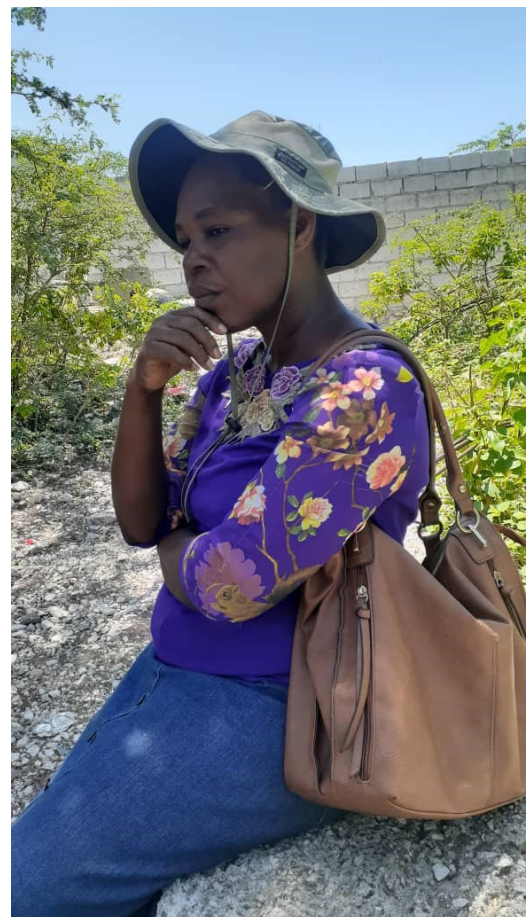
Vellard Fedia



Fenestor Phoebe



Jean Rolanda



**\*\*\*All donations marked Mission Offering during the Month of September will support the work of Kay Papa Nou and Unity House in Haiti.\*\*\***



## WOODBERRY CROSSING CAMP PHOTOS

Thank you to the staff at Woodberry Crossing , Pastor Billy, Drue Hodgetts and all the children and volunteers for their participation. It was a great week of camp.





## Pieces of Our Truth...continued

### After the War

Three years after she lost her first born, Samuel, to the war, Anna died at the age of fifty-five. After the war, the Southern Presbyterian Church expanded into the border states and the Mt. Washington Southern Presbyterian Church formed in 1877 (predecessor to the now Valley Presbyterian). Henry joined the Mt. Washington church and became an elder.

Govans remained with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America which required a controversial declaration of loyalty to the Union at the onset of the war (the northern and southern churches merged again in 1983, creating the PCUSA). Henry's son, Lawrence financed the addition of the tower and transepts at Govans in 1906, in memory of his parents. These additions were designed by Lawrence's son and notable architect Bayard Turnbull (the early church designed by prominent Baltimore architect Robert Carey Long, Jr.). Ellen Turnbull, Henry and Anna's only daughter, financed the Sunday school building—now the youth room and part of the gallery—in memory of Anna Graeme.



M. Percy Turnbull. Photo from Find-a Grave.  
Contributed by LB Carlson.

### The Fourth Bell

Over the next decades and generations, the Turnbull offspring contributed significantly to the literary, musical, visual arts and architectural culture of Baltimore. The fourth bell commemorates M. Percy Graeme Turnbull, grandchild to Henry, son of Lawrence and Francese. Percy died unexpectedly at the age of nine years old. In his memory Percy's parents funded a lecture series in 1891 at the Johns Hopkins University that quickly gained national prominence. The poetry lectureship is still conducted annually and is free to the public.

The Turnbull story is complex, as is our legacy of racism. May we be grateful for the benefits we received at the expense of the human dignity of the enslaved, continually acknowledge our complicity in their misfortune, and work towards reconciliation.

*Each man's death diminishes me,  
For I am involved in mankind.  
Therefore, send not to know  
For whom the bell tolls,  
It tolls for thee.*

—Last five lines, "For Whom the Bell Tolls"  
by John Donne (1572 - 1631)



Contact Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org), Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement, to learn more and to become involved in Govans' Racial Justice Ministry.

 **GOVANS**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
5828 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
410-435-9188  
[www.govanspres.org](http://www.govanspres.org)

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



 **WORSHIP  
@GOVANS**

**Two Service Schedule Resumes on  
Sunday, September 11**

**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](http://www.govanspres.org)**