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## PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Rev. Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

When Billy Klutz started with us as a half-time Youth Director in January 2020 we had no idea what lay ahead. We were just hearing news of COVID-19, but did not know how much it would change our lives at home, work, and church. We also did not know George Floyd would be murdered by the Minneapolis police on May 25, sparking global protests supported in part by people looking for ways to get involved during the lockdown.

While many churches drew inward and went into survival mode, Govans stepped out on faith. By August 2020,

**JUST  
SUCH A  
TIME AS  
THIS...**

Billy was able to commit as a Half-Time Associate Pastor and we had already started envisioning the "Just Such a Time as This" Staffing Initiative. Billy brought a unique mix of social media and digital savvy along

*...continued on page five*

## APRIL MISSION OFFERING: CEDEPCA

By Jane Houck



CEDEPCA office in Guatemala City

During the month of April we will be focusing on The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America or CEDEPCA as our mission for the month. CEDEPCA started 35 years ago in Guatemala. The country was torn with the violence and conflict as a result of civil war (1960-1996). Racism and classism played a significant part in this violence. The Indigenous people were frequently victims in this chaos. Of the 200,000 people who died or "disappeared" during this period, 80% were indigenous people.

*...continued on page seven*



## March Calendar

2 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 p.m.  
5 - Worship and Congregational Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
5 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.  
8 - Small Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
9 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 p.m.  
10 - Men's Night Out at Market Bar, 6:00 p.m.  
12 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
12 - Worship Committee, 12:00 noon  
12 - Youth Servant Leader Council, 11:15 a.m.  
12 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.  
15 - Small Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
16 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 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 - Small Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
23 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 p.m.  
24 - Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.  
25 - Introduction to Presbyterianism, 10:00 a.m.

26 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
26 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 3:30 p.m.  
29 - Small Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
30 - Lenten Book Study, 7:00 p.m.

## April Calendar

2 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
2 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 3:30 p.m.  
5 - Small Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
6 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.  
9 - Worship, 6:45, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
9 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 3:30 p.m.  
15 - Donna O'Laughlen Memorial Service, 2:00 p.m.  
16 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
16 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 3:30 p.m.  
18 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
23 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
23 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 3:30 p.m.  
30 - Worship and Congregational Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
30 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 3:30 p.m.

## March Birthdays

4 - Lucia Clay-Robison  
5 - Phyllis Ross  
7 - Nathan Green  
9 - Shelly Clay-Robison  
10 - Chris Herfel  
12 - Dotty Sharp  
14 - Sasha Harris  
15 - Mary Jane Hardin  
16 - Jenny Hoffman  
17 - Terry Shaw  
20 - Mary-Beth White  
24 - Darbey Gover  
26 - Jon Morgan  
29 Ashley Short  
30 - Paulina Conrad

## April Birthdays

2 - Helen Finney  
2 - Anne Stone  
2 - Mark Wong  
3 - John DePrine  
5 - Zoe Green  
9 - Claire Storey  
13 - Peter Conrad  
17 - Quentin Morris  
20 - Kellen Herfel  
22 - Eric Johnson  
23 - Noah Bellamy  
30 - Bobbie Cook



## THANK YOU FROM PASTOR BILLY

Dear Govans family,

It has been a great joy to serve as your associate pastor these past three years. I write to you today to let you know that I have recently accepted a call to become the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Virginia. My final day at Govans will be Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

I am so proud to have served Govans as an associate pastor. You are a congregation that has found its calling and vision for what God would have you do in this moment. You are a church that is well grounded in its values and understanding of the Gospel. Accordingly, I know that you will continue to be a deep source of wellbeing for the community around you and those growing as disciples of Jesus in your midst.

Personally, I am grateful for your warm welcome to me as a young pastor. I appreciate the ways you have allowed me to grow in my professional ministry among you and the ways in which you have been a friend and a spiritual support for me, as well.

Although I will miss you all deeply, please know that I will continue to hold you in prayer and be cheering for you (even if from slightly farther away). I covet your prayers for me in this moment of personal and professional transition, as well.

Peace,  
Billy



Farewell blessing for Pastor Billy during worship on February 26, 2023



Youth and  
Young Families

## Church Staff

Rev. Tom Harris, 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**  
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*Submissions for the May/  
June 2023 newsletter are  
due by April 15. Please send  
to Andy Wilson at  
[wilson@govanspres.org](mailto: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.

Email

[wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org) if  
you have any questions.



## Lent and Holy Week at Govans

**Sundays in Lent:** Each Sunday in the Season of Lent we will have a ***"More than Palms Creation Offering"***. As the crowds offered palms to Jesus on Palm Sunday, you are invited to bring anything from God's creation (a leaf, a flower, a twig, etc - pictures are also welcome) and place it in a basket as you walk in the Sanctuary. As we begin worship, the basket will be brought forward. Following the first hymn a worship leader will lead a responsive liturgy, naming, and giving thanks for each offering. Also, during Lent we will be learning two new sung responses in place of the Gloria Patri and Doxology.

**First Service Music Sunday & Second Service Poem Sunday - March 26 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.:** This year the band will be presenting their own Music Sunday performance during the First Service on March 26. The performance will take the place of the sermon. The title is ***"Here I Am To Worship"***. We will celebrate the Resurrection of Christ with gospel, folk and beloved hymns.

**Palm Sunday, Combined Service - Communion and Choral Music Sunday - April 2 at 10:00 a.m.:** Join us for this very special first Sunday combined service. We will do a procession of the Palms to begin the service. In place of the sermon the choir will be performing ***"Dark Night Of the Soul"***, by Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo, and two choral pieces by African American composer, B.E. Boykin (with one of them being a world premiere!). Then since it is the first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate Communion! Following the service Laila Ali will lead us in a Stations of the Cross meditation in Sharp Hall.

**Maundy Thursday - March 6 at 7:00 p.m.:** Join us in the Sanctuary for a Maundy Thursday Communion Service followed by a performance of a seat-grIPPING musical tale of the crucifixion composed by the French Impressionist composer, Olivier Messiaen. This big organ work will serve as accompaniment to members of our Biblical Storytelling Team who will perform a dramatic pantomime of the Last Supper and Garden of Gethsemane.

**Good Friday:** To be determined! We are exploring the possibility of visiting another church for Good Friday as a way to experience another tradition and promote ecumenical good will.

...See next page for Easter Sunday schedule

### FIRST SERVICE MUSIC SUNDAY

March 26 during the 9:00 a.m. service.

### POEM SUNDAY

March 26 during the 11:00 a.m. service

### SECOND SERVICE MUSIC SUNDAY

Palm Sunday, April 2 during the 11:00 a.m. service.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 6  
7:00 p.m.

### GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 7

\*TBD

## Lent and Holy Week...continued

Easter Sunday, April 9:

- **Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m.:** Join us in the Columbarium for an informal Easter Sunrise Service with music, prayer, scripture, and reflections.
- **Worship 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with an Easter Egg Hunt and Animals from Woodberry Crossing between the services:** Both services will sing Easter hymns and celebrate the resurrection of Christ with prayer, scripture, and proclamation. Between the services we will have animals from Woodberry Crossing and the famous Govans Easter Egg Hunt.



### Pastoral Ponderings...continued from cover page

with a passion for outreach and evangelism. Lea Gilmore had begun leading racial justice book studies with me as we grappled with our calling to respond to racism and white supremacy laid bare by the Floyd murder.

So in January 2021, Billy started as the full-time Associate Pastor for Member Engagement. Lea started as the Half-Time Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement. Now here we are approaching the Spring of 2023. Hopefully the pandemic is fading into the rearview mirror, but white supremacy remains an ever present menace in our local communities and nation. Billy's circumstances changed and a career opportunity came up that he could not pass up.

Now it is time to breathe and take stock. We know we want to continue the growth we have seen over the past year. We know we want to continue to advocate for racial justice within our church and in the world. We also continue to have big dreams about an urban farm on our property that could support both church growth and racial justice. And of course, everything we do centers around what happens on Sunday morning as we worship God together, and the relationships we nurture with each other. The questions then are:

- What staffing best supports these priorities?
- How can we be wise stewards of our resources?
- How much can we do with volunteers?
- How much do we stretch ourselves financially and keep stepping out of faith?

I don't have answers to these questions, but I know as a congregation we will be able to answer them together.

I do believe the best days for Govans lie ahead. How can we believe anything else with so many good people who want to see our congregation thrive? How can we believe anything else when we act together in love to answer God's call?

So here's to growth, faith, change, and as we approach this Easter season, here's to resurrection!

Peace,  
Pastor Tom

## MARCH MISSION OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

by Jane Houck



Millions of people lack access to food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. There are three programs supported by OGHS that serve people in need: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be our “Mission of the Month” in April. For over 70 years the Presbyterian Church has provided a way for us to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. OGHS

presently has 80 grants in 23 countries helping in the areas described above.

Guatemala is presently receiving four grants through the OGHS, Self Development of People program.

CEDEPCA our “Mission of the Month” for April oversees these four grants. There is a bakery program to help young people develop job skills, sponsored by a church in Guatemala City. They needed cooking equipment for large scale production of bread and pastries. The OGHS bought this for them. There is a program to teach job skills to developmentally disabled adults in the Atitlan. They learn how to make purses. They needed equipment to cut and sew leather. OGHS bought their machinery. And

there were two groups of women who were weaving in traditional Mayan styles and were sewing by hand. They needed sewing machines with traditional foot pedals so they could work at home. They do not have electric power at home. These machines have allowed them to watch their children while they work. ONCE again OGHS worked with CEDEPCA to help these women gain more resources for their families.

Truly, One Great Hour of Sharing has had a significant impact for the individuals and their families in Guatemala. Please consider a generous gift in our April, Lenten appeal.



*Participants in the bakery program in Guatemala City funded through the PC(USA)’s Self Development of People initiative and OGHS.*



## CEDEPCA...continued from cover page

Investigations after the “Armed Conflict”, revealed that the military were responsible for 93% of the violence. CEDEPCA was established as the conflict was winding down.

CEDEPCA is a non-profit organization whose mission is “To transform lives by offering education, accompaniment and safe reflection spaces to women and men of diverse Christian traditions.” The organization has a strong orientation to Bible study. There are 4 programs: Biblical and seminary studies, Women’s Ministry, Disaster Ministry and “Intercultural Encounters”.

The Biblical studies have two paths. One is seminary studies for women and men who want to serve as pastors. Women had little place outside the home in traditional Guatemalan culture. CEDEPCA from the beginning offered women, as well as men, seminary training. The second path in the area of Biblical study is for women. CEDEPCA offers weekend and evening courses to women of all levels of education. Most are on scholarship. Some were never permitted to go to school and are illiterate. The courses enable the women to grow in confidence and helps them develop skills. They develop the capacity to read and teach using the Bible and they help other women to develop self-confidence also. They share their stories of what has happened to them in terms of abuse and mistreatment and they join the community of strong Mayan women.

The Women’s Ministry focuses on helping women develop themselves. CEDEPCA offers the Tamar course which helps young women to gain self-respect and to be more confident in relationships with young men and the world. There is a “Jose” course for young men to teach them to respect women and to be gentle. The Women’s Ministry also provides microloans



*Photos from Jane Houck's recent visit to Guatemala*

to help women start their own businesses and to develop income sources.

The Disaster Ministry is active in areas of physical disaster: volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods, hurricanes and the many natural disasters which plague Guatemala. They send in boxes of food and medical supplies and also send psychotherapists to help with PTSD. They work to counter hunger with the “Seed” program. They learn to plant gardens in limited spaces and this helps them to have healthy food for the family and to sell vegetables in the street markets. Where food is needed, they provide boxes of basic foods.

Finally, there are “Intercultural Exchanges”. They invite people from North America and Europe to come to Guatemala for a few days to learn about what CEDEPCA is doing. The CEDEPCA staff teach and listen and they, too, grow in this exchange. These exchanges offer visitors enlightening experiences and often lead to fund-raising.

Please consider a generous donation in March and think about taking a trip with the CEDEPCA group next spring.

**CEDEPCA**  
**PO Box 920243**  
**Norcross, GA 30010**



## GET TO KNOW:

# DRUE AND FRANK HODGETTS

**WHY GOVANS?:** Both Frank and Drue were searching for a church that had a small, personable, diverse and LGBTQ inclusive congregation with a vital ministry to the marginalized and a place where Jesus would feel at home.

**WHERE DO YOU LIVE?:** We live in Timonium.

**WHAT DO YOU DO?:** Frank is the President of Homepartnership, Inc., a nonprofit housing organization working in the Upper Eastern Shore of Md. creating affordable housing for low and moderate income earners. Drue is a nurse with the Baltimore City Health Department in one of their School Based Health Clinics.

**INTERESTS/HOBBIES:** Frank enjoys birdwatching, reading and biking. Drue loves hiking, biking and creating visual art. We both do respite foster care with the ARC of Baltimore.

## WELCOME TO GOVANS, DRUE AND FRANK!



*Drue volunteers with the Govans Garden Group*



*Frank (right) helped out at the recent Neighborhood Food Drive.*



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



## GOVANS BOOK CLUB

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

Email Bobbie Cook for info.  
([cookbobbie347@gmail.com](mailto:cookbobbie347@gmail.com))





## SECOND SERVICE MUSIC NEWS

by Marie Herrington, Second Service Music Director

During the month of February you heard a variety of preludes/postludes/hymns all written by African American composers, and you might have read about these composers on the back of the bulletin underneath the postlude titles, too. Well, honoring marginalized artists who don't get enough recognition doesn't stop here: This March is women's month, and to honor women's month, we will be performing one prelude/postlude/hymn each week written by a woman composer.

We are kicking off the month with a world premiere of a new piece written for the chancel choir by myself and we are continuing on in the month showcasing some composers that you may or may not have heard before: everyone from famous Clara Schumann, to the lesser known living Italian composer, Carlotta Ferrari. If you don't get a chance to hear Marie's choral piece on March 5, you'll get to hear it again for our Maundy Thursday service.

Speaking of the Maundy Thursday service, you won't want to miss a seat-gripping musical tale of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ composed by French Impressionist composer of the early 20th century, **Olivier Messiaen**. This big organ work serves as accompaniment to the Woodbrook Players' captivating demonstration of the dramatic pantomime detailing Judas' betrayal of Jesus and the seizing of Jesus to be nailed to the cross.

Moving forward, this Lent and Easter season we are celebrating the eternal life of Christ through nothing better than the continuation of choral and classical music through living composers. The choral tradition itself can date back as early as the Delphic hymns in

2nd century BC, and is oftentimes viewed as an "outdated" tradition by modern standards. These living composers beg to differ!

Don't miss our big Lent to Easter cantata on April 2, where we will feature recent works by two living composers (yes, these works might be younger than your children), who are actively influencing the world of choral music around us. We will perform **Dark Night of the Soul** by Ola Gjeilo, and two pieces by up and coming African American composer and Atlanta GA native, **B.E. Boykin**. Here's a little on the great composers you'll hear from:



Ola Gjeilo

Ola Gjeilo is one of the most frequently performed composers in the choral world. An accomplished pianist, improvisations over his own published choral pieces have become a trademark of his collaborations across the world. Although Norwegian by birth, it is perhaps Ola's adopted country of America that has influenced the composer's distinctive soundworld the most, evolving a style that is both contemporary and familiar; thick harmonies and rich textures recall film score - music that forms a major part of the composer's inspiration.



Olivier Messiaen

Ola grew up in a musically eclectic home listening to classical, jazz, pop and folk, a broad background he later incorporated into his classical composition studies at The Juilliard School, and the Royal College of Music, London, and currently as a New York City-based full-time composer. He is especially inspired by the improvisational art of film composer Thomas Newman, jazz legends Keith Jarrett and Pat Metheny, glass artist Dale Chihuly and architect Frank Gehry. Ola's music is often described as cinematic and evocative, with a lush, harmonious sound.

# ChurchWorks

## News from the Session

The Govans Session met for our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 21 and we want to share with you some highlights of that meeting.

We had an in depth discussion about a request from a local Boy Scout Troop to charter with Govans. This is a topic we have been considering since December. There were very strong feelings on both sides. Some have very fond memories of scouting and saw this as an opportunity to engage the community and supported signing the charter. Others had serious concerns about the church being affiliated with the national Boy Scouts of America which has been through significant controversy and lawsuits in the past several years. The gender exclusive nature of the troop was also a major concern. Hosting this troop would mean that if a girl at Govans wanted to participate in the Govans scout troop we would have to tell her our troop was for boys only. In the end the motion to charter with this troop was defeated and we wish them well in finding an organization with which to charter.

In other business Ben Hobbs and Jen Parks were appointed to the two Session spots on the Elder Nominating Committee. Three spots will be filled by non-Session members next Sunday at our Annual Congregational Meeting.

As we say good-bye to Billy we will be discussing how to cover his duties in the near future and in the long run. We will discuss the long run more in depth at our March meeting but to help support Pastor Tom in the short run, we approved an increase in duties and compensation for Lea Gimore so that she will be preaching once a month until we can settle on our next course of action.

We approved the Annual Financial Report which the congregation will vote on next Sunday. We adjusted it to include: Billy's departure, the increased compensation for Lea, and \$10,000 in Interim Staffing which we will probably utilize in the Fall.

In other news, we continue to follow the progress of several initiatives including:

- The Govans Farm Vision
- The Preschool Curtain Wall renovation
- The Worship Schedule Survey
- The Church Security Review Team
- And a possible cooperative youth group with Roland Park and Faith Presbyterian

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Tom or any member of the Session.

### INTRODUCTION TO PRESBYTERIANISM AT GOVANS

Saturday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m.  
Contact Pastor Tom for details  
([tom@govanspres.org](mailto:tom@govanspres.org)).

**GOVANS**   
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## MARINERS NEWS

The Mariners decided to donate \$300 to the National Presbytery's efforts to help Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake. If you would like to add to this donation you can send the money to Govans Presbyterian Church and earmark it for the Mariner's Turkey/Syria effort. You might remember that we did this last year for the Ukraine effort and were very pleased with everyone's contributions.

In other news, Charles Corson has graciously invited all Mariners to dinner at his new home, Oak Crest (8820 Walther Blvd., 21234). We will be dining in one of their beautiful dining rooms on at 6:30 p.m. on March 18. He would love to have anyone who has been curious about our group to come and check us out. He does need a count of how many people will be coming so give him a call or email (410-252-5680 or charles.corson@verizon.net) to let him know. We are all looking forward to this special treat.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Kit Clark



## GOVANS MEN'S NIGHT

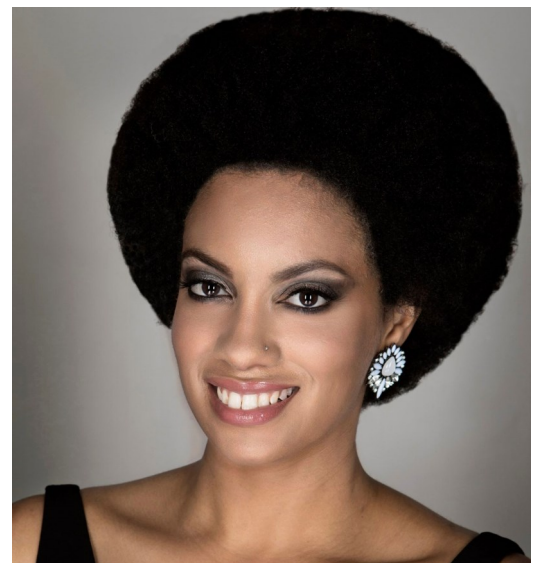
Friday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Market Bar at Beveledere Square  
(next to Grand Cru)

## SECOND SERVICE MUSIC NEWS...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

*B.E. (Brittney Elizabeth) Boykin is a native of Alexandria, Virginia and comes from a musical family. At the age of 7, she began piano lessons and continued her studies through high school under the tutelage of Mrs. Alma Sanford. Mrs. Sanford guided her through various competitions, such as the NAACP's ACT-SO competition where she garnered 1st place for 3 consecutive years in the local competition, as well as being awarded The Washington Post "Music and Dance Award" in the spring of 2007."*

*Boykin then pursued her classical piano studies at Spelman College under the leadership of Dr. Rachel Chung. After graduating Spelman College in 2011 with a B.A. in Music, Boykin continued her studies at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey. During her time at Westminster, she was awarded the R and R Young Composition Prize just a few months shy of graduating with her M.M. in Sacred Music with a concentration in choral studies in May, 2013.*



B. E. Boykin



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



# EASTER AT GOVANS

## Sunday, April 9

  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- Outdoor Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m.
- Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo at 10:00 a.m.