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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Rev. Tom Harris

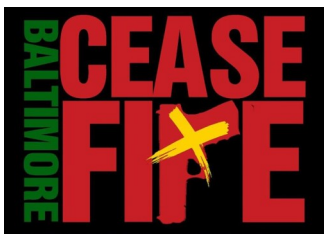
Dear Friends,

Have you seen the pumpkin spice stuff in the stores yet? I recently saw the first signs of it. Well more than a sign. It all kind of appears at Trader Joe's like a swarm of pumpkin spice wasps. It's so strange how pumpkin spice became a ubiquitous part of fall. It hasn't always been a thing. It's like capitalism stumbled upon a gold mine of human biology or psychology and is just mining it for all its worth. When the first leaf changes color or even the first leaf thinks it might be time to start changing color, people lose their minds over pumpkin spice. "Take my money! Give me those pumpkin spice Fruit Loops!"



Well this is not going to be a message shaming you for buying pumpkin spice toothpaste or anything like that. But, I do wonder if we can also pay attention to what else is triggered within us as the leaves start to change, as we wake up to the first cool morning and go looking

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GOVANS COMMUNITY CONCERT TO BENEFIT BALTIMORE CEASE FIRE

by Marie Herrington, Second Service Music Director

To support music in Baltimore, in our Govans community, and in support of Baltimore Cease Fire, we are coming together as a community on

November 4 at 7:00 p.m. for our very own Govans Community Concert!

We will be beginning a new concert series at Govans, which will bring in many local talented musicians from around Baltimore to share their gifts and tell us their stories through music. What is a community concert? Well, that is where we collaborate. This first concert will be a chance for any Govans members or friends to perform any music of their liking; so if you have a favorite band,

...continued on page 9

October Calendar

- 2- Online and In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 2 - Adult Options - Intro to Presbyterianism, 11:00 a.m.
- 2 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
- 5 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 5 - Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- 9 - Susan Gonzalez Memorial, 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary
- 9 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
- 10 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 14 - Govans Book Club, 10:00 a.m.
- 16 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School
- 16 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
- 17 - Facilities Committee, 6:00 p.m.
- 18 - - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 21 - Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School
- 23 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
- 25 - Preschool Chapel
- 25 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 29 - Trunk or Treat 3:30 p.m.
- 31 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School

November Calendar

- 2 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 3 - Racial Justice Book Club and Potluck, 7:00 p.m.
- 5 - Woodbrook Players Performance, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 - Combined Service with Knox, 10:00 a.m.
- 6 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- 6 - Woodbrook Players Performance, 2:00 p.m.
- 7 - Music Monday, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 - - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 11 - Woodbrook Players Performance, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 - Woodbrook Players Performance, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School
- 13 - Woodbrook Players Performance, 2:00 p.m.
- 13 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- 14 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 - Music Monday, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.
- 20 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School
- 20 - Soul Kitchen Thanksgiving Feast, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- 21 - Facilities Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 27 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Adult Options and Intergenerational Sunday School
- 27 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- 30 - Bible Study with Knox Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.

October and November Birthdays

October

- 1 - Circe Trevant
- 4 - Marc Ceanfaglione, Katherine Stanka
- 5 - Adam Allen, Charles Forbes
- 6 - Dani Herfel
- 10 - Ayden Allston
- 11 - Xavier Fuller
- 14 - Evelyn Koehler
- 15 - Karen Ceanfaglione, Rich Ketner
- 19 - Al Coleman
- 24 - Claire Wilson
- 26 - Thomas Moore
- 28 - Heather Bruce

November

- 2 - Maria Wong
- 6 - Joyce Kruse
- 10 - Calisssa Shaw
- 13 - John Smeallie
- 15 - Donna North
- 18 - James Hardin, Elsie Wong
- 23 - Carolyn Anewich
- 26 - Kit Clark
- 30 - Anneliese Gover, Jamie Hardin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LETTER FROM PASTOR BILLY

Hello, Govans,

I was overjoyed to see so many of you at our blessing of the backpacks and Sunday school open house last month! Parents, we are still looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday school this fall so please reach out to me if you are willing to be one of our co-teachers for one Sunday.

This month, we'll begin our next year of the Youth Servant Leader program. Youths from 8th to 12th grade are invited to a year of intentional leadership development through service in the church, community, and regular conversation about what it means to be a Christian leader. This year, we will also be pairing each of the Youth Servant Leaders with an adult in the congregation to learn and work together. If you would be willing to serve as a YSL mentor, please let me know.

The fall makes me think of Joy Harjo's poem "Perhaps the World Ends Here." Her poem focuses on the life of generations, all built around a table. She opens her poem with the memorable line: "The world begins at a kitchen table. No Matter what, we must eat to live." She then ends the poem with a similar refrain:

*This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.
We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.
At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.
Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.*

I hope that you might find yourself around similar tables this fall. I hope that one of those might be the communion table at Govans.

Peace,
Pastor Billy



Youth and Young Families Activities:

October

Pastor Billy on vacation until October 15

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

Youth Servant Leader Commissioning in both services - Sunday, October 30

November

Youth Servant Leader Council, November 6 at 3:00 pm

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) for more information and to sign-up

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

**Submissions for the
December newsletter are
due by November 15.**

**Please send to Andy
Wilson at
wilson@govanspres.org**

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

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

**Believe in
Baltimore**

Hosted by Govans Presbyterian Church



What's Going On At Govans?

Blessing of the Animals

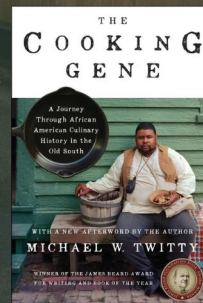
Sunday October 9, 2022

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Bring your pets, livestock, pictures of animals, stuffed animals, etc. to worship on Sunday for a blessing! All dogs need to be on leashes. Non-human animals do not need to wear masks.



THE COOKING GENE



Book Discussion and Potluck
November 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in the Gallery for a potluck and a discussion of Michael W. Twitty's *The Cooking Gene*. Bring a dish from the book to share. Books are available to purchase from the church office. Email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org) for more info.



GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Youth and Young Families

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 29

3:30 p.m. (in the church parking lot)

Go trick-or-treating in your favorite costume, play games, and vote in our best costume and trunk decoration contest. Email Pastor Billy (billy@govanspres.org) for more information. Everyone is welcome!

5828 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212
www.govanspres.org

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us Wednesday evening, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. for our Thanksgiving Eve service. Both music teams will have musical offerings and lead us in hymns of thanksgiving. It is a great time to center yourself and connect with your church family before any big plans start to unfold on Thanksgiving Day.

GIVING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29

Stay tuned to learn how you can give to support Govans!



GOVANS BOOK CLUB

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

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



GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Music Mondays



Community Gospel Choir

Monday, October 24
7:00 p.m.

In-Person - 5828 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21212

All are welcome, no experience necessary.

Contact Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org) for more information.

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 16

The Annual Pledge Drive will kick off on Sunday October 16th. The week before, you should receive a packet with a letter, information about the work of the church, and a pledge card. You are encouraged to turn in your pledge card as early as you like. You don't have to wait until Commitment Sunday, October 30th. Please begin prayerfully considering your support for the work of Govans in 2023!

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



HERITAGE SUNDAY

Join us November 20 in both services for Heritage Sunday! Of course we will have the bagpiper to remind us of the Scottish Heritage of Presbyterianism. We also invite everyone to bring a symbol of their heritage to display on our Heritage Celebration Offering Table. It can be an old family picture, an object, or any reminder of your family's heritage. Please write down a few sentences about your item to be displayed on the offering table. Everyone will take home their objects at the end of each service.

We would also love to revive our annual Heritage Sunday Potluck Brunch between the services. We just need someone to be the coordinator and point person on that day. Let Pastor Tom know if you would be willing to fill that role. Ben Hobbs has offered to help out in the planning but he cannot be in attendance on the 20th.

COMBINED SERVICE WITH KNOX PRESBYTERIAN

We will be hosting Knox Presbyterian in our sanctuary for a joint service on November 6 at 10:00 a.m. The service will include music from the music teams of both churches, communion, and an All Saints Day Observance. Please mark your calendars and make a special effort to attend for worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters from Knox!



PASTORAL PONDERINGS...continued from cover page

for a jacket, as the sun gets up later and goes to bed earlier. What is God calling you to do at this change of the season? Are you being called to rest? Are you being called to reach out to a loved one? Mend a relationship? Pick up a devotional book and plunge deeper into the depths of your soul? Or maybe you are being called to get moving! The cool air gives you energy and the woods are calling. Regardless of what you might be called to do or not do, take time to listen for that call. In some ways, God and nature will be in our face with these signs of change and transition more than any pumpkin spiced marketer ever could. In other ways, these deeper callings are much more subtle; easier to ignore; impossible to buy. So as you sit and enjoy your pumpkin spice chicken nuggets with a tall glass of pumpkin spice coke, take a moment to listen for what God is calling you to do or stop doing during this sacred season of change.

Peace,
Tom



The Session met for our monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 20 and we wanted to share some highlights from that meeting with you.

Our first item of business was a discussion about security on the church campus. We reviewed a new document published by the Department of Homeland Security, "Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship." Although these attacks are very rare they can be devastating. As a result of this discussion we decided to gather a small team to evaluate campus security. The team will study the issue and recommend to the Session steps we can take to make our church more secure. Please speak with me, Leslie Grant, or the Pastors if you are interested in helping with this work.

The Facilities Committee with support from the Racial Justice Committee recommended a policy to guide our anti-racist efforts in regard to hiring the contractors who provide services to the church. We approved the policy to be used whenever we are hiring contractors.

We reviewed some initial design concepts from the architect designing the preschool curtain wall and playground renovation. The architect will use input from the Curtain Wall Project Team and the Session to refine the scope of the project and come back to us with more specific design proposals.

From the Govans Urban Farm Visioning Team we received an update on their progress. Their vision is to create *a community farm designed to bring the diverse people of the Govans neighborhood together around the common goal of growing organic, sustainable, healthy food. The farm would be located on the empty lot in front of the sanctuary along York Road. The team is exploring models for such a farm including a possible community supported agriculture model. They are planning a neighborhood survey and outreach project to seek community input and identify potential community leaders. They asked the Session to share questions and concerns about the project so they can take these into account as they continue their planning. The Session continues to support the concept and raised critical questions about:*

- the aesthetics of the project in such a highly visible location,
- the need for board based community input and participation in the planning,
- funding for the project both short term and funding that is long term and sustainable.

If you have questions or would like to know how you can help please speak with any member of the vision team. They are Jody Morris, Peter Conrad, and Deb Smith.

If you have any questions about the work the Session is doing or would like to get more involved in the work of the church, please Pastor Tom, Pastor Billy, or any member of Session.

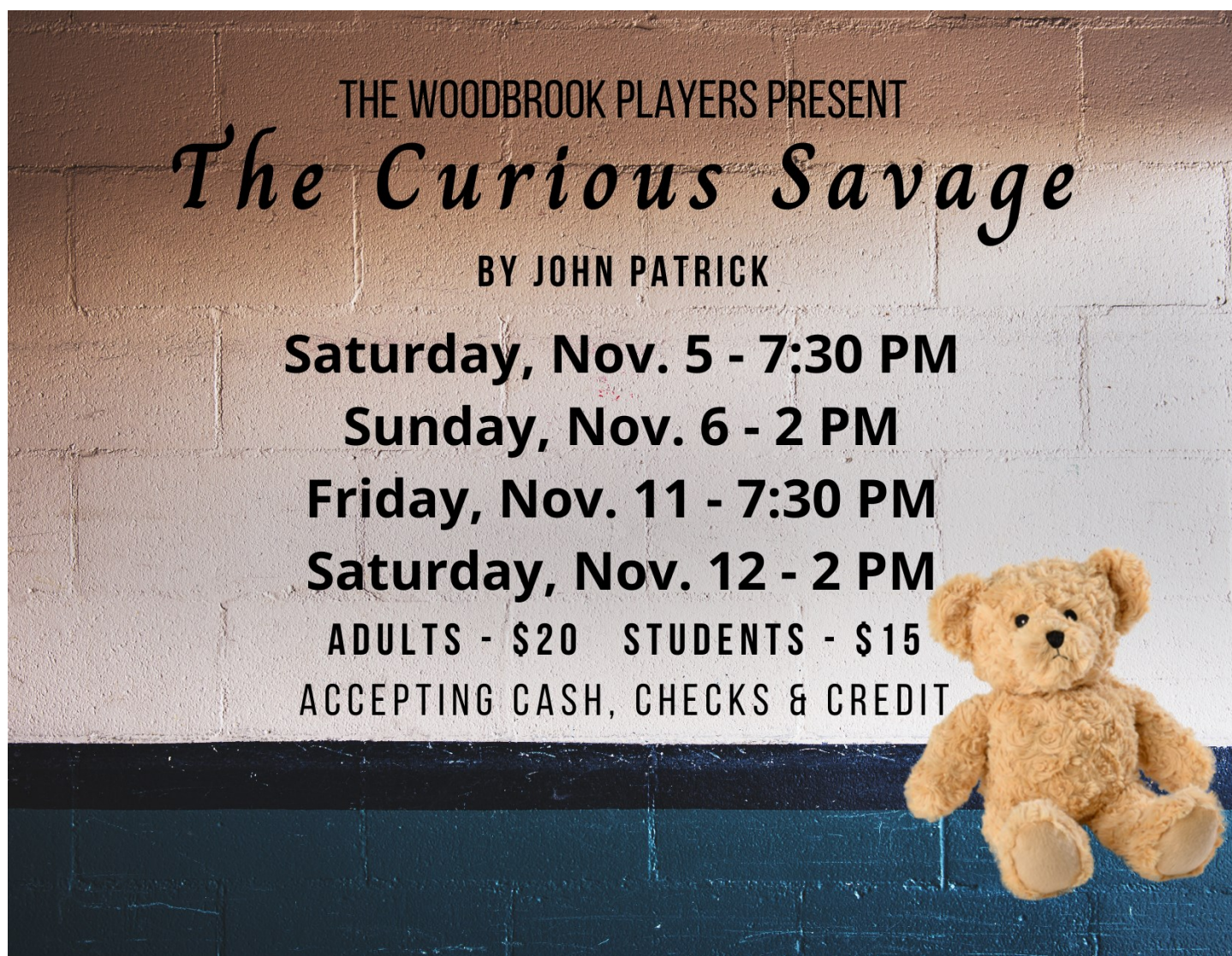
Woodbrook Players Fall Show!

The Woodbrook Players present *The Curious Savage* by John Patrick.

In this high comedy by John Patrick, Mrs. Savage wants to make the most charitable use of a fortune left to her by her husband in spite of her adult stepchildren's attempts to get their hands on the money. A band of unlikely friends assist her in her goal, proving that kindness and affection are not entirely lost in a world often ruled by greed and dishonesty.

Tickets \$20; students 19 and under \$15.

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



THE WOODBROOK PLAYERS PRESENT

The Curious Savage

BY JOHN PATRICK

Saturday, Nov. 5 - 7:30 PM

Sunday, Nov. 6 - 2 PM

Friday, Nov. 11 - 7:30 PM

Saturday, Nov. 12 - 2 PM

ADULTS - \$20 STUDENTS - \$15

ACCEPTING CASH, CHECKS & CREDIT

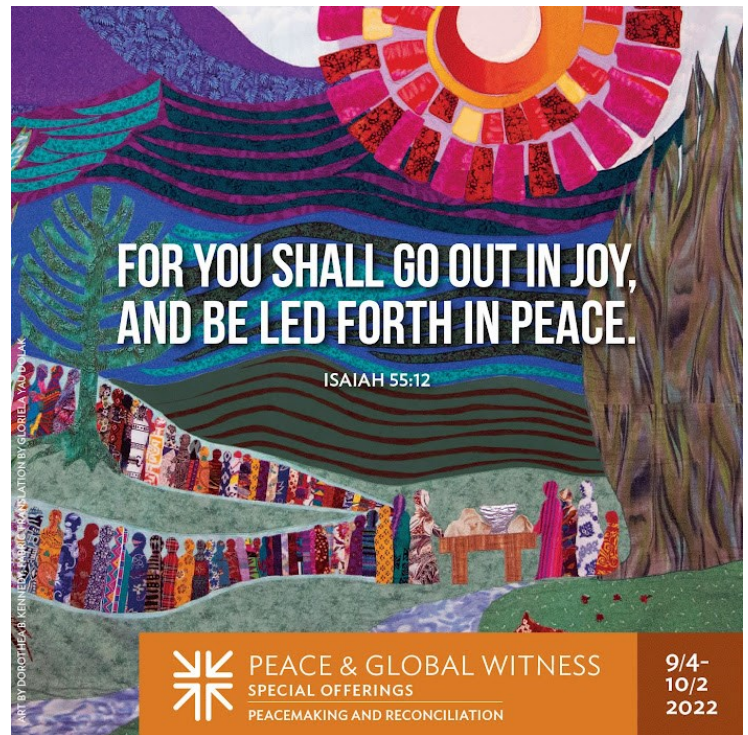
OCTOBER MISSION OFFERING:

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

Twenty-five percent of this Offering stays with local congregations, and 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. Fifty percent of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

***All donations during the month of October marked "Mission Offering" will support the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering. Thank you for your support. ***



NOVEMBER MISSION OFFERING:

TURNAROUND

TurnAround opened its doors in 1978 to serve survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence in Baltimore County. After seeing a gap in services for individuals abused through sexual violence in Baltimore City, the agency expanded in 1995 to provide counseling and support services to survivors there. They provide their clients with trauma therapy, legal advocacy, abuser intervention, other assistance. TurnAround is the rape crisis center for Baltimore City and County and also provides 24/7 crisis helpline and text line. Learn more at www.turnaroundinc.org.

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





BELIEVE IN BALTIMORE PODCAST

WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG/PODCASTS

Maura Elwood joins pastors Tom and Billy to discuss Govans Community Fridge, a new project to help hungry neighbors in our community. Maura Elwood serves as Director of Community Engagement for Baltimore Councilman Mark Conway, District 4. You can learn more about the fridge at: <https://linktr.ee/govansfridge>



Pastors Tom and Billy with Maura Elwood

And special thanks to Marie McSweeney Anderson, Megan Kaiser, Ava Haag, Ana Andrade, Kyra McDonnell, Skylar Cho, The York Road Initiative, Parkhurst Dining, FED, Loyola Theatre Department, and Loyola Campus Police for their support in getting this project designed, started, and continuing.

Believe in Baltimore is a podcast conversation with community leaders and change-makers in Baltimore, Maryland, hosted by Govans Presbyterian Church.

GOVANS COMMUNITY CONCERT...CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

favorite R&B star, favorite composer, etc. and you'd like to perform their music in a supportive space, this is your chance! If you'd like to be a part of this concert, feel free to sign up by sending me an email at marie@govanspres.org.

I will hold rehearsals to allow you all to feel happy with your selections, and work with me on anything you'd like to. Since this concert is the start of a series of future concerts which will bring in musicians from our local community, we are bringing in one local musician who will take part in future concerts to kick off our music making together. For now they will remain a surprise, but I will tell you that they are a Peabody Conservatory graduate and classically trained musician with a resume of performances all over the country (and the world)!

All of our concerts will be donation-based concerts, meaning we will not be charging for tickets for the sake of opening them up to as many members of the community as we can. That means that for this concert, your donations will go towards ensuring that we can have more concerts together in the future, as well as going to Baltimore Cease Fire.

To learn more about Baltimore Cease Fire, you can go to their website: www.altimoreceasefire.com

Let's let 2022 be a year of community, love through music, and peace, by taking part in the Govans Community Concert together!

**GOVANS COMMUNITY
CONCERT**
a Baltimore Ceasefire Event
Friday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.
5828 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
www.govanspres.org
Contact Marie Herrington (marie@govanspres.org) for more
information and the Zoom link.

**BALTIMORE
CEASE
FIRE**

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PHOTOS FROM BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY



CLEAN WATER PROJECT FOR BUTOKE IN DR CONGO

Dear Friends of Butoke Supporters,

In the rural Kasai area of DR Congo where Butoke operates, only a small number of people have access to safe, clean water. We want to provide you and other long-time supporters with more details about the start of a campaign to raise funds to help Butoke and villagers - **Build Congo Springs**. This is a project to develop protected, clean water sources to improve health outcomes in 15 Kasai villages.



This past spring, Dr. Jean of Butoke realized more ought to be done to ensure rural villagers have greater access to clean water. Two things had happened at that time:

- Urgent repairs were needed at a major Tshikaji spring, the source of clean water for thousands of villagers, including Butoke nutrition and orphan care centers.
- Chiefs in other villages asked Butoke to assess their unprotected village spring's condition, to see if it meets qualifications for development of a new, protected clean water spring.

Soon after, Butoke assessed all major springs in the area: a) protected springs built some 10 or so years ago; and b) other unprotected village springs, each a potential candidate for new development. The results: seven springs need rehabilitation; eight others meet criteria for development. Dr. Jean provided us with full results of the assessments, including details for each village spring source. He also asked for financial assistance for the Tshikaji repair and for the overall springs project. We are grateful that a donor stepped forward to fund stop-gap repairs at Tshikaji.



Fresh, clean water from a rehabbed spring.

Yet additional funding is needed to support the entire project. We reviewed the project information, asked questions, consulted many other sources, and made a thorough Analysis and Report for the Board's consideration. Our conclusion is that we strongly support the Build Congo Springs project.

At the same time, we must still do everything we can to ensure we meet basic funding needs for Butoke's ongoing operations. Accordingly, we plan to raise funds for the springs project separate from support for Butoke's ongoing operations.

The Build Congo Springs fundraising campaign has a target of \$56,000. This far exceeds anything we have undertaken in the past. Candidly, this presents many challenges for us, a small non-profit with an all-volunteer Board, no staff, and with a dedicated and faithful core group of supporters. We also plan to reach out across the country to other individuals and organizations that support clean water projects and other Congo initiatives, and ask them to help in raising the funds that are needed.

Please read the campaign Appeal Letter in the online at www.friendsofbutoke.org/projects. We also encourage you to reach out to friends and others so they can add their support to yours – a sort of mini-personal fundraising campaign, so-to-speak, where you can help others learn of the good work that Butoke does. For more information about health conditions, clean water and many of the other details behind the project, please look at the separate Build Congo Springs Analysis and Report. on our website.


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 COMMUNITY CONCERT

a Baltimore Ceasefire Event

Friday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.

5828 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
www.govanspres.org

Contact Marie Herrington (marie@govanspres.org) for more
information and the Zoom link.




PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH