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GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY

by Lea Gilmore, Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement

Black History Month was created by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Realizing the need to focus the attention of the public on the vast contributions of its African American citizens, in 1926, Dr. Woodson organized "Negro History Week" which was expanded with the help of other prominent African Americans, into "Negro History month." Woodson chose the month of February, because both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born during the month. Since 1976, every U.S.



president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history."

It is important to recognize Black History is American history and should not be confined to 28/29 days of the year. There is so much to be learned (and unlearned).

...continued on page five

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I love watching the ball drop in Time's Square every New Year's Eve. Even though it really is just another day on a calendar awkwardly imposed upon us, there is still something about seeing the year tick up by one and wondering what the next 365 days have in store. It can feel like a fresh start.



Though, sometimes people take the idea of this fresh start too far. Country singer Brad Paisley has said, "Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one." It's a nice sentiment but really it's not true.

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January Calendar

9 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
9 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
13 - Men's Night at Full Tilt Brewing, 6:00 p.m.
15 - MLK Sunday - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
15 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.
16 - Facilities Committee, 6:00 p.m.
17 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
22 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
22 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.
27 - Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
29 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
29 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.

February Calendar

5 - Worship and Congregational Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
5 - Church Potluck, 11:00 a.m.
5 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.
12 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
12 - Youth Servant Leader Council, 11:15 a.m.
12 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.
19 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
19 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.
21 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
22 - Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.
24 - Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
26 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
26 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.
28 - RJM Book Discussion, - Cousins , 7:00 p.m.



January Birthdays

1 - Chris D'Arezzo
2 - Dona Parks
5 - Bob Wong
6 - Wayne White
7 - Elizabeth Ceanfaglione, Jane Wilson
12 - Lisa Beacham, Anne Owens
15 - Audrey Wilson
19 - Ruth Williams
21 - Jackie Williams
22 - Kit Clark
24 - Evan Bush
25 - Arianna Shaw
28 - Liz Baer
31 - Courtney Gover, Julie McDill

February Birthdays

3 - Chris Hoffman
4 - David Sandles
5 - Felecia Traynham
9 - Patricia Short
10 - Chad Koehler, Barb Taber
15 - John Laube
18 - Jody Morris, Bonnie Thomson
19 - Andrea Cox
21 - Mimi Cooper
22 - Doug Gaede
23 - Wendy Smith
27 - Loren Wester

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO PAM WALLACE

January marks the retirement of Govans' longtime Office Administrator and Bookkeeper, Pam Wallace. Thank you to Pam for her 14 years of dedicated service to the work of Govans. She will be missed and we wish her all the best as she begins her retirement.



Drawing of Govans done by
Pam for the church cookbook



Youth and Young Families Activities:

- Sunday, January 15 - Youth Servant Leader Council - 11:15 am to noon in youth room
- Sunday, January 22 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am in youth room
- Friday, January 27 - Youth Group - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- Saturday, January 29 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am in youth room
- Sunday, February 12 - Youth Servant Leader Council - 11:15 am to noon in youth room
- Sunday, February 19 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am in youth room
- Friday, February 24 - Youth group - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- Sunday, February 26 - Intergenerational Sunday School at 10:10 am in youth room

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



GOVANS 
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Youth and
Young Families

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

Rufus Ingram, 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
March/April 2023
newsletter are due by
February 15. Please send
to Andy Wilson at
wilson@govanspres.org**

CARES Food Pantry: Please
consider donating non-perishable
food to CARES, the food pantry
operated by GEDCO. You can
bring your donations to worship
or to the church office during the
week. You can also drop off at
5502 York Rd at the back of St.
Mary of the Assumption Church
between 9:00 a.m. and noon,
Mon - Fri and 10:00 a.m. - 1:00
p.m. Saturday. Email
wilson@govanspres.org if you
have any questions.



What's Going On at Govans?

GOVANS MEN'S NIGHT

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Friday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Full Tilt Brewing
5604 York Rd. Baltimore, MD 21212
www.fulltiltbrewing.com

RSVP to wilson@govanspres.org

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for music, liturgy, and prayer
and the ancient ritual Imposition of
Ashes.

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTER POTLUCK

Sunday, February 5
following the 10:00 a.m. service and
Congregational Meeting.

Bring a dish to share.

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MUSIC MONDAYS

Every Monday

Details in the weekly email newsletter
Subscribe at www.govanspres.org/connect

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Music
Mondays



WORSHIP @GOVANS

Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
*10:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of
the month

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

GOVANS BOOK CLUB

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

"I highly recommend this amazing story of racial reconciliation."
—Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize Winner

COUSINS



Connected through slavery,
a Black woman and a White woman
discover their past—and each other

Betty Kilby Baldwin & Phoebe Kilby

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Racial Justice Ministry
Book Discussion

COUSINS:

Connected through
slavery, a Black woman and a White
woman discover their
past—and each other.

Tuesday,
February 28 at
7:00 p.m.

Join us on Zoom for a discussion
with the authors.

Books are available for \$15 from the church
office (wilson@govanspres.org). Email Lea
Gillmore (lea@govanspres.org) for Zoom link.

Black History Month...continued from cover page

Usually, when students learn about Black history in class, their lessons are limited to slavery or the civil rights era. Don't get me wrong: these are integral parts of our story, and it's encouraging to read stories that show our strength, perseverance, and ability to overcome so many adversities. I am proud to come from a culture filled with people who were bold and brave enough to fight for our freedom and rights. But in the same breath, I can't help but feel disappointed that our students are not learning about the vastness of our greatness. After all, we are much more than just an oppressed culture. (Sachel Harris, 2021)



Carter G. Woodson was a scholar whose dedication to celebrating the historic contributions of Black people led to the establishment of Black History Month, marked every February since 1976. Woodson fervently believed that Black people should be proud of their heritage and all Americans should understand the largely overlooked achievements of Black Americans. (www.naacp.org)

As we continue to fight the forces that want to sanitize and edit the aggregate of African Americans' experiences and contributions, we embrace the continued relevance of Black History Month and the absolute necessity that this history be taught and celebrated throughout the year.

To learn more about Govans' Racial Justice Ministry, contact Lea Gilmore at (lea@govanspres.org).



Racial Justice
Ministry

Pastoral Ponderings...continued from cover page

The 365-page book of the coming year is not blank at all. For one thing it is filled with commitments we have already made. Commitments to family and friends. Commitments to employers. Commitments to God. Sure those commitments can be (or may need to be) broken, but until they are, the year is not blank. The year is also filled with things we can't see or predict and which are out of our control: illnesses, deaths, loss of income, world events. It's as if we have that 365-page book but we can only open it one page at a time. We can guess what things are already going to be on the page when we turn it and other things will be a total surprise.

But, the spirit of Brad Paisley's words are true. We do have choices. We have blank spaces we get to fill in. We can fill those blank spaces with gratitude and beauty, peace and joy, faith and hope. Perhaps these are the colors we paint upon the pages and we can choose those colors even in the hardest times. Also, we can choose to end some commitments that are not life giving, or mend some commitments to bring new life to them, or make new commitments as we follow the Spirit's promptings in our life.

Perhaps the best part of this book metaphor is that we don't have to wait for any certain day on an arbitrary calendar to make new choices. Every morning we turn a new page in the book of our lives and every day we make choices about how to fill in the blank spaces. What colors will we paint around the commitments we made in pages past? What good choices will we make each day that will have a positive effect on every future page waiting to be turned? Every day starts a new year. Every morning is a new page. It's not blank, but we do get to participate in how the rest of the story will unfold.

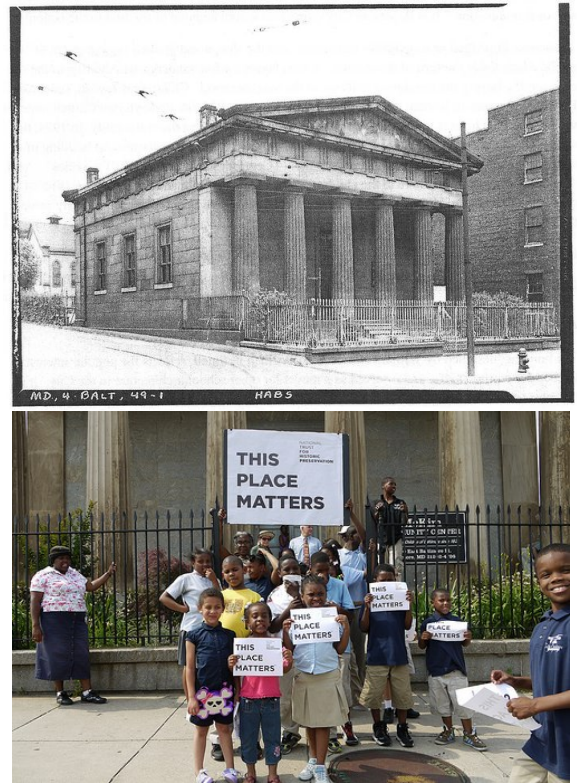
Peace,
Tom

JANUARY MISSION OFFERING: THE MCKIM CENTER

Established in 1821, the McKim Center of the McKim Community Association, Inc. is one of the oldest continuously active community centers in the United States. The McKim Community Association, Inc. is also one of the oldest 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the United States. For over two hundred years, McKim's "Free School" has enriched the lives of thousands of youth and families with athletics, academics, and neighborhood safety. Rather than offering daycare or after-care, McKim's "Free School" continues to teach neighborhood safety, peace, and wellness through physical education, science, the arts, and civic studies in its out-of-school time program. We approach community education and community healing in a holistic manner: we meet the physical, mental, and ethical needs of community members broadly and deeply. Coach Garfield Thompson now serves as the McKim Center's Executive Director. Coach Thompson succeeds Coach Dwight Warren who led McKim for over fifty years.

McKim's community services uphold its pillars of structure, discipline, love, and respect.

*****All donations during the month of January marked "Mission Offering" will support the McKim Center. Thank you for your support. *****



FEBRUARY MISSION OFFERING: CARES

Govans Presbyterian Church was one of the leading churches that started GEDCO and the CARES program to meet the needs of our neighbors. CARES was opened in 1993 by a group of devoted volunteers primarily from churches in the Govans neighborhood of north Baltimore. Their vision was to create a centralized place where area churches could send persons in need and know they would be served more effectively and efficiently. We continue to support GEDCO and CARES through our offering and continued food donations.



GEDCO's CARES serves families and individuals in crisis by connecting our clients with resources that enable movement towards self-sufficiency. These resources include food and emergency financial assistance services.

CARES continues to be run by an extremely dedicated group of staff and volunteers. With the generous support and food donations made by GEDCO's network of over 55 Member Organizations, CARES responds to thousands of requests for food and financial assistance each year.

*****All donations during the month of February marked "Mission Offering" will support the GEDCO's CARES. Thank you for your support. *****

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 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."*

WINTER POTLUCK

Sunday, February 5
following the 10:00 a.m. service and
Congregational Meeting.

Bring a dish to share.

GOVANS 
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH